

TOWN OF MILFORD, NH

PUBLIC HEARING

Fletcher's Paint Superfund Site

One Union Square

Milford, NH 03055

Wednesday, September 12, 2012

7:05 p.m.

Hearing Officer:

Michael Jasinski, EPA

Project Manager:

Cheryl Sprague, EPA

Panel:

Robin Mongeon, NHDES

Dick Pease, NHDES

Ellen Iorio, US Army Corps of Engineers

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1 MS. SPRAGUE: All right. Thank you all
2 for coming here tonight. We are here for the
3 Fletcher's Paint Superfund Site. We're here for a
4 proposed plan introduction by the Environmental
5 Protection Agency.

6 We're going to start off tonight with a
7 quick introduction. My name is Cheryl Sprague. I
8 work with the Environmental Protection Agency. I am
9 the remedial project manager for the Fletcher's Paint
10 Superfund Site.

11 With me tonight is my boss, chief of the
12 New Hampshire/Rhode Island Superfund Section, Mike
13 Jasinski; Robin Mongeon, my co-partner for New
14 Hampshire DES; her boss, Dick Pease, from
15 New Hampshire DES; Ellen Iorio, she works for the
16 Corps of Engineers for the EPA, and I will point out
17 Elaine.

18 Because we are in the middle of a public
19 comment period, we are recording. We are required to
20 record all of the comments that I make and the
21 questions that are happening tonight.

22 At the end of the public meeting, which
23 is the part where I describe the plan, we're going to

1 have a public hearing, between which we'll answer any
2 questions you might have on the technical nature of
3 what I presented.

4 At the public hearing -- Mike will
5 describe it -- but essentially it's your comments that
6 you can orally give. A lot of times people will
7 e-mail or they will fax it in or they will mail it to
8 us; but we give all people the opportunity to speak
9 into the mic and directly give oral comment. When the
10 public hearing is closed, we can finish answering any
11 additional questions you may have.

12 So, with that, tonight's presentation is
13 fairly quick. This is a small piece of the Fletcher's
14 Paint Superfund Site. So it's a fairly quick site
15 description, history and status of the Fletcher's
16 Paint properties, which includes Operable Unit 1,
17 which we will describe the cleanup plan and the
18 schedule as it stands now. Then I'll describe
19 Operable Unit 2, which is the Souhegan River portion
20 of the Fletcher's Paint site, and then I'll finish
21 with tonight's presentation on the proposed plan and
22 what we are proposing for Keyes field groundwater.

23 Fletcher's Paint, if you've been around

1 town, you know that for 20 years you may have heard
2 about Fletcher's Paint. If you didn't know this, we
3 started when the Keyes well became contaminated in
4 1984.

5 Keyes well was a municipal supply well
6 to roughly 10 percent of Milford's population from
7 1972 until 1984. Low levels of contamination were
8 found in 1984. The state and EAP came onboard, and
9 what they did is they thought -- they figured out that
10 Fletcher's was the most likely source.

11 So, EPA came onboard, we removed
12 hundreds of drums from the property in 1987 and again
13 in 1993; and at that point in 1989 EPA became eligible
14 to put the Fletcher's Superfund Site on the national
15 priorities list; and once it's on the list, it becomes
16 eligible for cleanup under Superfund.

17 So Fletcher's Paint, I know you've
18 driven by likely on Elm Street, it's actually multiple
19 parts. And what we've done over the last 20 years is
20 clean it up and address it in different components.
21 We call them operable units.

22 So just as an overview -- if I can get
23 this to work -- Fletcher's Paint property, there's one

1 located on Elm Street; one located on Mill Street. We
2 call those Operable Unit 1. Those are the source
3 areas. Those contain the higher level of chemicals
4 within the soils and groundwater.

5 Operable Unit 2 includes Keyes field and
6 the Souhegan site. Those are areas that received
7 contamination that may have migrated off of Fletcher's
8 Paint. So that's how we divided up the operable
9 units.

10 So Operable Unit 1 is the Elm Street
11 property. It used to house the former Fletcher's
12 Paint manufacturing facility. It's roughly 1.6 acres,
13 and it's a complex site in that it's bordered by the
14 Souhegan River, a cemetery, a highway and a
15 playground, which kind of constrains a little site.

