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MR. HEPOLA: Why don't we go ahead and open up the Public Meeting. At this point, I want to thank everyone for coming tonight. I appreciate there are things that one could spend your time on.

We're here to discuss the Old Midland Products and Superfund site. My name is John Hepola, and I'm the Branch Chief in the Arkansas-Texas Superfund Branch, Region 6.

There are a number of other agency people here today. I'd like to point them out. From the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality, Clark McWilliams is here, and also Jerry Neill is here. And from the Arkansas Department of Health, Dan Seaton is with us. And so, specifically, from EPA, Gus Chavarria is here with us. He's the supervisor for the remedial activity in Region 6, and then June Hoey is here, our public participation coordinator.

Gary Miller, our remedial project manager for the site is unable to be with us today. He had some other duties in Dallas that he needed to deal with, so he couldn't make the trip, but sends his regards.

The purpose of this meeting is to present the amended proposed plans for the old Midland Products Superfund Site and to provide you an opportunity to

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ask questions and provide any comments you may have.

We have a court reporter here who is making a transcript of the meeting which will become part of the administrative record.

The EPA is issuing this amended proposed plans in accordance with it's public participation responsibilities under the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act or as we call it, the Superfund law, and also the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan.

The recommendations set forth on the amended proposed plans are based on information from documents contained in the administrative record file which, I believe locally, is kept here at the school.

The comment period for this proposed plan is open until July 13, so that means you can submit comments to EPA until July 13th. And I encourage you, if you have comments, to send them in.

Once the public has an opportunity to review and comment on this proposed plan, EPA will review all the comments and respond to those comments in a responsiveness summary which will be included in the revised Record of Decision documenting the selection of the revised remedy.

Now, we're going to spend some time talking about

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the amended plan. And Gus Chavarria, in Gary Miller's absence, will discuss it.

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So we encourage you to ask questions. There are not a whole lot of us here, so we plan to have an informal discussion. So with that, Gus, I'll let you present some of the details.

MR. CHAVARRIA: Okay. And is this good enough here.

COURT REPORTER: Yes, you're fine.

MR. CHAVARRIA: Now that my boss gave you all the, you know, the stuff you had to hear, let me ask you some questions. How many of you were here when the company started doing their dirty business back in '69? How many of you know that trivia question? Do you know what else happened in '69, anybody? '69?

MR. MCWILLIAMS: We had a man on the moon.

MR. CHAVARRIA: Man on the moon. And, you know, we're so notorious for leaving crap. Because when Neal and company left the moon, they took the backpacks and they left them there. Of course, you know, they have an excuse. They needed the least amount of weight on the Eagle to be able to pull gravity and get to the spaceship that was going to connect them. So they left a lot of junk up there. Anyways, from '69 to '79, for those of you who

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might not be aware, the company: Midland West, started treating wood at the site -- 37, 38 acre site. And they did it for ten years. And they had like seven impoundments where their treatment process -- they went through and they accrued later, all these liquids.

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And what you use to treat wood is pentachlorophenol and creosote. And that has got a lot of chemicals that are bad. They're carcinogens. Well, they left the stuff there anyway. I suspect they're bankrupt -- in '79 or so.

And then eventually somebody, the folks from ADEQ or citizens, complained and we got involved. And we did what we generally do, is a site assessment. They came over and looked at the site, and they evaluated the site.

And eventually, the site got put into what is called a National Priority's List, NPL. That's the acronym for EPA. It got put in the NPL which meant that you could get federal money to clean it up since we couldn't find the culprits, the ones that made the mess. They either bankrupted or disappeared.

So you and me and all of us, I guess -- well, no, back in the '80's, we still had to what is now -it's now known as the Superfund. But I don't think

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it's the Superfund anymore, because the way we put money into it is from your tax dollars. 7

You know, before, it used to be that the money that we collected from the chemical industry, when they produced, they had to put in so many pennies into the pot. So Superfund was billions of dollars. I'm getting off the track. But anyway, it was, you know, a lot of money there. And the site made the cut, and then it got put on the list, and then it got assigned to some of the folks at EPA.

It happened to be in Region 6, because Dallas is responsible for Arkansas and another state, also. And then a team got together and they looked at it. They came over and did some work, some removal work, for us initially, and then we came back to do a remedial action on it. And what happened on that remedial action -- that's a long extended process, to clean up the site.

What we have to do when we're going to clean up a site -- a final clean-up, you know -- there's kind of two stages. You remove the stuff. Kind of like if you were going to clean up this room, you're going to sweep it up real good if you're going to replace the carpet, and then the guys come over and paint it and put new carpet. We're the guys that paint it and put

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new carpet; right? We're not the guys that just swept it or cleaned out the site.

