

In The Matter Of:
National Environmental Policy Act

Public Meeting
April 26, 2012

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NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT

PUBLIC MEETING

Thursday, April 26, 2012

St. Bernard Parish Council Chambers
8201 W. Judge Perez Drive
Chalmette, Louisiana

FACILITATOR:

Ms. Lee Mueller, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

PANEL GROUP:

- Ms. Cherie Price, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Mr. Tim Axtman, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Ms. Sandra Stiles, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Ms. Micaela Coner, CPRA
- Ms. Jeanie Favorite, CPRA
- Mr. Wes LeBlanc, CPRA

REPORTED BY:

HEIDI SCHWAB, CCR, CVR, OCR

1 P R O C E E D I N G

2 MS. MUELLER:

3 All right. Good evening.

4 My name is Lee Mueller. I represent
5 the Public Affairs Office of the Army Corps of
6 Engineers. I'd like to thank you all very much
7 for coming out tonight and joining us to talk
8 about the Mississippi River Hydrodynamic and
9 Delta Management Study.

10 I'd first like to recognize former Parish
11 President, Gino Rodriguez, who's here with us this
12 evening, as well as several members of the
13 Coastal Zoning Committee, and members of the
14 Parish President's office and all his staff. Thank
15 you for joining us.

16 So the Mississippi River Hydrodynamic
17 and Delta Management Study is a joint effort with
18 the Corps of Engineers and the Coastal Protection
19 and Restoration Authority of Louisiana, so I'd like
20 to take this opportunity and recognize team
21 members we have here with us this evening.

22 Seated to our right we have Jeanie
23 Favorite, Program Manager, Wes LeBlanc, Program
24 Manager, Micaela Coner, Study Manager, Molly
25 Burgwine, Project Engineer, Summer Langlois,

1 Environmentalist, and Chuck Perry, the Public
2 Information Director.

3 And now, with the Corps of Engineers,
4 we have Tim Axtman, Senior Planner, Cherie
5 Price, Planner, Phil Hicks, Project Manager, and
6 Sandy Stiles from the Environmental Branch.

7 So as you can see, this is our sixth
8 and final public scoping meeting. We've gone
9 around the study area and met with several
10 members of the public to gather their input. The
11 team would like you to know that this is not the
12 end of the public involvement process. We do
13 plan on involving you guys throughout the study.

14 And so to go over tonight what we will
15 talk about, first we'll start with the LCA; the
16 Louisiana Coastal Area Ecosystem Restoration
17 Program. And then we'll move into some details
18 about the Mississippi River Hydrodynamic and
19 Delta Management Study, and then, from there,
20 we'll go ahead and talk about the National
21 Environmental Policy Act Scoping Process.

22 Now, we do understand that sometimes
23 our presentations are very technical and science-
24 based, so after the presentation we will have an
25 informal Question-and-Answer Session. Rachel

1 Rodi will have a walk-around mic. If you'd just
2 go ahead and raise your hand I'll recognize you,
3 and please state your name for the court-reporter.

4 Now, if you don't have a question but
5 you do have any comments, a complaint, maybe a
6 compliment for us, please save that for the
7 Formal Scoping Session. This is where the court-
8 reporter will formally capture your comment. It
9 will be included in the public record for this
10 meeting, and also will be included in the Scoping
11 Report. So, once again, please save your
12 comments for the Formal Scoping Session.

13 And, with that, I would like to turn it
14 over to Micaela Coner, and she can start our
15 presentation--Oh, actually, I have one more time;
16 why we are here. We are here for your public
17 input. It's a very important part in the initiation
18 of the study, and thank you for joining us.

19 MS. CONER:

20 All right. Good evening. I'd like to
21 thank you all on behalf of the State for coming
22 out to learn about this study that we're about to
23 embark on.

24 I'm going to begin by telling you a
25 little bit about the Louisiana Coastal Area

1 Ecosystem Restoration Program. It is based on a
2 report that was finalized in late 2004 and 2005,
3 up to 2005, and the goal of the program is to
4 revise the current trend of ecosystem degradation.
5 That is our goal.

6 The report identifies what they call
7 near-term projects that needed to be completed in
8 the near term - which is 5 to 10 years - in
9 order to address our critical needs for coastal
10 restoration. So, basically, this report says these
11 are the things that we need to do now; that we
12 need to start working on right away.

13 At the same time, the report also
14 identifies six, what they call large-scale, long-
15 term studies. They wanted us to go in and take
16 a closer look and say, What do we need for
17 coastal restoration on a broader scale? So this
18 is where we're starting two of these studies, and
19 we're going to combine them into one report.

20 We're going to work on, one, the
21 Mississippi River Hydrodynamic study, and it
22 focuses on modeling sediment and water patterns
23 in the Mississippi River, and we're also going to
24 work on the Mississippi River Delta Management
25 study, and its focus is just saying, okay, once we

1 locate the sediment in the water in the river, how
2 we're going to use these resources in the basin
3 to create a sustainable coastal ecosystem.

4 This is a map showing the 15 near-term
5 projects that the report identified, and these
6 projects are in various stages of completion.
7 Some are in Planning stage. Some are in what
8 we call Pre-Engineering Design, and this is the
9 phase right before Construction.

10 So, to date, the Louisiana Coastal Area
11 Program has focused on these 15 coastal
12 restoration projects, but now, under the
13 Mississippi River Hydrodynamic and Delta
14 Management Study we have the opportunity to look
15 at all of these projects working together in
16 concert, and also identify what gaps we have, and
17 what projects we need to recommend to conquer
18 it: What additional things do we need to do?

19 This is a map that's showing the study
20 area for the Mississippi River Hydrodynamic and
21 Delta Management Study. You can see it begins
22 at the mouth of the Mississippi River in the Gulf
23 and it extends all the way north to Vicksburg.
24 The reason why it extends to Vicksburg is
25 because we are going to be doing a lot of

1 modeling in the river so we wanted to try and
2 capture some of those complexities that we do
3 find.

4 You can see that we also have extended
5 a study area along the Gulf. This is a capture
6 of what we call the longshore sediment transport
7 process, so this is when sediment comes out of
8 the Mississippi River and moves west because
9 wind and water currents are entering in, so we
10 wanted to include that area in our study area.

11 Please note that this is a draft. We
12 need your input on this, this is not finalized. So
13 if you have any ideas or recommendations for
14 either refining or enlarging the study area, we
15 would appreciate that input. We are going to
16 continue to refine this area, so through the study
17 as we begin to identify certain project features
18 and locations, we'll be able to go in and take a
19 closer look, a more detailed look in this area, so
20 this will continued to be refined.

21 Just going to go over some quick facts
22 about the study. It was authorized by the Water
23 Resources Development Act of 2007. Under this
24 study we're going to look at what benefits the
25 projects we recommend under the study might

1 have. We're also going to take a look at how
2 those projects might impact the river and the
3 coast, and we're going to disclose those impacts
4 in what we call an Environmental Impact
5 Statement.

6 We did sign a cost-share agreement for
7 this study in 2011, August of 2011, so this study
8 is cost-shared between the Army Corps of
9 Engineers and the State of Louisiana. So we are
10 50-50 partners in this study.

11 The estimated cost is 25.3 million
12 dollars, so we're also going to share that cost
13 50-50; the State paying about 12 and the Corps
14 paying their other half. And the project, the
15 study, is estimated to take about five years, so
16 it's a five-year study of the lower Mississippi
17 River.