16 Over on Mill Street it gets even
17 smaller. It's a 0.2 acre site abutting a former coal
18 yard, and at the back of it is an active railroad.

19 Operable Unit 2 is the Keyes field,
20 which is roughly 19 acres; and it's the groundwater
21 under Keyes field which is of the concern, not Keyes
22 field the soils, just the groundwater underneath and
23 the roughly half mile of the Souhegan River, which

1 starts about at the Fletcher's Paint property on Elm
2 Street down to the Goldman Dam.

3 So, if you've been around town for a
4 long time, this building right here in the middle --
5 if I can get this to work -- right here in the middle
6 is the former Fletcher's Paint manufacturing facility.
7 This building was torn down by the EPA in 1990 -- in
8 2001 when all of their tenants had moved out and it
9 fell into disarray.

10 This is a picture -- again, as I said,
11 Keyes became contaminated in 1984; and this is what
12 the site would have looked like in 1987 when we came
13 onboard. Drums were stored typically in the back of
14 the Elm Street facility along Keyes Drive and at Mill
15 Street.

16 This is the Mill Street facility; and,
17 again, we have -- in red you see it, there's the
18 former coal yard which has burned down, the transfer
19 weigh station for the coal yard; and this property
20 housed two small sheds; and within those sheds the
21 Fletcher's Paint housed their pigments and other
22 chemicals; and this was removed by the EPA and
23 demolished and sent offsite in 1993.

1 Little bit of history if you're not
2 familiar with it. The Fletchers have operated in
3 Milford from 1949 to about 1991 when they closed their
4 business. They sold residential paints and stains.
5 They made stains for traffic paint, but they also had
6 a few other businesses where Mr. Fletcher would act as
7 a middleman or make other components or other
8 chemicals.

9 From the 1950's to the 1960's a waste
10 product called scrap pyranol was brought to the
11 Fletcher site. This came from the General Electric
12 manufacturing facilities in New York. Scrap pyranol
13 is a mixture essentially of polychlorinated biphenyls,
14 trichloroethylene, TCE, and trichlorobenzene.

15 And in 1984 after many years of
16 operation of Fletcher's the well was found
17 contaminated.

18 Now, there's no direct, you know, link
19 that we have to it other than knowing that the
20 Fletchers had operated. The state has done
21 investigations, and it wasn't just Fletcher's that was
22 reviewed. Every property around the Keyes well was
23 looked at at the time. However, with Fletcher's being

1 so close and the number of drums in the operation, it
2 became evident.

3 So, EPA came onboard. We did remedial
4 investigations from 1991 until 1998. What we found at
5 the end was that the soils at the Fletcher's Elm
6 Street piece of the site is heavily contaminated with
7 PCBs. PCBs are found at depths, sometimes down to 26
8 feet or in some cases bedrock. Depending on where
9 bedrock is.

10 The groundwater was contaminated with
11 PCBs, TCE and trichlorobenzene. We also have gasoline
12 products because there are two gasoline stations
13 between our two properties, and those have leaked over
14 time, so there is some petroleum product mixed in with
15 our contamination.

16 And in the end what we found was that
17 there's unacceptable human health risk from exposure
18 from direct contact and ingestion with these
19 materials.

20 So EPA had selected a remedy in 1998,
21 and in 2001 EPA issued an order to General Electric to
22 perform the cleanup at the site. So under that order
23 GE's been doing the predesign investigations. They

1 have done preliminary designs, which a lot of it
2 include how to cap the site.

3 And in the meantime there was a look at
4 changing it from the 1998 remedy, which was an onsite
5 thermal treatment to excavation and offsite disposal.

6 So in all those years all of those
7 designs worked on looking at the difference between
8 the two of them. The EPA did change the remedy to
9 offsite disposal in 2009.

10 Recently EPA had approved the draft
11 final design in September 2011, and this following
12 spring GE has been conducting constructability
13 testing; and with that they've been taking soil
14 samples on Elm Street to kind of finalize the design
15 placement for the support walls. And they've been
16 doing pump tests at Mill Street where they lower the
17 water table to see -- you know, doing it at a short
18 period so that when they actually get to the final
19 construction, we understand how the water could be
20 lowered, what the rates would be and how to treat the
21 groundwater.