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So, in order to do that, we have a process. And that is: we have to investigate, do a remedial investigation and do a lot of sampling and find out what is it that we have out there.

And they did find where the stuff was. There was a pit. It was pretty contaminated, an area anyways. It was pretty contaminated. And it didn't amount to more than an acre, I think, if I remember correctly.

And so it was decided that the best thing to do -- back in the '80's you could do that. You can't do that anymore. People won't let you do it -- to incinerate, to take all that soil that had all that stuff in it and to burn it up. I mean, that's just, to me, you know, that's the best way of doing it.

If you have filters, you can capture this stuff going out, you know, so nobody will breath any bad stuff. You get rid of it. So we got rid of all of it, 250,000 tons -- I forget -- of soil got cleaned up. And then that was the soil that, you know, the top and some -- I think we went down to 30 feet or something.

But then, the groundwater got contaminated. So we had to figure out; what else are we going to do to

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the groundwater. How do we get -- do that. And there was several alternatives.

So the best alternative to clean up the groundwater was to pump it and to treat it. It's that simple. They put wells -- I think six wells, if I remember right -- at a pumping rate of 8 to 13 gallons -- yeah, 8 recovery wells. And these wells pumped, you know, continuously. And they did that for years. You know, you just pump the stuff, put it through the treatment process.

The treatment process, it's a little building at the site that's got -- yeah, here it is. Well, it's not a real building, really. It's got all this equipment and filters and things. And you run the contaminated water through there. And it's got charcoal filters. And it comes out clean, all right? And here's some of the injection wells right there. Here's another look at it.

So that was done, and it pumped for years. And then the amount that was coming out of it wasn't as much as, you know -- I mean, it's like anything else, you know. You eventually get to a point where, is it feasible to continue doing this stuff? It's not really pulling the contamination. And what happened is -- you have to imagine this stuff. It's like tar,

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that black stuff. And when you went into this formation, which is fracturous, a fractural formation. It's cracked all over. The little particles grab to it, and you can't pull it out. It is impossible.

Now, you can pull it out by doing what is called chemical oxidation. And that was the process that was considered on this amended ROD, which is what I'm here to discuss. And that is, you put chemical in there and you hope that -- well, I mean, the chemical will oxidize, to some extent, this stuff and get rid of it.

That wasn't the best alternative, obviously, because, you know, it was too expensive, and it's going to take too long. So we looked at different alternatives -- Oh, let me go back a little bit. I'm getting ahead of myself.

So anyway, working with ADEQ and the state, we said, you know, why don't we turn the pumps off. Why don't we turn the system completely off right here for some time, 20 -- I mean, a year, and I think it was 20 months; right, Clark?

MR. MCWILLIAMS: Uh-huh.

MR. CHIVARRIA: For 20 months. And see what happens; see if that plume is going to move. Because, you know, it's just garbed with stuff underneath it right there, see. And guess what? Nothing happened.

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It just stayed there. There's a lot of in there, and it stayed there.

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And so after looking at that and after knowing that if you keep pumping this stuff at a rate of a half a million dollars a year, and you're not getting the benefit of nothing, there's another alternative.

And the other alternative is called monitoring natural attenuation. That means you let it -- you know, if you drop anything in the ground -- you know this is the beauty of mother earth; it really is. If you put anything down there and you give it time, earth will take care of it, okay?

Now -- but when you get a gob of this stuff, you've got to be really careful. And the EPA is so critical. To do that, you have to really prove that that stuff is not moving, and it's not going to go anywhere. You've got to put all kinds of restraining orders, sort of. You know, how are you going to protect this; how are you going to check this thing?

So it's called a TI Waiver, Technical Impracticability Waiver. That's what it's called at EPA; a Technical Impracticability Waiver. We had a TI Waiver just for this portion here. That's it, you know. Then the rest of it that was inside was okay. The water outside that area is fine. There's nothing

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So we said, why don't we take that treatment plant, all these millions that we're spending and mothball the thing, just keep it there just in case, okay? Keep it there and then what we'll do is put some monitoring wells at the perimeter of this thing that will be checked, you know, to see if this thing is moving. And then -- and by the way, this plume hasn't moved in that many years. It might have moved 20 feet. So, you know, it hasn't gone very far, you know. And so -- and remember, this site is 37, 38 acres -- 37.8 acres. So it hasn't really moved that much.