18 So I just wanted to emphasize here that
19 I don't want you to think that we're starting from
20 scratch with the study. The State has recently
21 completed what we call our 2012 Coastal Master
22 Plan, and we're going to take the projects that
23 are recommended in that plan and use that plan
24 as a foundation for us. We still have questions
25 that need to be answered, so this study is a

1 chance for us to go in and refine the location
2 and the operation of those projects that were
3 recommended in the master plan.

4 So the State and the Corps are going to
5 use existing information, tools, data collection,
6 data, and continue to refine that and apply it
7 over a broader area and with more detail.

8 All right, so now I'm going to get in a
9 little more about each study and what it was set
10 out to do. The Mississippi River Hydrodynamic
11 Study was meant to evaluate the Mississippi River
12 to properly assess its operation with respect to
13 ecosystem restoration, flood risk reduction, and
14 navigation.

15 So we're going to evaluate the river.
16 What does that mean? We want to quantify how
17 much and where the river resources are available.
18 We want to develop tools that can be used to
19 evaluate those resources over time.

20 And then, from there, we want to
21 determine what implementation strategies are best
22 used to maximize these resources. You might
23 know that, traditionally, the rivers are managed
24 for navigation and flood protection, but this is a
25 chance for us to elevate ecosystem restoration.

1 It's important. It's a valuable service that the
2 river can provide for coastal Louisiana and for
3 the nation.

4 The Mississippi River Delta Management
5 Study, comparing to the language in the 2004
6 report, the study will identify and evaluate
7 features that would restore deltaic growth. So
8 what does that mean? Basically, we want to build
9 land.

10 Some of the features that we are going
11 to be looking at include diversions of all sizes,
12 but diversions also over 50,000 cfs, or cubic feet
13 per second. We are going to look at alternative
14 navigation channel alignment, but we're also going
15 to look at other restoration measures. Outfall
16 managements measures, dedicated dredging, these
17 are a few. We're going to look at all of these
18 things.

19 Again, I want to emphasize, from the
20 State's perspective, that the study will be heavily
21 influenced by the 2012 Coastal Master Plan, but
22 it's the next step forward because we are going
23 to better inform the placement and operation of
24 diversions and other projects that were
25 recommended in the master plan, we're going to

1 define what measurements and analyses are needed
2 to enable construction of these projects, and,
3 also, we're going to provide the information
4 necessary for congressional authorization.

5 The final deliverable for the study is
6 one Environmental Impact Statement that will
7 disclose the benefits and impacts of our selected
8 features.

9 So, with that, I'm going to turn you
10 over to Cherie Price, from the Corps. She's
11 going to talk about some specific problems and
12 objectives that we've identified, thus far, in the
13 project.

14 MS. PRICE:

15 Thank you, Micaela.

16 Good evening, everyone, thank you for
17 coming out. My name is Cherie Price. I'm with
18 the New Orleans District Corps of Engineers, and
19 this project is really, personally, very important
20 to me. I was born, raised, and I currently reside
21 near Coastal Louisiana.

22 As part of the Corps study process, we
23 develop problems--or we identify the problems or
24 the issues that we try to resolve, and we also
25 identify opportunities to overcome those issues

1 and develop more specific goals and objectives for
2 the study. And I'm going to step through those
3 with you tonight.

4 So as Micaela said, historically, we've
5 had two primary missions on the Mississippi River,
6 flood control and navigation, and now we're adding
7 an additional layer of use in trying to acquire as
8 much sediment as we can for coastal restoration,
9 and we have to look at how to do those three
10 things together.

11 We are all familiar with the subsidence
12 that we deal with in Coastal Louisiana; the land
13 loss that's been incurring in our communities. We
14 currently have a lack of understanding of delta
15 building dynamics. Any time you're trying to
16 build land through artificial means such as
17 diversions or dedicated dredging, you're looking at
18 really complex issues. These are not easy
19 things; otherwise, we'd have it all figured out by
20 now. But we don't, and we recognize that
21 through this study, and hope to overcome some of
22 those concerns as we move through.

23 Gulf of Mexico encroachment is
24 increasing flood risk in our coastal communities.
25 It's getting closer and closer - we all are aware

1 of that - and some of the opportunities that we
2 have here are to complete the most extensive
3 data collection that's ever been conducted on the
4 lower Mississippi River. Currently, target landing
5 is the only long-term sediment record that's
6 available to us, and that's more than 300 miles
7 away from the priority study area that we're
8 looking at here.

9 So we really have a need to go in and
10 collect better locations for the sediment data, and
11 do that over multiple water years and seasonal
12 time scales in order to support them all in the
13 efforts through the study.

14 We're also looking at conducting several
15 hydrodynamic models on the river, as well as
16 bayside models in the basins surrounding the
17 river. We need to more effectively manage the
18 river's resources, and with the information that
19 will be collected through this study we'll have a
20 better sense of how to do that; how to go
21 through and reconnect those river resources to
22 the areas where they're needed. Historically,
23 they've been isolated from the surrounding basins,
24 and the idea is to try to get the river's water,
25 nutrients, and sediment to the areas where they're

1 needed.

2 Increased land elevation is important
3 to try to keep up with silt subsidence that's
4 immobilized to provide sustainable restoration.
5 Not just restoration that's going to be there now,
6 but restoration that will be there 50 years from
7 now, and even beyond that.

8 Adjusting the bayside hydrology is
9 focusing on the oil and gas canal slope banks
10 degrading some of those banks, and promoting the
11 bayside hydrology that would support land
12 building. We don't want water-logged basins. We
13 don't want to have standing water that would
14 degrade the marshes. We want to do outfall,
15 implement outfall management measures that
16 promote and target sustainable land building.

17 So our broader overall chief study goal
18 is to reconnect those resources from the river to
19 the basins, while also maintaining navigation and
20 flood-control services. This is the "Big Picture"
21 overall goal.

22 The objectives for the study get into
23 more specifics, and these are all draft objectives
24 and we're looking for input from you, tonight, in
25 helping us better define those objectives as we

1 move through the study.

2 So our first objective, and some of this
3 is a little bit repetitive of what you've seen in
4 the problems and opportunities, but it's to identify
5 those resource quantities; how much sediment is
6 actually available to do restoration. We've all
7 heard the different sides. A lot of people want
8 dedicated dredging. And then so if there's
9 enough sediment there to do restoration and to
10 restore large areas we have to go back in, and
11 you can't just do that at once. You can't just go
12 in and dredge, and put it in the basin and think
13 that it's going to stay there. It's going to have
14 to be done multiple times. And what are the
15 effects going to be once you remove the
16 sediments from the river on river hydrology? Will
17 this process benefit? Will they fill in over time?
18 Those are some of the questions we need to
19 answer.

20 Providing decision-making framework, all
21 the data, all the models that will be conducted in
22 the study need to be combined to develop a
23 framework in order to answer the most critical
24 questions that we're facing here. This is, I
25 would say, probably the most important objective

1 that we have; is to influence or achieve a net
2 sustainable positive elevation to stay above sea-
3 level rise and keep the land above the water
4 surface into the future.

5 And that's it. With that, I'll hand it
6 over to Sandy Stiles. Thank you.

7 MS. STILES:

8 So good evening. As Cherie said, I'm
9 Sandy Stiles. I'm the Chief of the Coastal
10 Environmental Planning process through the Corps.
11 I am a substitute environmental manager for this
12 study. Bill Klein is the actual environmental
13 manager but he has been ill. So I've been
14 conducting it in these parts of these public
15 meetings, but he will be your main contact.

