

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
VICKSBURG DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
VICKSBURG, MISSISSIPPI 39183

SCOPING MEETING  
ON  
DRAFT SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT  
PEARL RIVER WATERSHED

JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2004  
6 P.M.

PRESENT:

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Division  
Mr. Gary Walker, Planning, Programs, and Project Management  
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Ms. Karen Dove-Jackson, Planning, Programs, and Project  
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Mr. Stoney Burke, Planning, Programs, and Project Management  
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Ms. Renee Turner, Planning, Programs, and Project Management  
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Mr. Matt Mallard, Planning, Programs, and Project Management  
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Ms. Billye Barfield, Planning, Programs, and Project Management  
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Mr. Norwyn Johnson, Planning, Programs, and Project Management  
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Mr. Henry Black, Office of Counsel  
Mr. Stan McAlpin, Mississippi Valley Division

Ms. Martha Chieply, Mississippi Valley Division  
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Mr. Joe R. Stevens, Jr., 4144 Ridgewood Road, Jackson, MS 39211  
Mr. Jim Stewart, Southern Consultants, 5740 County Loric Road, Jackson, MS 39206  
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Mr. & Mrs. August J. Stone, Jr., 4252 North Honeysuckle Lane, Jackson, MS 39211  
Mr. John Storm, USGS, 308 S. Airport Road, Pearl, MS 39208  
Mr. Sam Strawder, 535 Rock Hill Road, Brandon, MS 39042

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Mr. Larry Taylor, Jr., 78 North Crown Pointe Drive, Jackson,  
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Mr. Larry Taylor, Sr., Taylor Machinery Corporation, P.O.  
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Mr. John Van Laudeghem, 126 Southern Ridge Drive, Madison,  
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Mr. Charles S. West, 5535 Marblehead Drive, Jackson, MS 39211

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Mr. Andrew E. Whitehurst, 3141 W. Tidewater Lane, Madison,  
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Mr. Cleve Whitley, 4225 Quail Run Road, Jackson, MS 39211

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Mr. Clay Williams, Old Capitol Museum, P.O. Box 571, Jackson,  
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Mr. Charles Williams, Jr., City of Jackson, Jackson,  
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Mr. Eugene C. Wilson, 226 Zelma Lane, Florence, MS 39073

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Mr. Jesse Yancy, Jackson Freelance, 1069 Poplar Boulevard, #1,  
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Mr. Marvin Sydney Yenor

Mr. Wirt Yerger, Jr., 129 Woodland Circle, Jackson, MS 39216

Mr. Joseph S. Young, 1855 Crane Ridge, Jackson, MS 39216

Mr. Paul Young, Ergon, Inc., P.O. Box 1639, Jackson, MS 39215

Mr. Harrison Young, Mississippi State College of Architecture,  
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Mr. Richard Young, 4 Riverbend, Suite 210, Jackson, MS 39232

Ms. Donna Yowell, 164 Trace Cove Drive, Madison, MS 39110

MR. BILLY ORR: And then take your seat. It looks like we are going to have a full house. My name is Billy Orr. I am Chairman of the Rankin-Hinds Pearl River Flood and Drainage Control District. We sure want to welcome a big nice crowd. This is really a surprise that we have this many people here, but we are really pleased to have you, and it shows what interest you have in the community and for the flood problems that we have along the Pearl River. I will say this, if I was a good Baptist, we would take up a collection, but this District was formed in 1962 by the Mississippi Legislature, and it has been a very quiet organization up until the last few months since the LeFleur Lakes project has begun, but I would like to introduce you to the board members that represent different entities within the Pearl River Basin or the Jackson Metro Basin. Mayor Harvey Johnson Jr., city of Jackson, Mayor here. He is back there. Thank you. Mr. Robert Stockett, Jr., Hinds County Board of Supervisors. Robert here? Mayor Shirley Hall, city of Richland, Mayor Hall. Mayor Gary Rhoads, city of Flowood. Jimmy Foster, Mayor, the city of Pearl, and of course, I told you my name is Billy Orr. This District has one purpose and one charge and that is flood control and that is all we have ever had and that is all we have now, so remember this District--flood control is our major interest and the only charge that we have from the legislature and the people that pay the taxes within this District. Since its inception, the Flood Control District has maintained the Pearl River levees that you see each day that you drive around, but you know that these levees have not protected us against such floods as the one and only 1979 famous Easter flood. Many of you were involved in that and many of you know what that did to you. Even when these levees were constructed at that time, they protected a lot, a big percentage of the businesses and whatever, but of course the growth has gone outside of them and that is where we need to be concentrating now on flood control. Tonight, we are going to hear information regarding the LeFleur Lakes flood control project and this District, the Rankin-Hinds Flood Control District, is the local sponsor for the study of the LeFleur Lakes project. This District assigned a management agreement study with the U.S. Corps of Engineers, and you will hear from them tonight, and you will also hear some more from us, but mostly from the Corps of Engineers. As you know, this is a