So with the TI Waver that we're proposing in here and doing a monitoring natural attenuation, which was the best economic alternative to do, we proposed that. We worked with the state. They're totally in agreement with the solution for this amended ROD.

By the way, anybody got any idea what the ROD is? We at EPA got so used to talking in acronyms, it's almost disgusting. A ROD is a document. It's a legal document. You know, probably the ROD for our initial site is probably about that thick (indicating). And it's got everything in it. It's got Human Health Risk Assessment, equal risk assessments, remedial

investigations where we go out there an punch holes everywhere and check at different depths: what is the contaminated -- how far is it down there, what kind of contaminants are -- you know, just everything. And then it's got a feasibility study. How feasible -you know, we study -- well, how feasible is it to clean this site. And so all of that put together becomes what they call a ROD, a Record of Decision.

The reason it's called a ROD is because we get it signed by the division director. You can take him to court, I mean, you know, if it fails or something. That's our real, legal document. And it becomes -it's kind of like the law, you know, for us. I mean, that's the ROD. What we say there, we have to abide by.

That's why when we looked at it, after we talked to the state -- hey, you think we ought to amend the ROD? We've got to go through -- I mean, we got to jump through hoops to, you know -- and we have to go to Washington, and let them review what we're considering and why, and why is it a, you know -- a TI Waiver is -- you've got to really prove that that's -what we're going to do can fit the TI Waiver mold. And it did. And so they'll amend the ROD that is coming, because this proposed plan has to do a TI

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Waiver on that little portion right here (indicating) and to do monitoring natural attenuation. We'll be checking that. We're going to put six wells, and we're going to check that. And the cost of this alternative is going to be somewhere around \$600,000, Clark?

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MR. MCWILLIAMS: I'd have to look at it.

MR. CHAVARRIA: Yeah, I think it's around \$600,000 or so.

We looked at chemical oxidation. That was like one and a half million dollars. We didn't consider trying to dig more, because we dug so much, and put in an incinerator.

You know, people don't want incineration anymore. I don't care where you -- you know, they ran us off Arkansas out there by Texarkana -- there's a site called Texarkana Woods close to Arkansas. And the folks from Arkansas came over and said, "You better not burn that; we're going to get you." You know, because the way the wind blows, it was going to Arkansas. And they said don't you put an incinerator -- we actually had an incinerator out there in Texarkana. We had to take it down. That's expensive, you know. We bought an incinerator and took it all down, and we moved away. We haven't done anything at

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that site.

So let me see what else I didn't mention. Oh, one more thing. On this monitoring natural attenuation, we have to put what we call an EPA IC's. That means institutional controls. That's very, very important. And that means that through the state probably, and land deeds or -- I don't know how -there's some mechanism; they put something on the land that nobody can go out there an drill and put a water well, for instance. You know how you can drill if you want to have a well on your property? You couldn't do that on that property.

And institutional controls are monitored, probably for the life of the, you know, the place, for the life that it's going to be there. Because this is going to be there for -- it's going to take awhile before monitoring natural attenuation takes care of it.

Now, by law, EPA has to do what is called a fiveyear review, okay? Which means actually, us in the state. Every five years, we have to go at the site and investigate everything. We have to look at it. We have to sample. We have to see is this plume there. You know, when I come back five years from now and it's over here in the neighborhoods, we've got

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problems. We have to come back and do something. And so that five-year review is mandatory. And we have to do it exactly five years from each other.

We've got sites right now, we've done it three times, every five years, you know. Like, if we finish one this month, five years from June the 30th we better have the other one done. I mean, we'll have to go, we have to investigate. We have to look at it. We have to write this report and send it through.

So that is all I have. If anybody wants to ask me any questions, please do so. And Clark, would you like to add anything?

MR. MCWILLIAMS: Sure.

MR. CHAVARRIA: He's been working on this thing.

MR. MCWILLIAMS: Yeah. I've been around a little while. Thanks, Gus.

MR. CHAVARRIA: You bet.

MR. MCWILLIAMS: I appreciate it. I guess -- my name is Clark McWilliams. I work for ADEQ, and I first got involved in this site in 1990 or so, so I was here through the incineration part of it and through the ground water extraction and treatment.

And back when the remedy was selected for the site, that was the technology on hand, was to pump and treat the groundwater that came out of the

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groundwater. So that's what was implemented. And now, we've been doing it -- it's a cost share between us and EPA. We've been doing it for the last, oh, 10, 12 years, something like that or longer. And it's just, the effectiveness has just wore out. I mean, it's not an effective treatment anymore. I mean, it never has been a real effective treatment at all, but that was all that was available back at that time.