16 So the National Environmental Policy Act
17 of 1969 was enacted to ensure that environmental
18 information was available to the public and
19 decision-makers before decisions were made and
20 before actions were taken.

21 It's a little awkward with the screen
22 being behind you...okay. So within that
23 legislation, scoping, a scoping process was spelled
24 out which allowed for an open, transparent
25 process for the public and stakeholders to have a

1 share or say in the study, and to scope the
2 issues, direct what the study should focus on,
3 what the resources are that are important, and
4 get an idea of the scope of the issues for the
5 study.

6 So the Environmental Impact Statement,
7 basically, whenever there's a major federal action
8 there's a requirement for an environmental
9 assessment to be conducted. It's a detailed
10 statement of the environmental impacts that would
11 result from the--I thought I clicked it (referring
12 to the screen). Sorry.

13 So the environmental impact can be both
14 beneficial and adverse. Folks tend to think it
15 would be adverse impacts, but it can also be
16 beneficial impacts, as well. The schedule for the
17 EIS starts with the publication of the Notice of
18 Intent in the "Federal Register", and that was
19 published March 23 of 2012.

20 We're in the scoping process right now,
21 and the Scoping Report will be developed
22 following the public meetings. The scoping
23 process begins from the publication of the Notice
24 in the "Federal Register", and goes all the way
25 through the final EIS. We're anticipating a draft

1 EIS to be complete in November 2015, at which
2 time the 45-day public commentary would start.
3 After that, the final EIS is expected in January of
4 2016, and then the record of decision would be
5 prepared following that.

6 So as I stated, the scoping process
7 includes the publication of the Notice of Intent in
8 the "Federal Register", and that was done March
9 23rd, and invites personal notation by the
10 stakeholders in the public in the study and is an
11 opportunity for you to express what you'd like to
12 see in the study, what your interests are, how
13 you think the study should go, and what resources
14 you think are important. It helps guide us as to
15 what we don't need to focus on. You know,
16 those kinds of things. And so, really, the intent
17 and why we're here tonight is to hear from you
18 and to help guide the study.

19 Okay. So the Scoping Report, in order
20 to get your comments into the Scoping Report we
21 need to hear from you by May 4th, and we will
22 capture everybody's ideas of significant issues and
23 the alternative concerns into the Scoping Report,
24 and then those who signed up for the mailing list
25 and would like to receive a copy of the report,

1 we'll make sure that you get it.

2 But like I said earlier, scoping, actually
3 goes all the way through the study from the
4 Notice of Intent to the final EIS, but if you want
5 to get your idea captured in the Scoping Report
6 we need to hear from you by May 4th.

7 So now we're going into the Question-
8 and-Answer session. Thank you.

9 MS. MUELLER:

10 So as we said, Rachel Rodi has a walk-
11 around mic. If you have a question for us,
12 please raise your hand and then we will call on
13 you. Please say your name so the court-reporter
14 can capture it.

15 I think we already have a question.
16 And some of our team members are going to join
17 us up here on the panel so that they can answer
18 you.

19 MS. RODI:

20 All right, I'll just reiterate that now is
21 your opportunity to ask the team questions and
22 they can respond to you. The Formal Scoping
23 Session is just to your opportunity to submit
24 comments. They cannot respond to you.

25 Any questions you have now will be

1 answered.

2 MR. RODRIGUEZ:

3 My name is Henry Rodriguez, a St.
4 Bernard Parish resident. I just have a couple of
5 questions. I have to leave, though. I'm sorry
6 I'm not going to be able to make the rest of the
7 meeting, but I had just had two things, in
8 particular, I wanted to ask.

9 Will you people come back and make a
10 presentation to our Parish Council? I mean, this
11 is the governing body of St. Bernard Parish,
12 and I see no one here representing us. The
13 St. Bernard Council, they need to know what's
14 going on, and the only way I can see it's going
15 to happen is if you people, you folks, come back
16 and make a presentation. I think they would
17 appreciate that.

18 And another thing I just--Is there a
19 specific amount of time that we can send in
20 written comments?

21 MS. MUELLER:

22 Comments?

23 MR. RODRIGUEZ:

24 Yeah, comments. What's the time limit
25 on that?

1 MS. MUELLER:

2 Yeah, if you want it to be captured in
3 the Scoping Report we need to receive your
4 comments postdated May 4th. You can submit
5 your comments at any time and they would be
6 considered. The earlier, the better. But the
7 scoping period does go all the way through, you
8 know, the final EIS.

9 MR. RODRIGUEZ:

10 Okay. Because, you know, I see a lot
11 of--I see the St. Bernard Wetlands Foundation is
12 well represented, the Coastal Zoning Advisory
13 Committee is well represented. This is not all
14 organizations. We even have a gentleman here
15 that's a councilman in--

16 MR. GROBY:

17 My name is Jacob Groby, District 7,
18 St. Tammany.

19 MR. RODRIGUEZ:

20 District 7, Mr. Groby. And, you know,
21 that's--I'm just kind of disappointed by the fact
22 that we don't have anybody from our Council. So
23 that's the only reason I would ask you to come.

24 I wish I could make the rest of the
25 meeting, I really would enjoy it. I have some

1 other questions, but I have to be somewhere
2 else. But thank y'all.

3 MR. AXTMAN:

4 Is this mic picking up? Can you hear?
5 I'd like to add that this study is kind
6 of unique. We've got a very heavy plan for
7 developing a lot of monitoring tools, as pointed
8 out in the presentation, which means ideas about,
9 after we determine what the river can give us,
10 how we're going to use that. We have a long
11 time to take ideas on how we're going to use
12 them.

13 MR. RODRIGUEZ:

14 I've got one more question I'd like to
15 ask.

16 MR. AXTMAN:

17 Go ahead.

18 MR. RODRIGUEZ:

19 When are we going to get through
20 studying and start implementing? I mean, we're
21 talking about five years now. You're talking
22 about five years down, studying. That's, we have
23 till to 2015. All I can remember all my life is
24 studying. When are we going to get to the point
25 to where we're going to start implementing some

1 of the projects? I say that, but I don't think
2 you've got an answer, though.

3 MS. RODI:

4 Any other comment to--And I have, on
5 the comment card they have the date and where
6 you can send your comment to, so I'll pass those
7 out as I come around if you need them.

8 MR. GROBY:

9 Good afternoon, everyone. My name is
10 Jake Groby. I'm so glad that you passed here
11 tonight, one, to have the superintendent of the
12 lower sewer services in St. Bernard to make sure
13 of the wetland--the subject wetland restoration
14 program we're doing.

15 The other one is I'm a councilman of
16 St. Tammany Parish. Your study area
17 encompasses most of my district, but no public
18 meeting's been held in my district, and giving me
19 until May 4th, a week or so away, or about a
20 week or so away, does me no good.

21 I have plenty of comments. One of the
22 issues, as I understand it, your main decision will
23 be to figure out how much sand to take out of
24 the river, or silt, sediment, whatever you want to
25 call it, and try to force it into wetlands.