22 Those are wrapping up at this point, but
23 GE will continue on. Because we're going to delay the

1 design somewhat from September 2011 until November of
2 2012, GE's agreed to go out and perform some remedial
3 action work to get the ball started; and those include
4 putting in an alternative parking area at Keyes field.
5 Eventually, when the construction happens, Keyes Drive
6 will be dug up.

7 So GE will be constructing this fall a
8 parking area within Keyes Park. They'll also be
9 removing some telephone poles and relocating them, and
10 we do have one resident whose parking area is impacted
11 and we'll be addressing that.

12 And what we're hoping to do -- we're
13 still finalizing the plans on that. So EPA will be
14 holding another meeting in October where we discuss
15 the details of that action that's going to happen this
16 fall.

17 The basic elements of the remedy that's
18 happening at the OU1 soils portion of the site -- and
19 I'm going to point out why this is important. We're
20 excavating and setting offsite the contaminated soils,
21 and there's going to be containment for the lesser
22 contaminated soil.

23 But also part of that remedy,

1 groundwater has to meet New Hampshire groundwater --
2 drinking water standards; and to do that we've had to
3 require that an establishment of a groundwater
4 management zone be established around the groundwater
5 that's contaminated at the site; and within the zone,
6 groundwater gets monitored and the use of the
7 groundwater would be restricted. So that's already a
8 component of the OU1 remedy.

9 Groundwater at Mill Street is primarily
10 the source area for the contamination for the
11 groundwater as it migrates to the Souhegan River.

12 The groundwater at Mill Street is
13 heavily contaminated, and it's contaminated with
14 compounds that don't readily migrate. They don't
15 readily degrade. So, as a result, they're going to be
16 here for a long time.

17 So there's groundwater management zone
18 that's going to require monitoring and restrictions on
19 use will likely be around for about a hundred years.

20 So I'm going to move on and describe
21 what else we've done at the site, which is the OU2
22 Souhegan River.

23 So while we were in design on the OU1

1 properties, General Electric and GE and their
2 consultant, Arcadis, came out; and they actually
3 sampled sediments and biota within the river portion
4 from the Fletcher's Paint site down to the Goldman
5 Dam. That report is on EPA's website. I believe it's
6 listed in here.

7 Anytime EPA gets a final report and it's
8 a significant report, we're publishing it on our
9 website. So you have access to it from anywhere. You
10 don't have to go to the library or any other place to
11 get it. So that report, the Souhegan River report, is
12 on the website.

13 EPA took the data from that report, and
14 we developed a baseline human health and ecological
15 risk assessment. So what that means is we took the
16 sediment data and the fish data and we calculated a
17 risk assessment and found that the risk from the
18 Souhegan River, from the sediment within the Souhegan
19 River, are from the ingestion of recreational caught
20 fish. The fish bioaccumulate the PCBs that are in the
21 sediment. They hold onto the PCBs. So, if someone
22 were to eat the fish for 30 years, there would be a
23 risk.

1 There's also a lesser risk from direct
2 contact with PCBs, and I'll point out -- if my pincher
3 would work -- I'll point out this little blue area
4 right here -- right here is the Fletcher's Paint site.
5 So essentially the PCBs have migrated into the
6 sediments, and they're pretty much staying right
7 around here. There's very little -- low levels all
8 the way down to the dam, but primarily this is where
9 the PCBs are located adjacent to the Fletcher's Paint
10 site.

11 And this is where the direct contact
12 would happen. This is where we studied it because,
13 again, this is where we know this is a swimming spot
14 for kids in the town.

15 So EPA took the data. We know there's a
16 risk now from sediments in the river, and we looked at
17 doing a feasible study; and, as we progressed in the
18 feasibility study, one of the things that became
19 unclear was how much sediment was contaminated down by
20 the Goldman Dam.

21 So recently we've undertaken a study to
22 collect samples. This happens to be the grid we used,
23 and we're collecting samples and we're waiting for the

1 results. When we get the data back from this sediment
2 sampling, we're going to complete the feasibility
3 study and we'll be presenting a proposed plan for the
4 cleanup of the Souhegan sediments in 2013.