scoping meeting. Now a scoping meeting means that we are going to try to get everybody under one umbrella and get all the information that we can, and we want that information to be in the form of statements. I think some of it will be recorded or all will be recorded, but statements which some people have already handed in. There will be no questions and answers because this is the first meeting. The Corps has not done any of the work, our engineers have not done any work. No one knows anything, but we are here for the purpose to hear from you. We have got some, later on here, rules that we will go by, and we hope everyone abides by these rules as we go into the night. The purpose, as I said, of this meeting is a scoping meeting, but it is really to gather information and issues that will be addressed to the feasibility study and to draft the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). We are here to listen to and to continue to work toward the most effective solution to flood control in the Metro area. Any of you that happen to be new here, I keep emphasizing flood control, you know what something like the Easter flood can do. At this time, I am going to turn the podium over to the Corps, and I would like to introduce to you a person that has been very cooperative and very helpful with us and continues to be and will be is COL Rick Clapp. He is Commander of the Vicksburg District, Corps of Engineers, and he will give you a few words in a few moments. COL Clapp.

COL FREDERICK CLAPP: Well, good evening. Thanks, Mr. Orr. I appreciate the introduction. We are here tonight to talk about the Pearl River Watershed, Mississippi, Feasibility Study, and conduct this public scoping meeting. Before I get started on my remarks, I would like to introduce a couple of other key people from the Corps of Engineers that are working on this project starting with Mr. Gary Walker who is our Project Manager for the project and Ms. Karen Dove-Jackson who is going to explain the scoping process to us tonight, also part of our project management staff. Mr. Doug Kamien is here tonight as well, our Deputy for Project Management in the Vicksburg District. Very pleased to be here tonight as I said to participate in this meeting with our non-Federal cost-sharing partners for this study--the Rankin-Hinds Pearl River Flood and Drainage Control District. The study is a joint effort of the Vicksburg District

and the Drainage Control District. All Corps feasibility studies are cost shared with local sponsors on a 50/50 basis. So the Flood Control District is providing half of the estimated \$2.8 million for this study effort. Without local sponsors like these who are willing to share the cost of feasibility studies, we cannot accomplish the much needed water resource improvements that the Corps of Engineers is involved in. I would also like to express my appreciation for each and every one of you members of the audience in attendance tonight. Public input to the study process is extremely important. This is your opportunity as stakeholders to provide the input necessary for the study process to produce a good product. We look forward to hearing from everyone who wants to make a statement tonight. If you have not done so yet, I ask everyone here to fill out one of the index card that we are passing out as people were coming in and get those to one of the members of my staff. That way you will be on our mailing list, and we can keep you updated on the developments of this project as we move forward. I would like to go over our agenda for this evening for just a few minutes. I will give you a brief overview of the Vicksburg District and then Gary Walker, our Project Manager, will give you a brief status of the study. Gary will also discuss the comprehensive levee plan that was previously proposed to protect the Jackson Metropolitan area, and Mr. Bill McDonald, representing the Rankin-Hinds Pearl River Flood and Drainage Control District, will discuss the LeFleur Lakes flood control plan and then Karen Dove-Jackson, our project biologist for this study, will explain the scoping process. Lastly, Gary Walker will request your input. This meeting will be recorded, and we can provide a transcript of the meeting after it has been transcribed. Just a quick overview of how the Corps of Engineers is organized. We have got 41 Districts around the world organized into 8 Divisions, and this map depicts the Mississippi Valley Division, which consists of 6 Districts, the Vicksburg District being one of them. You start in the north in St. Paul, Rock Island, St. Louis, Memphis, Vicksburg, and New Orleans. All together, the areas of those Districts encompass the entire Mississippi River and a good portion of the drainage basins of the tributaries that contributed to the Mississippi. We are uniquely organized in that manner for the Corps of Engineers to have one huge watershed such as the Mississippi River all in one