1 Has any thought been given, at least,
2 table-top thought, that one of the changes would
3 be to make--That side of the Mississippi leading
4 down to the 89.9 mile marker, about 150 yards
5 away is Ms. Murphy's Dredging. She is paid to
6 take river sand out of the river. Have y'all
7 thought about running a diversion of her facility
8 which takes the soil and the sand, and pumping
9 that in?

10 And it can be done rather cheaply
11 because I've ran a force main from St. Bernard
12 Highway, a 24-trimethyl polyethylene force main
13 fusion laid directly back and forward to my gravel
14 plant back here to become the air-flow station
15 and in-flow station of the Munster superplant
16 which is at the end of Munster Boulevard. It can
17 be done, and it be can be done somewhat
18 cheaper.

19 Have y'all at least thought of moving
20 that sand from that point? Because there's a big
21 bank side. Has that ever been talked about here,
22 or is that something that you would like us to
23 comment on, maybe?

24 Thank you.

25 MS. PRICE:

1 Could you repeat the name of that
2 facility? I'm sorry, I didn't catch it.

3 MR. GROBY:

4 I'm sorry?

5 MS. PRICE:

6 The area of river that you're talking
7 about where there's dredging occurring.

8 MR. GROBY:

9 My water intake is at Mile Marker 89.9,
10 and I'm directly next door to Ms. Murphy's sand
11 trucking company. She has been there before I
12 was born, I believe, pumping sand out the river.
13 Selling it to people in secured trucks.

14 She removes somewhere in the
15 neighborhood of 25 to 30 trucks of sand, at least,
16 a day, out of the river right there. Ms. Murphy
17 made that point. We did not pump it out of our
18 intake to cut her out.

19 I'm glad she's there, in one way. That
20 may be one centralized pump where you can get
21 silica sand to mix with the freshwater to build
22 the marshes, and it would really cost you nothing,
23 because you can jack in for a force main just
24 like I did, or just like the Parish did, I should
25 say, almost four miles to the wetlands. I'm

1 exactly 70 yards from the MRGO wetlands to
2 where the MRGO pumping station is. It doesn't
3 take that much. Fusion technology is cheap.
4 That's why people and jacks are pouring in all
5 over the place. You may want to give that some
6 consideration.

7 MR. HASIK:

8 Jim Hasik, St. Bernard. I'm on the
9 Coastal Zone Advisory Committee, and I just want
10 to be on the record as saying that - I talked to
11 everyone before the meeting - this is going on
12 seven years after Katrina. So there is no sense
13 of urgency by the State, and after all the years
14 of having the same people, different faces come
15 to us and say, "We're going to do a study on
16 how to save our wetlands and our coastal zones,"
17 have said it's disappearing. It's disappearing, and
18 we have said it so long that we don't have
19 anything left.

20 I think I've come to the conclusion that
21 this is all political. When the next administration
22 comes in, there's going to be new faces and new
23 priorities. As that goes on, our marshes are
24 disappearing. And I really believe that we need
25 to bring in national media, local media to every

1 meeting that you have, and I think it falls upon
2 you guys to bring them in and let the unknowing
3 public see what's really happening to us and how
4 much in harm's way they still are.

5 Thank you.

6 MS. RODI:

7 Remember, this is just the question-and-
8 answer session. If you have a general comment,
9 you have to say that in the next part.

10 So if you have a question, then, we'll
11 hear it.

12 MR. WARD:

13 My name is Darryl Hall Ward. I want
14 to know what's the name of the plant for food
15 and fuel that will be planted along the Mississippi
16 Coast to change the natural environment and the
17 natural resources. And when I get the name of
18 it, I'd like to be the one to go to Washington,
19 D.C. and lobby for it. I know a lot of the
20 senators.

21 MS. PRICE:

22 Did you say the name of the plant
23 that--

24 MR. WARD:

25 Yeah. I mean, y'all's study, the name

1 that you all have for your plant that would grow
2 food or it would grow fuel. Like algae, or
3 seaweed, things of this nature. Or trees. It
4 could be pecan trees, or whatever. You can grow
5 everything in the swamps.

6 What you're going to have is you're
7 going to have all the nutrients and the sediments,
8 all the natural resources in the world to build
9 these islands and to build everything that y'all
10 are talking about. What is the natural resource
11 name of the plant that's going to sprout from this
12 earth that y'all are building and spending these
13 billions of dollars on? is the way, as I understand
14 it.

15 MS. PRICE:

16 Well, do you want to know about
17 vegetation plants?

18 MR. WARD:

19 I don't know how you can spend billions
20 of dollars in natural resource if everything is the
21 same. If everything is the same, we've got to
22 have change. And to create jobs, if you have
23 food and you have the fuel that you're growing,
24 you are creating jobs and giving these people jobs
25 to do it. But if we don't ever know even the

1 name of any interest--Because we've got a little
2 spotlight on the subject, as I understand.

3 We've got to get a start out of it.

4 We've got to--All the energy we're going to
5 spend on doing all this, we won't have no natural
6 resource of food and fuel, or no thought or
7 understanding of scientists and engineers, in
8 Congress. And I wrote to a lot of these people,
9 Hillary Clinton for one, in 2007. Hope and
10 Recovery, and she asked me to be a positive
11 result. How can I be a positive result if I
12 cannot get the Army Corps of Engineers to help
13 even plan for food and fuel for the future jobs of
14 education? How could this come about? How can
15 there be no star, or no understanding, or no
16 light?

17 MS. PRICE:

18 To answer your question about the
19 plant, you know, we're early in the study and we
20 don't have any of those plans made yet. But if
21 we were to have a project where we were to
22 plant, it would be the typical native species that
23 you see in the coastal community. So it would
24 be a variety, but it would be dependent upon the
25 type of project that it was, and it would be your

1 typical native plants.

2 MR. WARD:

3 Okay, I imagine that a lot more
4 understanding will come into it, and a little wider
5 interest then. I want to be part of this, is what
6 I'm saying. I would like the one to do the
7 lobbying on this particular subject.

8 Thank you very much.

9 MR. ALFONSO:

10 Hi, my name's Nicky Alfonso. I sit on
11 the, uhm, the board with all of these guys
12 (indicating). And I am a commercial fisherman in
13 St. Bernard Parish and I shrimp along the coast
14 from Cocodrie down the Mississippi line.

15 I've seen changes all through the years.
16 I've seen what freshwater diversions do and, to
17 me, now it's a very ugly word. We've got to
18 come up with another word for whatever y'all
19 want to create to let sand pass through, because
20 people don't like freshwater diversions.

21 All of y'all spoke very well up here,
22 and I know y'all know what y'all are talking
23 about, y'all know about y'all's jobs, and we thank
24 you all for being here. But the reality of all
25 this is it's out there, it's not in here. The

1 reality is we're losing so much land per second,
2 it's unbelievable.

3 One thing I'd like for y'all to write
4 down or, maybe, suggest - I know y'all are going
5 to deal with the Wildlife & Fisheries whenever
6 these projects come up - there's some kind of
7 way y'all got to get to the commercial fisherman,
8 too, because when y'all make change it makes
9 change for us, and it's going to change the way
10 our patterns are, our seafood industry is, it's
11 going to change everything.

12 If there's any kind of way y'all can put
13 a note on that to where we all understand what's
14 going on, because when the freshwater diversion
15 came in Caernarvon, we was under the
16 understanding it was going to build here. We
17 thought sand was going to pass through it. We
18 didn't have enough knowledge on it, because no
19 sand passes through it.