So after pumping about 12 million or so gallons of contaminated water -- and EPA and us have been talking about changing it, the remedy, for a couple of years now, and we've been working back and forth, what can we do, and that kind of stuff.

So technical impracticability is one -- is a remedy. It may not sound like much of a remedy, but there's still those other extra treatments like the oxidation and stuff like that that are more effective, but they still aren't 100 percent to restore the groundwater to its pristine condition.

So anyway, we got to this point. So now, it's going to be the state's responsibility, as it has in the past, to implement and be responsible for implementing this new -- or amended remedy.

So that's why I'm here. We'll take the finalized amended ROD after all your questions have been

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answered and all that stuff, and then we'll take that and use that and implement the well installation, the new monitoring well installations. And we'll take it and design a program of monitoring for monitoring natural attenuation. And at the same time, we will stay on top then.

As we do the monitoring, we'll be the ones that will see the first monitoring results and make sure that nothing squirrely is happening or make sure contamination reduction is going on. That's the whole idea of monitoring natural attenuation is to document that it's not moving, and/or some kind of degradation of the contaminants are going on. So that will be our responsibility down through the next X years. And as long as the contaminant poses a problem for it's intended land use, then that's where we'll be, is monitoring natural attenuation. It will be our responsibility.

If you have any questions and stuff like that, you can call us first during the implementation of it. If everybody has a copy of this, take one and read it. This is the proposed plans. And this is what EPA will take and make the amended ROD off of along with y'alls comments and stuff. So get one and take it with you and read it. And if you've got questions, I'm sure

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you can submit questions up until June -- July --

MS. HOEY: July 13th.

MR. MCWILLIAMS: 13th, okay. Then EPA will issue a response. They may sometime -- is there a timetable for that, issuing a response?

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MR. CHAVARRIA: A response to the summary? MR. MCWILLIAMS: Yeah.

MR. CHAVARRIA: Yeah. You know, that would be a -- once we get all the comments, after the 30 day period, then we start responding to it. And, you know, if there's nothing really earth shaking, we include all of that in the ROD. And the responsiveness summary will be incorporated in the --I'm sorry if I keep saying ROD. I'm so used to that. The Record of Decision, the document, it'll be in there. And it's -- like I said, it's a legal document.

MR. MCWILLIAMS: Yeah. Is there a timetable for issuing that, amended ROD?

MR. CHAVARRIA: Not that I'm aware of but, you know, when we -- this man here wants us to issue this stuff real fast, so.

MR. HEPOLA: Probably in the next couple of months, or so.

MR. CHAVARRIA: Yeah, we're going to be doing it

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pretty fast. Once the time is up, you know, it should happen.

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MR. MCWILLIAMS: I know we're already kind of planning ahead in our shop of installing these new monitoring wells and stuff. So we're doing a little estimating and getting some -- that kind of stuff. And we've got some internal paperwork to do ourselves to get into a position to begin the new amended ROD work.

Anyway, if y'all have got any questions or -- Gus and EPA and us are here to try to answer them.

MS. WEST: Let's see if I've got this. That acre in the middle is going to have six new wells on it. How often are they going to be monitored?

MR. MCWILLIAMS: There's frequency yet to be decided in stone, but it'll be something on the order of either semi-annually or some number of years.

MS. WEST: A couple of times a year?

MR. MCWILLIAMS: Yeah. First --

MS. WEST: Okay. They've got to remove the old wells that are already there?

MR. MCWILLIAMS: No. There's no plans to remove them.

MS. WEST: Will they be monitored or anything or are they just going to be shut down?

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MR. MCWILLIAMS: No. They'll be monitored, too. MS. WEST: That monitoring will continue?

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MR. MCWILLIAMS: Yes. We have to monitor some of that to document the natural attenuation.

COURT REPORTER: Ma'am, what is your name for the record?

MS. WEST: Phyllis West. I own the property next to it.

COURT REPORTER: Thank you.

MS. WEST: That's the reason I'm here. I wanted to keep track of what's going on, because I know when you try to sell the property, they do always go back and want a copy of all this stuff where we can say that it's not running over onto our property, our ponds, our wells or anything that we have.

MR. MCWILLIAMS: Actual details will be in our -it'll be our responsibility, and we haven't got to the nitty-gritty details yet of all that.

Now, there's been some assumptions made for the estimating of the cost and those are what we call a semi-annual kind of sampling, frequency or other wells there.

MR. JAMISON: What would be released for use? Is there a part of it we could use?

MR. MCWILLIAMS: Land surface there?

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MR. JAMISON: Land surface.