5 Okay. So now we'll talk about what
6 we're here tonight to talk about, which is the Keyes
7 field, Keyes field groundwater.

8 Outlined in red here is the area that we
9 call the Keyes field. One of the things we -- I put
10 this slide in to show you that -- the star happens to
11 represent the Keyes well, which is located at the back
12 of the Keyes field.

13 Groundwater flow, when the pump was
14 on -- of course, this is a well that's about 60 feet
15 deep. When it's on, it's pumping at a great rate. So
16 it's going to influence groundwater flow around it.
17 So the groundwater flow when the pump was on -- when
18 the pump was on was flowing towards the well and not
19 towards the river at that point.

20 When the pump is off, however,
21 groundwater flows toward the Souhegan River. Souhegan
22 River is a discharge point, so you no longer have
23 flows from the Fletcher's Paint site towards the Keyes

1 well; but you do have flows generally crossing Keyes
2 field toward and discharging to the river. And that's
3 helpful because it allows us to be able to segregate
4 where the OU1 groundwater contamination is flowing to.

5 Keyes field sampling. So in 1994 we
6 have contamination discovered in the Keyes well. From
7 the late 1980s both the State of New Hampshire and the
8 US Geological Survey did a series of pump tests to
9 determine where the influence of the pump might be --
10 the pumping might be -- to see where the contamination
11 was that got to the Keyes well.

12 And during the 1990s we performed the
13 remedial investigation, and one of the things we were
14 looking at as we put wells into the Keyes field was
15 where does the Fletcher's contamination end?

16 So, as we put these small wells in, one
17 of the things we discovered was a lot of petroleum
18 floating on top of the groundwater in the Keyes field.
19 So we sampled the Keyes field groundwater and noticed
20 that Xtramart did indeed have a leak and was
21 producing, of course, this product of petroleum across
22 the Keyes field.

23 So the New Hampshire DES has been

1 working with the Xtramart facility since then to
2 address this petroleum release.

3 EPA at the time didn't do any further
4 sampling. Under the EPA's law that we follow, which
5 is called CERCLA, we're not allowed to address
6 petroleum releases. So we kind of put a hiatus on for
7 ten years letting that clean itself through those
8 regulations.

9 We came back in 2007 and again in 2009,
10 and we sampled the wells in the Keyes field. What we
11 found was that there was no longer any site-related
12 contamination in the Keyes field. There was no longer
13 petroleum as it was when we found it and -- and that
14 was great. Most of it was below federal and state
15 drinking water standards.

16 So we took the data we had and we did a
17 risk assessment, and what we found is that there's no
18 current risk to anybody because there's no current
19 users. All of the water at the Keyes field, whether
20 it be for drinking, irrigation, or anything else, is
21 used by a municipal source.

22 So we looked at future risk scenarios,
23 and the future risk scenarios we looked at was a park

1 worker, you know, irrigation swimming, a park user who
2 might swim in water taken from groundwater or drink
3 from a bubbler taken from the groundwater and a future
4 resident; and the future resident means that we're
5 assuming that the Keyes well was turned back on and
6 used as a municipal source.

7 And that's significant because when you
8 use it as an municipal source and you characterize it
9 for a resident, you're drinking two liters of water a
10 day, you're showering. There's much greater exposure
11 and you calculate it over 30 years. So, when we did
12 our calculations, we still have the no current risk
13 because there's no current user.

14 And just to define risk, since that
15 seems to be a word that's hard to define. You already
16 have, each one of us a, roughly, one-in-three chance
17 of developing cancer. That's our excess cancer risk.
18 EPA has an acceptable risk range which allows for one
19 in 10,000 up to -- or one in a million up to one in
20 10,000 extra cancer across a lifetime as a result of
21 exposure to the chemicals at one of our Superfund
22 sites.

23 So, when we did our calculation, we

1 develop a number; and what we saw was that for the
2 park worker and the park user, there was acceptable
3 risk. There was nothing exceeding EPA's risk range
4 from those two scenarios.

5 For the future resident, which again is
6 30 years, every day, there was a risk of two times ten
7 to the minus four or two in 10,000 excess cancer risk
8 in a lifetime.