20 Is there any kind of way y'all can
21 contact us, or maybe we can get somebody in the
22 Parish here who's a commercial fisherman to stay
23 in contact with y'all and see what's going on?

24 Thank you.

25 MS. CONER:

1 I just want to thank you for your input.
2 The State really values what you have to say,
3 and we've recently formed, the Coastal Protection
4 and Restoration Authority has recently formed in
5 the development in the State Master Plan what we
6 call a Framework Development Team, and some
7 focus groups, or groups of local business and
8 industry users.

9 So through this study we plan to
10 continue the growth of those groups, and we
11 would appreciate your continued involvement.

12 So thank you very much.

13 MR. ALFONSO:

14 Thank you.

15 MS. SERPAS:

16 My name is Catherine Serpas. I live in
17 eastern St. Bernard, in Toca.

18 And my question is, in this plan, are
19 you all still studying the diversion at the St.
20 Clair track or at the Violet Canal?

21 MS. PRICE:

22 One of the first parts of the study is
23 to evaluate all of the existing features and
24 authorized diversions, and so the Violet Canal
25 diversion would be part of the initial analysis.

1 It's to look at everything together; the cumulative
2 effects combined of all the diversions at once, to
3 see what the effects are on the river.

4 Did you want to add anything, Tim,
5 about the canal diversion?

6 MR. AXTMAN:

7 I mean, I think Cherie really touched on
8 it. Everything we know that we have looked at
9 or has been authorized will be considered in this
10 study.

11 Part of the main focus of that first
12 portion, a hydraulic analysis of the river, in
13 addition to determining what is available that we
14 could gradually divert, we need to figure out what
15 are the best locations for that.

16 MS. SERPAS:

17 Well, I've been to many meetings with
18 the diversion and--I don't know if y'all are
19 calling it the Violet diversion or the St. Clair, I
20 don't know the terminology you're using, but that
21 was not to build land. That was to push water.

22 So if that's the kind of diversion y'all
23 are thinking about, you'll have to rethink it to
24 build land and not just push water, freshwater,
25 into the Mississippi.

1 And has that diversion been authorized?

2 Was that authorized?

3 MR. AXTMAN:

4 No, that diversion was considered and
5 evaluated within the MRGO Ecosystem Restoration
6 Study. It is not part of the recommendation in
7 that study. They had to look at it to see how
8 everything else would work with and without
9 diversion. But it's not part of the final
10 recommendations of the study, no.

11 MS. SERPAS:

12 Well, that sounds good, because we
13 won't be split in half again. And if we do need
14 a diversion the Violet Canal is already there, so I
15 would like to encourage you all, if we need
16 something, to look at the Violet Canal. And if
17 you're going to push through Violet Canal, push
18 sand; not just water.

19 Thank you.

20 MR. STIPELCOVICH:

21 My name's Anthony Stipelcovich. I'm a
22 resident of St. Bernard Parish.

23 What does the sediment primarily consist
24 of? And if it's not diverted it becomes lost, so
25 how does it become lost? Where does it go?

1 MS. PRICE:

2 Most of the sediment down in the lower
3 regions of the river, although Belle Chasse is
4 primarily fine-grade sediment and the sand that is
5 below Belle Chasse in the river, most of that
6 material falls out in West Pass and is dredged by
7 the, say, navigation in the river.

8 I'm not really--Could you rephrase your
9 second question? Is that what you're asking is
10 about, the grade size of the sediment in the
11 river?

12 MR. STIPELCOVICH:

13 Yes.

14 MS. PRICE:

15 And then you were asking where does it
16 go?

17 MR. STIPELCOVICH:

18 Yes, does it move into the Gulf of
19 Mexico and get lost?

20 MS. PRICE:

21 A lot of the sediment is actually stored
22 in the river and dredged, and also goes out
23 through the various passes in the lower river;
24 Cupid's Gap, the Baptiste Collette, Grand Pass.
25 We're finding that about 50% of the water and

1 suspended sediment leaves the river above those
2 passes--or through those passes; through Grand
3 Pass and the other passes that I mentioned.

4 And so the remainder of that, some of
5 it does leave the mouth of the river but a lot of
6 the sediment we're seeing now is actually leaving
7 before it gets to the mouth of the river; the
8 sediment that makes it that far down.

9 Does that answer your question?

10 MR. STIPELCOVICH:

11 Yes.

12 MS. MUELLER:

13 Okay. Do we have any other questions?

14 MR. BARRETT:

15 I do. One of my questions is related
16 to the Violet diversion, and I'm wondering why is
17 it pushed--why is it deemed advantageous to put
18 the water through the Violet diversion instead of
19 putting it through Bonnet Carre?

20 MR. AXTMAN:

21 And I wasn't involved in the MRGO
22 study. I am familiar with where the final findings
23 came out. The purpose of looking at Violet was
24 in the context of the restoration of the MRGO
25 area, the Biloxi Marsh, and supplying water to

1 that restored area as a means of maintenance.

2 It's probably advantageous, in that
3 aspect, in that it's supplied directly to those
4 wetlands; whereas Bonnet Carre flows--the
5 majority of those would probably be in the
6 Rigolets that's the larger of the passes between
7 the Chef and the Rigolets, and they wouldn't make
8 it except at the very fringe of the Biloxi line.

9 That's the best I can tell you without
10 making the study.

11 MS. STILES:

12 Yeah. I can, maybe, add a little bit to
13 help you with that. I mean, part of that study,
14 some of the objectives were to restore the central
15 wetlands to a fresh marsh, and that's best
16 accomplished with a diversion through--in the
17 Violet area than it is from the Bonnet Carre.

18 And, you know, as was stated, the
19 Biloxi marshes, and stuff, were benefitted, you get
20 a greater benefit if it were through the Violet
21 area rather than the Bonnet Carre.

22 MR. BARRETT:

23 Okay. The other question I wanted is
24 about, when you focus comments, I've read the
25 comments that have been put on the website of

1 the MRGO, and is that a new form that the Corps
2 is going to now? Because that one's in an Excel
3 spread sheet. It's very hard to read. It's sliced
4 and diced and pieces are taken out of everyone's
5 comments. I know I wrote some letters and
6 pieces are taken out of it, and when you take
7 them out like that you change the context
8 completely.

9 It's like the news media taking a piece
10 of a 911 call and going with it. You change the
11 meaning. You change the intent. It's a very bad
12 form to put out, publicly, comments, and I just
13 wanted to know is that a new form of publishing
14 comments now.

15 MR. STILES:

16 Well, I wouldn't say that it's,
17 necessarily, a new form. For the MRGO study
18 they got an extensive amount of comments. And
19 so if you've seen the Excel spread sheets then
20 you know that there was, seems like it was
21 around 27,000 comments, so with that volume we
22 had to come up with a way to organize and sort
23 out what all the issues were, what all the
24 comments were, and make sure that we addressed
25 each one specifically. So, in tabulating all that,

1 we just had to come up with a more electronic
2 form for handling those comments.

3 I would say, for the majority of the
4 studies, we don't get that volume of response,
5 and what you have seen, typically, is what we
6 would continue to do. But for that study it was
7 so--it was such a large amount it was difficult to
8 handle.

9 MR. BARRETT:

10 Yeah, but my real problem is you
11 changed the intent and you changed the people's
12 opinion when you did it that way, and that's a
13 real problem, I think.