Division. Of course, we are in the lower part of the Mississippi Valley. Focusing in on the Vicksburg District itself, we cover about 68,000 square miles in the three states shown there--Mississippi, Arkansas, and Louisiana. We are responsible for about 280 miles of the Mississippi River, including eight ports that are located along the river. We have to maintain navigation on the river, flood control, and help keep those ports open to do their business throughout the year. We have a total of 12 locks and 9 dams in the District. We have five locks and dams on the Red River to maintain navigation on the J. Bennett Johnston Waterway in Louisiana and four locks and dams on the Ouachita-Black River where we maintain navigation in Louisiana and Arkansas. We have seven major flood control reservoirs--four in Mississippi. Ya'll are probably very familiar with those--Grenada, Enid, Sardis, and Arkabutla Dams. We have also got three in Arkansas that also have hydropower associated with the three in Arkansas. In addition, we have three locks on the Pearl River down on the south end toward the Gulf. There are no dams associated with those. They are in fact rarely used--that project is in a caretaker status right now. There is very little navigation on the lower Pearl River, almost none existence. We have got nine major drainage basins encompassed within that area. That is the way the Corps of Engineers is organized on the basis of drainage basins. Some of the major ones in Mississippi are the Yazoo Basin, the Big Black, and of course, the Pearl River. I would like to emphasize one more time this evening that the purpose of the meeting is to identify significant issues and concerns that need to be addressed in the draft EIS. I will now turn the meeting over to Mr. Gary Walker who I have introduced previously, and he will discuss the status of the study and other aspects of the Pearl River Watershed report. Thank you.

MR. GARY WALKER: The Pearl River Watershed Study consists of Jackson, Mississippi, Metropolitan Area below the Ross Barnett Reservoir Dam which is subject to floods from the Pearl River. Studies of the Pearl River Watershed were authorized by two U.S. House of Representatives resolutions, by one U.S. Senate resolution, both of them dated May 1979. These resolutions were passed right after the 1979 flood of record. The Jackson Metropolitan Area continues to suffer annual damages of about

\$10 million resulting from the Pearl River. The flood record was in 1979 and was catastrophic, causing approximately \$400 million in damages in today's dollars. So you see some of these are downtown Jackson area near State Street--some of the residential areas were flooded in 1979. The existing levees are shown in black on this slide--these levees affect the Jackson area. The Jackson levees on the west side of the Pearl River protect the fairgrounds area, levees east of the Pearl River protect the Pearl and Flowood areas. The Jackson fairgrounds levee protects approximately 420 acres in conjunction with a 45-cubic-foot-per-second (cfs) pump to drain out the interior drainage. The east Jackson levees protect approximately 5,170 acres and have a 300-cfs pumping capacity to pump out the interior drainage. Approximately 5.3 miles of river work were included in this project which was completed in 1968. The Rankin-Hinds Pearl Flood and Drainage Control District is the sponsor of this existing project. I should have mentioned that the Flood Control District does an outstanding job of maintaining these existing levees and annually gets an outstanding maintenance award. I should also mention in the Jackson area, the floodway clearing plan was implemented after the 1979 flood. It is 3.3 miles long. It starts south at the old Jackson landfill and extends for the 3.3 miles up to near the Woodrow Wilson bridge, and the Pearl River Basin Development District (PRBDD) was the local sponsor of this project. In January 1996, the Vicksburg District completed a draft feasibility report for the Jackson area that recommended a comprehensive levee system. The PRBDD was the non-Federal sponsor of this study effort. The study's action was suspended July 1998, and the final feasibility report was never completed. Lack of support for the recommended plan, operation of the Ross Barnett Reservoir, and downstream concerns over flooding and bank caving were primary issues. Also in 1996, local interests proposed the LeFleur Lakes flood control plan consisting of upper and lower lakes along the Pearl River, south of Ross Barnett Reservoir, as an alternative to the comprehensive levee plan. The feasibility cost-sharing agreement necessary to resume flood control investigations was signed with the non-Federal sponsor, the Rankin-Hinds Pearl River Flood and Drainage District, in October 2003. Investigations will include updating of the comprehensive levee plan that I discussed and a complete