9 But the other thing we noticed when we
10 looked at it is that upgradient of the Keyes field, we
11 have contamination from Fletcher's Paint and we have
12 the Xtramart, which has petroleum in it. So really we
13 decided that there was a third risk scenario, whereas
14 if you put the Keyes well on, you're not just being
15 exposed to what's currently in the groundwater but
16 what could migrate into the Keyes field; and that is
17 actually a much more significant risk is what could
18 migrate into the Keyes field.

19 So just to describe the contaminants
20 that led to the two times ten to the minus four risk,
21 the first one is arsenic. Arsenic is a naturally
22 occurring compound in groundwater in New Hampshire.
23 We found it in one well at 11 micrograms per liter.

1 The state standard is 10 micrograms per liter. And
2 when you calculate a risk for 11 micrograms per liter,
3 it gives you 1.9 times ten to the minus four.

4 So you can see it really occupies most
5 of the risk that was present in the groundwater.

6 The second compound was methyl tertiary
7 butyl ether or MTBE. It's a petroleum additive. We
8 found it in one well at 15 micrograms per liter. The
9 state standard is 13 per drinking water.

10 There was MTBE up at the Xtramart
11 facility. When you look back at the data over the
12 last few years, it's migrated on. It's a very mobile
13 contaminate. It's clearly gone and moved across Keyes
14 field discharging to the river, and just we're getting
15 whatever's on the tail end of. There was no entity
16 detected up at the Xtramart station recently.

17 The future residential risk, we did not
18 calculate a risk for what was upgradient because we
19 already have risk assessments done for OU1, but there
20 was such significant concentrations in groundwater
21 that exceed federal and state drinking water
22 standards, that clearly if these waters were to move
23 into Keyes field and Keyes field -- the water under

1 Keyes field was used as a municipal source, they would
2 also exceed drinking water standards and pose a risk.

3 Normally after EPA gets a risk
4 assessment and finds a risk, we move on to do a
5 feasible study; how do we address the cleanup? Well,
6 in this case we had a naturally occurring compound and
7 a petroleum additive, which is not addressable under
8 CERCLA.

9 So EPA has the option of doing a
10 no-further-action plan under three different
11 scenarios. So we chose to present a no-further-action
12 plan because there's no current users, so there's no
13 current risk, because the future risk is primarily
14 related to offsite contamination migrating into the
15 Keyes field should the Keyes field be used again as a
16 municipal supply, and because the OU1 response action
17 that we selected in 1998 and in 2009 already
18 eliminated the need for further remedial action.

19 The groundwater management zone that has
20 been established or proposed for OU1 already addresses
21 the potential risk to human health from exposure to
22 these contaminants, it already requires that the wells
23 be restricted from use within that groundwater zone,

1 and it requires the monitoring until drinking water
2 standards are met.

3 So we believe we can propose no further
4 action necessary at Keyes field groundwater because
5 we've already documented that we've already got
6 protection at Keyes field groundwater.

7 And what you're seeing here in
8 yellow -- if I can get this to work -- what you're
9 seeing here in yellow is on the far east side or the
10 right side of the screen is the area for OU1
11 groundwater. The contamination is essentially in this
12 ballpark for the groundwater management zone.
13 However, the groundwater management zone includes all
14 of Keyes field.

15 Part of that is to prevent the migration
16 of contaminants, part of it is to monitor for the edge
17 of the OU1 contamination; but it already is in place
18 proposed under OU1 and, therefore, there's no further
19 action necessary.

20 EPA has to go through this process. We
21 do have to document each and every piece that's listed
22 as a piece of the Superfund site. So sometimes, you
23 know, our job is to clean up, and sometimes our job is

1 to document the decisions made; and that's what we're
2 here for tonight to do.

3 At this point we'd like to open up to
4 see if there's any clarifying questions about the
5 Keyes field groundwater proposal we have; and when we
6 follow that, we'll open it for public hearing. And
7 when the hearing is closed, if you have questions
8 about any other piece of the Fletcher's Paint site,
9 we'll take it then; but right now we'd like to address
10 comments for the Keyes field groundwater.