14 MS. FUCICH:

15 My name is Tami Fucich. I am a
16 resident of St. Tammany Parish, but a landowner
17 of property located in Plaquemine called the
18 Bohemia Mississippi River Reintroduction Project.

19 My first question is that it was stated
20 that there are six long-term studies. And is it
21 my understanding that right now are the first
22 two?

23 MS. PRICE:

24 Yes.

25 MS. FUCICH:

1 So there are four more additional
2 studies?

3 MS. PRICE:

4 Yes.

5 MS. FUCICH:

6 Okay, so we've just begun, okay.

7 My second question is that you said the
8 total amount of this project is 25.3 million
9 dollars. As it is now, I know that the State of
10 Louisiana is just grasping for funds to finish
11 restoration projects that are not being completed
12 because of funds. Is that correct?

13 My question is where's the funds coming
14 from?

15 MS. FAVORITE:

16 For the State of Louisiana the funds are
17 coming from different funding sources. We do
18 have surplus monies that we use for our
19 contracting efforts. We do not use that, those
20 monies, for personnel efforts.

21 We, also, do have the CF Grant monies
22 that we also use for projects that are identified
23 with the--And that's the Coastal Impact
24 Assessment Program and you have projects that
25 are identified under the CF Program, and we use

1 funds for those, also. So there are different
2 funding sources for the State of Louisiana that
3 we're currently using.

4 The Mississippi Hydro and Delta
5 Management Project actually falls under the CF
6 Grant, so we do have monies for that project for
7 State.

8 MS. FUCICH:

9 My second question - although it might
10 be my third or fourth question - is this study,
11 will this study be contracted out to individual
12 uhm, corporations? Entities? Or is it going to
13 be headed by the engineers from the Corps of
14 Engineers and engineers for the State of
15 Louisiana?

16 MS. FAVORITE:

17 For the State of Louisiana we do have
18 our project development team which is a part of
19 the Corps' total project development team, where
20 we've identified specific personnel from each of
21 our divisions and that being Training, and
22 Engineering and Environmental. So we are going
23 to have hands-on with our actual--for this study,
24 our own personnel staff.

25 However, CPRA is a very small agency

1 and we do use a lot of consultant firms to
2 actually assist us, but, again, we use them as an
3 extension of staff. However, our own individual
4 Personnel Department, we handle our own studies.

5 MS. FUCICH:

6 And my last question is in regards to
7 the hydrodynamic modeling on the river at Lake
8 Caillou, will these projects be demo projects? Do
9 you foresee demo projects?

10 MS. PRICE:

11 You mean actually constructing something
12 as a demonstration?

13 MS. FUCICH:

14 Yes.

15 MS. PRICE:

16 To learn from it?

17 MS. FUCICH:

18 Yes.

19 MS. PRICE:

20 Not under this study. We are talking
21 about it with management at this part of the
22 study, so there will be monitoring that occurs
23 after construction to make sure that the objectives
24 are being met that were originally set by the
25 study. But this is not a demonstration project.

1 MS. FUCICH:

2 So the primary goal is basically
3 concerned with exact location and starting from
4 there? Perhaps demo for projects to follow?

5 MS. PRICE:

6 Well, through the feasibility study we'll
7 be identifying locations for diversions, and for
8 dredging, and for other features, and then those
9 actual features would be constructed as part of
10 the study. We would identify the action that
11 provides the most benefit with the least amount of
12 impact as part of the study, and that would be
13 constructed eventually.

14 MS. FUCICH:

15 And that would probably be another
16 study?

17 MS. PRICE:

18 Wouldn't. No, wouldn't. The feasibility
19 study--

20 MS. FUCICH:

21 Would be--okay.

22 MS. PRICE:

23 Right.

24 MS. FUCICH:

25 Okay.

1 MS. PRICE:

2 All right, there's different phases. This
3 is the feasibility part, and then once we have a
4 final, chief report, a final feasibility report, then
5 we would move into preconstruction, engineering
6 and design, which is where the LCA-6 are
7 currently. They're going on to that next step
8 that you go to before you go to construction.

9 MS. FUCICH:

10 Okay, great. Thank you.

11 MS. BARRETT:

12 I'm Linda Barrett, St. Bernard.

13 This is a time-share cost project with
14 the State, right?

15 MS. PRICE:

16 Cost-share.

17 MS. BARRETT:

18 Cost-share, thank you.

19 MS. PRICE:

20 Right.

21 MS. BARRETT:

22 25 million to study the effects of the
23 silt in the river?

24 MS. PRICE:

25 It's a lot more than that. It's to

1 identify the resources that are available for
2 restoration without too much--without a negative
3 impact on the navigation function of the river,
4 and--

5 MS. BARRETT:

6 Well, I guess kind of my next question
7 is, is that for the last seven years, in all the
8 meetings that the residents of the Parish have
9 been going to with the Corps we've been told that
10 there's no money for dredging. But you're going
11 to spend 25 million to dredge for a study on the
12 dredged material in the river, when you all are in
13 the business of dredging the river already, and
14 have been for seven years? Isn't this kind of an
15 oxymoron?

16 MS. PRICE:

17 Well, there's different authorizations for
18 different studies and for different actions like
19 dredging. And so Congress has authorized or
20 appropriated funds for the LCA studies as part of
21 this, and those monies can't be tapped into to do
22 dredging work.

23 So there are separate pots of money
24 that Congress appropriates for different functions.

25 MS. FUCICH:

1 It just seems like--I'll reiterate what
2 Mr. Rodriguez just said. It seems, like he said,
3 y'all are just studying all of these years instead
4 of doing.

5 MS. LIVADAIS:

6 My name is Becky Livadais. I'm a
7 resident of St. Bernard Parish. My family has
8 owned property here for over 100 years, and a
9 lot of it is in the coastal, the central wetlands
10 right along both sides of the Violet Canal and
11 would be impacted by any water diversions which
12 come our way.

13 We're not all against freshwater. Salt
14 water is what ruined the freshwater vegetation
15 with fresh marshland that used to exist before the
16 construction of the MRGO, and we welcome
17 freshwater into that central wetlands. We
18 welcome, certainly, sediment where it has subsided
19 and eroded from the loss of vegetation.

20 What I want to know is will your study
21 actually produce projects? Or are you just going
22 to have a report that tells us about the impact of
23 the diversions?

24 MS. CONER:

25 So I think that's a very good question,

1 and it was very important for the State coming
2 into this project as a cost-share partner that we
3 have an actual and implemental plan as a result
4 of this study.

5 MS. LIVADAIS:

6 When you develop your plan projects
7 and such, I would ask for you to also include
8 landowners' rights. If you're going to develop, be
9 building up sediment and possibly planting
10 vegetation, as the gentleman mentioned before,
11 what right will the landowner have; the landowner
12 who has been paying the property taxes on this
13 vast loss of wetlands?

14 Please consider the landowners' rights
15 when you do your study and your project plans.

16 Thank you.

17 MS. CONER:

18 Thank you. And I think that's a good
19 comment. We'd really appreciate if you could
20 reiterate that during the public scoping portion so
21 that we could get that on record. We would
22 appreciate that.

23 MS. PRICE:

24 And I'd just like to add that as part of
25 the public involvement process as we go through

1 the study, this isn't the last time as far as
2 hearing from you. We'll be holding special
3 interest group meetings, like landowner meetings,
4 and navigation interest meetings, and with
5 different specialty groups in order to get feedback
6 as we proceed through the study.