investigation of the LeFleur Lakes flood control plan. To this point, only pieces of the LeFleur Lakes flood control plan have been investigated and have come more or less piecemeal. The study's estimated cost of approximately \$2.8 million is cost shared equally between the Federal Government and the non-Federal sponsors. Rankin-Hinds is providing their 50 percent share primarily by providing in-kind engineering and other services. The study is estimated to acquire approximately 2.5 years to complete. I just want to talk a little about the comprehensive levee plan. The comprehensive levee plan proposed in the draft 1996 report is shown here. The plan includes levees to protect north Jackson, northeast Jackson, south Jackson, and Ridgeland, as well as some areas around Lakeland Drive where we had some floodwalls. The comprehensive levee plan would provide protection from a flood event of 1979 magnitude. I should also mention the existing levees in this plan would be raised probably 2 to 6 feet, depending on where it was. Again, this project would protect against the flood of record which is of the 1979 magnitude. Mr. Bill McDonald, who represents Rankin-Hinds Pearl River Flood and Drainage Control District, will now discuss some key aspects of the LeFleur Lakes Plan.

MR. BILL MCDONALD: Thanks, Gary. Let me do two things. First of all, just briefly explain the role of the Rankin-Hinds Pearl River Flood and Drainage Control District in this feasibility study and then secondly, briefly summarize for you the key components of the LeFleur Lakes flood control plan. First of all, with regard to the Flood Control District, the Rankin-Hinds Pearl River Flood and Drainage Control District from this point, if we could just agree to call it the Flood Control District. Is there wonder why people call it the Levee Board? The Flood Control District is the local, as others have mentioned, the local non-Federal sponsor of this feasibility study, and the District, as Mr. Orr indicated, is comprised of the city of Jackson; the cities of Flowood, Pearl, and Ridgeland; the Fairgrounds Commission; and Rankin and Hinds Counties. The mission, as Mr. Orr summarized, as well, a mission of the Flood Control District as mandated by the legislature is to control the surface and overflow waters within its boundaries for the purpose of protecting citizens and their properties. And again as mandated and as stipulated by the legislative act that

created that District. Now in carrying out that purpose, the Flood Control District has become involved as a sponsor of the LeFleur Lakes project. In 1996, the LeFleur Lakes was proposed as a alternative to the levee plan, which at that time as Gary has mentioned, had recently being completed by the Corps of Engineers. The LeFleur Lakes was subsequently endorsed by several local Governments and other Governmental agencies. In 2001, the Flood Control District assumed sponsorship as the local non-Federal sponsor of that project. In October of this past year, 2003, the Flood Control District reached an agreement with the Vicksburg, Corps of Engineers, to participate in the present feasibility study and to cost share to the 50 percent level, both the cost and the work effort for that study. What I would like to do now is just to briefly summarize the key components of the LeFleur Lakes Plan as it was originally and presently proposed. First of all, as most of you have seen some representation of the project, it includes two lakes controlled by low head weirs extended roughly from below the Ross Barnett Reservoir to just south of Interstate 20. Now, the normal pool elevation, the lakes combined to cover the surface area of approximately 5,000 acres. An independent study commissioned by the Corps of Engineers completed in 2000 concluded that the LeFleur Lakes Plan would indeed provide a level of flood control benefit as would the comprehensive levee plan. In fact, under the plan, the level of the 1979 Easter flood reportedly would be lowered to or by significant amount. And finally, in terms of operation of the lakes program, it is intended that the operation of the lakes take into consideration areas downstream of the immediate project itself; i.e., further down the Pearl River Watershed, to address such as bank sloughing and other concerns of that downstream area. Now, those particular concerns, as well as all of these components that we have summarized, will be comprehensively evaluated in this feasibility study from an engineering cost to benefit, environmental, and several other aspects. That is indeed the purpose of this feasibility study at this point, Gary, I will turn the program back over to you.