11 Are you going to do the -- public
12 hearing officer?

13 HEARING OFFICER: Any clarifying
14 questions that you can ask Cheryl that she'd be more
15 than willing to answer?

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: There's a house
17 on Mill Street sitting right beside --

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Excuse me. We're
19 going to need to get individuals to use a microphone
20 so the audience can hear, and we have a hand mic we
21 can pass around.

22 MS. SPRAGUE: Thank you, Guy.

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you.

1 There's a house on Mill Street right
2 beside all of the cans of contaminated soil and
3 whatever and a newly erected fence.

4 The house there had people living in it,
5 and it was for sale for a short period of time. Was
6 it safe for people to be living there?

7 MS. SPRAGUE: You're talking about the
8 white house near the railroad?

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes.

10 MS. SPRAGUE: Yes. Actually, we know
11 the owner. We're in conversations with him all the
12 time.

13 Yes. The contamination at Mill
14 Street -- this is not part of the groundwater piece --
15 but the contamination at Mill Street is not carried
16 over to his property, and we've tested indoor air at
17 the property, and it's been fine, and we're in
18 constant contact with him.

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay. Thank you.

20 HEARING OFFICER: Is there another --
21 Mr. Clemens (phon), you have a question about the OU2
22 groundwater?

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Who's currently

1 responsible for the Keyes well and who makes the
2 decision whether they turn it on again in the future?

3 MS. SPRAGUE: Currently responsible for
4 the Keyes well or the Keyes field and the use of the
5 Keyes well, I believe, is part of the town's potential
6 use of groundwater. They would have to probably go
7 through the state, you know, program to get it turned
8 back on.

9 But my understanding -- and Robin can
10 speak to -- she did a groundwater use and value
11 determination came out, talked to Guy over here, and
12 they determined that there was no future, you know,
13 determination that they were going to use the Keyes
14 well for future municipal supply.

15 So I think it's only an issue if it's
16 going to get turned back on again to go through the
17 process.

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I might clarify.

19 Here in Milford we have an elected set
20 of water utility commissioners who oversee that
21 activity, but they can only activate a well that meets
22 a state and federal standard. So they would work in
23 compliance with DES and federal in the event there was

1 ever desire to turn it back on. But since it doesn't
2 meet standards, that pretty well closes that door.

3 HEARING OFFICER: Are there any other
4 clarifying questions that you would like to ask Cheryl
5 before we start the formal hearing where we won't be
6 able to answer your questions?

7 That usually gets somebody up.

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You'd mentioned
9 the Goldman Dam. As you know, there's another dam
10 down the river as well. Does the presence or absence
11 of those dams have any affect on this whatsoever? If
12 the dams weren't there, would the change in flow of
13 the river have any impact on the groundwater?

14 MS. SPRAGUE: No. Not that we've seen.
15 It's still going to discharge to it. All the
16 groundwater discharges from both sides to that part of
17 the river.

18 Is there anything else?

19 HEARING OFFICER: Anything else before
20 we start the formal hearing? Okay.

21 Oops. Sorry, sir. The microphone.

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I've been down
23 there in that part of the river, and I haven't seen

1 any signs that said no fishing or no swimming. Is
2 that something that should be there?

3 MS. SPRAGUE: We actually have done
4 health consultations, and they have issued a -- it's
5 not a warning to no fish because there's PCBs in the
6 filet. So what there is, the State of New Hampshire
7 worked with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and what
8 they have, I believe it came out in the early '90s was
9 a recommendation that if you were to eat the fish,
10 that if you -- because the PCBs want to be in the fat
11 tissues of the fish, that you actually grill it and
12 skin it, because now you're releasing some of the PCBs
13 and you are exposing yourself to as little as
14 possible.

15 Again, the risk that you see is from
16 eating it for 30 years, eating so much per day; and
17 that's how they developed the risk.

18 There's signs down at the river.
19 They're hard to see because, of course, the water
20 level has dropped and you've got vegetation now; but
21 there is a snow fence essentially across the bank area
22 and it says keep out. And I actually went up again
23 when the river levels dropped, and you couldn't see

1 them. I actually went up on Friday night; we posted
2 another no trespassing sign.

3 When we do see people in the river, we
4 have -- our consultants are out here quite a bit -- as
5 soon as I get notified on my cell phone that there's
6 somebody in the river, we've called the town, and the
7 town has called the Boys & Girls Clubs and made sure
8 there's no children are out there.