7 Any more questions before we go on to
8 the scoping comments?

9 MS. WALTHER:

10 My name's Bridget Walther. I live in
11 Orleans Parish, and I'm wondering if, in this
12 Hydrodynamic and Delta Management Study, if all
13 the data of the current dredging that the Corps
14 does, the frequency, the volume, the locations and
15 how it's disposed of currently, will all that data
16 be part of the modeling and work of the technical
17 groups in this study?

18 MS. PRICE:

19 Yes, it will be. And one of the near-
20 term efforts, also, is the geomorphic analysis of
21 the river looking back to the 1960's, historically;
22 looking at dredging data and seeing how the river
23 depths have evolved over time due to different
24 activities on the river like channel deepening, and
25 enlargement of passes, and different things. And

1 the dredging records will be used as part of that
2 part of the study and will also be used in the
3 river remodeling, in the one-dimensional modeling,
4 as part of the study, as well.

5 MS. MUELLER:

6 Okay. Any more questions?

7 MR. STIPELCOVICH:

8 Anthony Stipelcovich, St. Bernard
9 resident.

10 I thought that the Mississippi River was
11 depositing sediment into the Gulf of Mexico and is
12 being lost. So that's not the case?

13 MS. PRICE:

14 There is some sediment. Some of the
15 real, the finer grades of sediment do go out into
16 the Gulf, but it's not as much as what we
17 previously thought. Because we hadn't really
18 done any type of, any extensive study on that,
19 and just recently the--it no longer exists, but the
20 LCA Science Technology (inaudible) did a sediment
21 project on the river.

22 And also as part of the west banks of
23 the diversion work, we realized that we
24 overestimated, previously, the amount of sediment
25 that was actually leaving the river system into

1 the Gulf, and now that sediment is either being
2 stored in the river or leaving before it gets to
3 that point.

4 MS. MEULLER:

5 Did that address your question, sir?

6 MR. STIPELCOVICH:

7 Yes.

8 MS. MUELLER:

9 Okay. Does anybody else have a
10 question?

11 All right, if not, we're going to have
12 Sandy move us into the Scoping Session.

13 MS. STILES:

14 Okay, so if you guys are good, I'm just
15 going to stay right here.

16 Okay, so this is the official scoping
17 comment period. We've formed some questions for
18 you to consider when you're giving your comment.
19 If you could give us an idea of the critical issues
20 for the natural and human environmental needs,
21 and when you're talking about it if there are
22 resources that you feel that are important that we
23 cover, or if there's anything that you think we
24 don't need to cover, those kinds of things, if you
25 could formulate your comments around those it

1 would help us in developing, writing the EIS and
2 developing the study to get an idea of what your
3 specific interests are and your specific concerns
4 are, and appreciate that.

5 So we'll open it up, and whoever wants
6 to be first for comment.

7 MR. HASIK:

8 Does that mean all our previous
9 comments were not recorded, or thrown out?

10 MS. MUELLER:

11 They were recorded, but this is the
12 Formal Scoping Session.

13 MS. RODI:

14 That's right. Do you have anything
15 different or do you want to reiterate anything?

16 MR. HASIK:

17 I don't want to go through all that
18 again, sorry.

19 MS. RODI:

20 No, if it's something different, or, you
21 know, another comment you just want to say. But
22 it's not a question, at this point, because they
23 can't respond. They're not going to respond at
24 this point.

25 MR. STIPELCOVICH:

1 Anthony Stipelcovich, a St. Bernard
2 resident.

3 I have a suggestion. For our coastal
4 erosion, what about building bulkheads all along
5 the Louisiana Coast to prevent coastal erosion?

6 MS. RODI:

7 Thank you.

8 MR. ALFONSO:

9 Well, I know some people don't like and
10 some people do like freshwater diversions now.
11 But that's only if you're not impacted by it.

12 My thing is we've got a hundred--
13 generation after generation, five, six, 800, 1,000,
14 2,000 acres of land that was directly impacted by
15 freshwater diversion. We only have 50 acres left.
16 We might only have 75 acres left.

17 Where the freshwater diversion has the
18 biggest impact on land loss, and y'all all know
19 that, y'all all had the studies come to y'all, but
20 what y'all are talking about doing by getting the
21 sediment out the river and putting it back on
22 land, I think y'all will make a lot of people very
23 happy who lost their land; who are paying all the
24 taxes on 500 acres and only can see three.

25 I think that's going to be a change.

1 That's going to give--If y'all can provide that,
2 y'all are going to give the people a better feeling
3 of what the Corps does and how they can help.
4 Because, so far, all we've seen is land loss.

5 Thank you.

6 MS. RODI:

7 Thank you.

8 MS. FUCICH:

9 Tami Fucich. My comment is based on
10 landowners. Sometimes it's difficult to understand
11 how, as an entity group, that the progress that
12 you for landowners, there's no foundation, there's
13 no standard, there's no rules, there's no
14 regulations. It's, more or less, like an individual
15 going out and building a shopping mall on private
16 property and telling that landowner about it after
17 the fact.

18 I believe that there is a big omission
19 when it comes to including landowners in what
20 your objectives are, what your goals are. I think
21 that you could eliminate a lot of the delays, a lot
22 of the problems that occur after the fact if you
23 would just let the landowners know the priority,
24 your reasoning, and the overall goal and what you
25 want to establish when it comes to your study.

1 I mean, you're just beginning with two
2 studies. You've got four more to go. And
3 you've got landowners and you've got high
4 industry. Don't wait until you're finished and all
5 your work that you've done is being bulked
6 because you didn't go to the landowner first. It's
7 time wasted, it's money wasted, it's cost that is
8 wasted.

9 So whatever your plans and your goals
10 are you really need to include the landowners in
11 each and every step of the way, because it's
12 going to benefit everyone, and I think that, right
13 now, there's a lack within the State and within
14 the federal government for how you include the
15 landowners. So that's my only comment.

16 MS. STILES:

17 Do you have an idea on what that
18 participation would look like?

19 MS. FUCICH:

20 Yes. Uhm, I really believe that you
21 need to have a landowners' forum in regards to
22 they need the State's ability--They need someone
23 to understand their own viewpoint. To understand
24 what they're going through. Unless you're
25 directly involved, it's hard for anyone else to

1 understand.

2 So landowner to landowner--First of all,
3 I need to let you know, I am totally, 100%, and
4 my family is, too, behind coastal restoration. I
5 know the importance of the sediment needed from
6 the Mississippi River for land building. I know
7 the importance of navigation. I had to educate
8 myself. Because no one educated me within the
9 State, so I had to educate myself, and sometimes
10 I think I know more than I need to know. But
11 someone had to do it.

12 Uhm, I really think, though, that there
13 needs to be some type of foundation for
14 landowners so we can all get together and discuss
15 the ins and outs. What we would like. What we
16 don't like. Just like you have your round table,
17 we need to have our own round table.

18 You know, whether it starts at the
19 Violet Canal all the way down to Venice, as
20 landowners we need to participate together.
21 Progress is only going to assured and seen if we
22 all work together, and I see no effort. I've seen
23 no effort, whatsoever, and I really believe that is
24 your starting point. That is going to make
25 smooth sailing for everyone involved, and you

1 don't have your bumps and bruises along the way.
2 Your bumps and bruises are eliminated before the
3 process even begins, even if you have to have,
4 uhm, disclosures, even if you have to have, uhm,
5 rights of first refusal, you know, that we do with
6 some of these landowners.