MR. MCWILLIAMS: There hasn't really been that discussion, so -- I know we -- the school district and us were trying to work something out here a few years ago. And that's still available, to my knowledge, I mean, that opportunity to work something out for a specific piece of ground.

The ground is not going to -- the improvements out there -- the only new improvement that I know of right now are these new six wells. And the thinking is now, that they'll be installed up in around here. So that's still -- there won't be any changes on the eastern portion of this part.

I might mention for the rest of you, maybe you already know, we're working with the school district who owns the property -- is that right; the school district, Two Rivers School District?

MR. JAMISON: It used to be Ola. Now it's Two Rivers.

MR. MCWILLIAMS: I'll try -- I want to remember that for working with them for the institutional controls. Because like many states and EPA, either -the titled land owner is the only one they can actually restrict their own land. There may have been some headway in some surrounding states in the region,

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but the school district has been very open and very meaningful to the use restriction of the ground water.

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And part of this remedy is the ground water and no use restriction. It just basically says don't dig a well and use the water. And I know the school district has been very open to that. And we're going to continue working with them to accomplish that.

Any more questions? Do you want to close? MR. HEPOLA: Dan, did you want to say something?

MR. SEATON: Well, I'll go ahead and just mention something. First of all, I work with the Arkansas Department of Health, and actually, through a corporate agreement with the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry out of Atlanta, Georgia.

We work collaboratively a lot with ADEQ and EPA, but our agency was asked by EPA way back when to actually assess the health risk that was associated with the site. And I've got a copy of the documents up here that was written on the site. In fact, it was a public health assessment. And this health assessment was done in -- released in November 27, 1985.

There was a re-assessment of the site that was done by the same agency in September 30th of 1993. As

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Clark mentioned just a moment ago, that we would be continuing monitoring of the wells, and should there be a degradation of the problem there at the site.

In the past what has happened is that either the EPA or ADEQ would contact our agency and ask us to look at the health issues related to those contaminates that would be on the site and to see if there is a potential health risk to the public or the community.

But I do have a card up there with my name and telephone number. If you ever have any questions, you •can feel free to call me and ask me about anything that has to do with this document. I'll try my best to answer, and if I can't, I'll holler at one of these guys who can. But that's it.

Do you have any questions? But a copy of this document is available right here on the table, so any questions?

MR. CHAVARRIA: Something I want to ask, something that -- you asked about those wells, on using the property. And when we were doing similarly over in Plainview with that, all that creosote site that we're cleaning up, someone asked out there if we could do something about those pipes sticking out of the ground. Because the school, I think, was planning

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to, maybe, use the field for soccer or, you know, for the kids to have. And we told them; this is doable.

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You know, those wells can be cut -- or I mean the pipes can be -- they can be put under the ground enough with, you know, with a cap and a lock so nobody can open them except the ADEQ or us whenever we come and sample it. So the kids could utilize that as a -you know, instead of having that beautiful -- I mean, that's a beautiful area around there.

MR. JAMISON: It is.

MR. CHAVARRIA: And get rid of all those pipes, you know, for them to -- I mean, you will still have the wells, but they will be below ground surface, a little bit below. We have a bunch of wells like that in other places, correct; Clark?

MR. MCWILLIAMS: We have done that. Physically flush with the ground.

MR. HEPOLA: Okay. Again, just a reminder that all of the information that's associated with this site is in the administrative record, which is in here -- located here in the school. So if you want to take time to look it over, I guess you're -- you know, feel free to do that. And if you have any specific questions, you can contact either Clark at ADEQ or Gary Miller at EPA. And if you don't have the

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announcement of the public meeting, their numbers are listed. And I believe we have some extras up here on the table. So again, thank you very much for coming out tonight and hopefully, in the future, we'll see you again. Thank you. Whereupon, the meeting was concluded at 6:50 p.m. on June 30, 2005.

CERTIFICATE

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STATE OF ARKANSAS COUNTY OF PULASKI

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rim. Expires

I, DAWN FREDERICK, Certified Court Reporter and Notary Public, do hereby certify that the facts stated by me in the caption on the foregoing proceedings are true; and that the foregoing proceedings were recorded verbatim through the use of the Stenomask and thereafter transcribed by me or under my direct supervision to the best of my ability, taken at the time and place set out on the caption hereto.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties to the action in which these proceedings were taken; and further, that I am not a relative or employee of any attorney or counsel employed by the parties hereto, nor financially interested, or otherwise, in the outcome of this action.

WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL this 30th day of June, 2005.

Certified Court Reporter #536 My Commission Expires: 05/15/13