9 We've talked with the Keyes field park
10 rangers to make sure we're monitoring what's in there
11 to see who's there, and we come out and we talk.

12 HEARING OFFICER: All right. Thank you,
13 Cheryl. You can sit down for a second.

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Now, in that area
15 there's supposed to be no swimming at all? Like,
16 because I remember swimming that little rope swing
17 area a lot when I was younger.

18 MS. SPRAGUE: Right. No. It's more of
19 a qualitative risk. What it essentially means is when
20 the PCBs have come into the river and they've settled,
21 they've done it over time.

22 I mean, there's 26 feet of contamination
23 up against the site. So what you're seeing is

1 essentially the PCBs coming in. So when you actually
2 look at the profile of the contamination in the river,
3 it's going from cleaner to dirtier as you go down.

4 So really what we're more concerned
5 about is somebody's going to be swimming and they're
6 going to move over 12 inches of sediment and actually
7 get to something more contaminated. So it's a
8 qualitative risk should there be enough exposure that
9 they move the sediment and get to the deeper
10 contamination.

11 So the surface is much less contaminated
12 than it is at depth; and over time what you have is,
13 you know, you have the natural attenuation where you
14 have upgradient sediments coming in continuously that
15 are clean and they're all depositing over. So, as
16 time goes on, you're burying some of the
17 contamination. In many areas it's well below two feet
18 before you can even find contamination.

19 HEARING OFFICER: All right.

20 Good evening. My name's Mike Jasinski.
21 I'm chief of New Hampshire/Rhode Island Superfund
22 section at EPA in Boston; and I'll be the hearing
23 officer for the next portion of tonight's proceedings.

1 As you heard this evening, we're here to
2 talk about the OU2 groundwater Keyes field proposed
3 plan that EPA has in front of you that is out for
4 public comment that started in the end of August and
5 will end September 24th.

6 As Cheryl indicated, we are in the
7 formal hearing session now. We will take any
8 additional comments that weren't asked earlier, but we
9 will not respond to those at this point in time.

10 We are recording every comment, every
11 statement, every question; and we will consider those
12 comments/questions as they pertain to the OU2
13 groundwater proposed plan.

14 When we go back to Boston, we get the
15 transcript, we finish the public comment period, we
16 will evaluate all those comments, we will respond to
17 all those comments in what we call the response to the
18 summary. Once the response to the summary is
19 prepared, we will also make a final decision on what
20 we will do for the OU2 groundwater Keyes field and
21 will document that in what we call a record of
22 decision.

23 And, as Cheryl indicated, we've written

1 at least one and amended it once at least in the last
2 couple of years. Those documents will be available
3 this fall, it will be available online, they'll be
4 available across the street at the library and at
5 EPA's Boston offices for your review if you wish to
6 look at them; but, as I indicated, we will respond to
7 all comments tonight as they pertain to the OU2
8 groundwater in a document we call the response to the
9 summary.

10 So with that, if I could ask if you have
11 any comments on tonight's proposal, would you please
12 come up to the microphone, state your name, speak
13 loudly, please, try to spell your name if you need to,
14 and try to give us an indication of how you relate to
15 this Fletcher's Paint Superfund Site.

16 So with that, is there any formal public
17 comments on the OU2 groundwater proposal that we have
18 in front of us this evening?

19 (Pause)

20 HEARING OFFICER: Okay. I think you've
21 asked all your questions, and Cheryl's responded to
22 all of those. I will formally close the hearing this
23 evening. I thank you for coming out this evening, and

1 have a good night; and if you wish to ask any
2 questions about anything else, we'll be here to answer
3 those for the next half hour.

4 Thank you very much. Have a good
5 evening.

6 (Hearing concluded at 7:36 p.m.)

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I, Elaine J. Ritsema, a Certified Court Reporter and Notary Public of the State of New Hampshire, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate transcription to the best of my ability, taken at the place and on the date hereinbefore set forth.

I further certify that I am neither attorney, nor counsel for, nor related to or employed by any of the parties to the action in which this testimony was taken, and further that I am not a relative or employee of any attorney or counsel employed in this case, nor am I financially interested in this action.

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NH Certified Court Reporter
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