7 I mean, I'm sure you guys have thought
8 of this. If not, I'm going to tell you what I've
9 thought of. But yeah, that's on my mind, and I
10 think yours, too.

11 MS. STILES:

12 Thank you, I appreciate that.

13 MS. LIVADAIS:

14 I'd like to compliment the Corps in
15 including environmental issues in this study.
16 Sometimes environmental impact is just kind of
17 stated, but it sounds like you all are really going
18 to consider the environmental conditions that are
19 necessary.

20 What would I like to see? I'd like to
21 see a return of the freshwater Cypress swamp
22 instead of wetlands. We lost it. Maybe you
23 agree, maybe you don't, but I think we lost it
24 due to the construction of the Mississippi River
25 Gulf Outlet and not protecting our land from salt

1 water intrusion.

2 I would like to see some dams along
3 the way, and then sediment pumped in and
4 restored to what the ecological balance was back
5 in the 1950's before the ship channel was done.

6 I would also like to see that Proctor's
7 Point, which is a whole extra piece of ground
8 outside of the protected area for flooding, I'd like
9 to see some of that protected, too, because it,
10 also, was never--No one ever put the spoiler
11 ridge on that side until much later than any of
12 the others and it has really become a piece of
13 Swiss cheese, if you could take a look at it.

14 It wasn't always this way. It was a
15 barrier, a natural barrier. I'd like to see some
16 of the ridges restored in St. Bernard Parish that
17 were there before the ship channel was done.

18 Reasonable restoration? Maybe it's not
19 reasonable anymore, maybe it's too far gone. But
20 I'd like for that to be considered and not just
21 tossed aside. After all, that's what studies are
22 for. And maybe the study will show that it's not
23 reasonable to restore Proctor's Point, but I think
24 you'll find that it will be reasonable to restore
25 the central wetlands, especially with some

1 sediment, and then, at that time, of course, you
2 have to consider landowners' rights.

3 Thank you. Oh. My name is Becky
4 Livadais. I'm a resident of St. Bernard Parish; I
5 live in Meraux. I also serve as a supervisor of
6 the Crescent Soil and Water Conservation District.

7 MS. STILES:

8 You had mentioned dams. Were you
9 talking on the Mississippi River or in the MRGO?

10 MS. LIVADAIS:

11 I was, actually, thinking of dams along
12 the Violet Canal and some of the tributaries that
13 are there. When I say tributaries, man-made
14 tributaries; your retainer canal and pipeline
15 canals, and such, which allow just the natural
16 breakthroughs, or whatever, and allow salt water
17 intrusion into there.

18 The dam along the ship channel and our
19 flood gates, et cetera, and the large wall should
20 prevent a lot of salt water from coming in
21 through the Violet Canal, and then, if you put
22 freshwater coming from the river, that should take
23 care of that, too, because that would be a natural
24 flow of freshwater into there.

25 But I don't know what you all think. In

1 your study would you just allow the freshwater to
2 just flow from the Violet Canal into the central
3 wetlands? I'm sure you're going to have to study
4 what's the best way to distribute that and to put
5 sediment in. I don't know, that's your job to
6 study it. I'm just saying consider restoring the
7 central wetlands to what it was in the 1950's.

8 Thank you.

9 MS. MUELLER:

10 Are there any other comments?

11 MR. WARD:

12 Darryl Paul Ward, calling for alternating
13 plans. Naturally, a human element in this is
14 somebody that has a picture of understanding, and
15 the wisdom that we can all agree upon could be a
16 subject to further our education.

17 For instance, we're talking about
18 diversions. If we wanted freshwater sometimes
19 we can just drill straight down and get the water,
20 and get all these problems over with for some of
21 this that we're discussing. So that would solve
22 that problem.

23 Now, as far as energy goes, you pump.
24 If you want something pumped you take air, water
25 and gravity. This is the natural resources, so

1 I'm speaking to scientists and engineers, here,
2 that can pump this stuff here, there, everywhere,
3 and build, very easily, using the natural resource
4 of air, water and gravity.

5 So something that's got to be allowed to
6 be an input into this study, because why are we
7 going to study something that don't have all this
8 in there? Like you say, no, we ain't got no
9 food. We ain't got no fuel. We can't change
10 anything. We ain't going to do nothing. No, we
11 can't build now. We get no good water. We
12 can't do nothing that makes any sense to help
13 none of these people.

14 We need somebody on a new study that
15 understands and has a little bit of a different
16 picture than what some of y'all understand. For
17 instance, I wrote to Mary Landrieu, Nancy Pelosi,
18 (inaudible) the Speaker, and spoke to all of these
19 people. And I used to ask them questions for
20 their engineers that work with them, so they gave
21 the answers to these questions and I hope the
22 Congress listens to what I have to say. Because
23 they all know me. I spoke to Congress three
24 different times.

25 So some of this had better come into

1 this study and some understanding, some kind of
2 light had better enter on this study for some of
3 these things that the people--I want to represent
4 all these people that's been going to all these
5 meetings. I've been to four or five myself, and,
6 yes, they all should be represented to give them
7 the answer of how this can be done.

8 You see, if the price tag's cut in half
9 because we have the energy, we have the power,
10 we have the gravity, and water, and the force to
11 move all this soil and nutrients, sediment, a
12 different equation steps in on this. And I'd like to
13 be involved in all this, so let's keep this in mind.

14 We want a new direction, a new
15 tomorrow, is why we're all here. We want to do
16 something that's going to benefit the State of
17 Louisiana to make us number one. We're not
18 going to spend 50 million dollars on virgin
19 territory to wind up with the same old thing.
20 Come on, give me a break! Louisiana's got to
21 change. We've got to step up to the plate.

22 Some kind of common sense has to
23 enter and we have to allow somebody to go along
24 with the study language.

25 Thank you very much.

1 MS. MUELLER:

2 Thank you. Any additional comments?

3 Okay. So we've recorded your
4 comments tonight. There is also several different
5 ways in which you can get your comments to us.
6 We have an e-mail address for this project.
7 Also, William Klein, that's his phone number. Go
8 ahead and give him a call. Also, there is his
9 mailing address. We'd just ask that it's
10 postmarked by May 4th, if you want to capture
11 the formal Scoping Report.

12 Like we said, we plan on engaging with
13 you guys throughout the study process. We're
14 going to participate in several coastal restoration
15 conferences. The team will be at the Save the
16 Coast Conference in June.

17 Also, stakeholder engagement, like you
18 said, focus groups, the Corps has speakers' bureau
19 requests so you can fill out the form and have a
20 team member join you in your, say, homeowner's
21 association and non-governmental organizations,
22 things like that.

23 Also, we talked about LCA.gov. This is
24 a project website where we'll have a lot of good
25 information on here throughout the study. Also,

1 as you see, there's a submit a comment/question,
2 and you can click on that and it will generate an
3 e-mail which will be delivered to team members.
4 So, once again, also additional comments
5 information for team members, if you have a
6 question or would like to submit a comment. We
7 very much appreciate your participation.

8 Once again, your input is very important
9 to us, so thank you for coming out.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, HEIDI SCHWAB, CCR, CVR, OCR, do
hereby certify that the preceding transcript of the
public meeting taken in the above-captioned matter
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HEIDI SCHWAB, CCR, CVR, OCR

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