MR. GARY WALKER: Actually, Karen Dove-Jackson is going to talk a little bit about the scoping process. Karen.

MS. KAREN DOVE-JACKSON: Thank you, Gary. I am Karen Dove-Jackson. I am the project biologist for the Pearl River Watershed project. I am going to speak to you briefly about the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) scoping process and our purpose here tonight. The NEPA of 1969 and subsequent regulations for implementing the act require that as soon as practicable after the decision to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is made, a scoping process will take place, that is pretty textbook. Our purpose here tonight, which was covered by the Colonel and Gary and Mr. Orr, is to allow the Vicksburg District and the Flood Control District, with your help, to identify significant issues and concerns that need to be addressed in our draft EIS and determine the scope of issues to be addressed. The importance of scoping is to clarify significant issues to be analyzed in depth and to prepare concise draft EISs. The scoping process is the key to preparing a concise EIS and the handout which you received should give you a detailed explanation of the scoping process. If you did not receive a handout, please raise your hand, and you will receive one or go to our table in the corner. I would like to ask Matt Mallard if he will recognize the people who have their hands raised and provide a handout to you. These are some of the things we want to address--environmental studies, significant resources, issues to be analyzed. We want to emphasize again that our purpose here is to gather input from the public. This helps us do our job much better. When we look at environmental studies, we want to know what environmental studies are needed. You can help us decide that. We want to look at significant resources--what significant resources exist in the area. Issues to be analyzed--what are the major concerns that should be analyzed? These are some the areas that we have already identified--waterfowl, which of course includes Doug's wading birds, etc. Impacts to wetlands, one of our nation's most important resources, of course, will be addressed. Aquatic habitat--these include rivers, lakes, streams, wetlands. These all provide important habitats for aquatic organisms, fish. Terrestrial habitats--these areas, of course, provide cover, foraging, and nesting areas for our terrestrial wildlife species. We want to look at water quality--project impacts to water quality will be addressed. We will work closely with one of our cooperating agencies, the Mississippi Department of

Environmental Quality, to address this issue. Risk analysis--a risk base analysis using an approach that captures and quantifies the extent of the risk and uncertainty in the planning and design of this project will be done during this study. That is also textbook ya'll. Cultural resources impacts--any significant cultural and/or historic sites within the project area will determine if there are any, then we will assess the project's impacts to those. Endangered and threatened species--these include Federally listed species and also state-listed species. We will work with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks (MDWFP) to address this concern. Cumulative impacts--we not only have to look at this project's individual impacts to the environment, we want to look at this project's impacts, along with other existing and future projects and look at the cumulative impacts that it will have on our environment. Mitigation--we want to make sure that any unavoidable impacts to the environment are compensated through mitigation and fossil sites--we received some preliminary information that there are existing fossil sites in the project area. This issue will be fully investigated during the project study. The cooperating agencies--we request that these agencies be our partners or cooperators in this study in preparing this draft EIS. This is a list of the agencies that we have requested in writing to be our partners--Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, MDWFP, Environmental Protection Agency, FWS, Natural Resources Conservation Service, the U.S. Forest Service, and the Federally recognized Indian tribes. I want to give you a list of the tribes that we have invited to participate: the Coushatta Tribe in Louisiana, the Jena Band of Choctaw, the Caddo Tribe of Oklahoma, the Choctaw Indian Nation, the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, the Chickasaw Nation, the Tunica-Biloxi Indians of Louisiana, and Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma. We are scheduled to produce a draft report in October 2005, which will be distributed for public comment prior to being finalized--that is our draft EIS so to speak. Now, I will turn the program back over to Gary Walker. Thank you.

MR. GARY WALKER: Thank you, Karen. Now I want to hear from ya'll. I would like to reiterate to you the purpose of the scoping meeting tonight is to identify significant issues and concerns that need to be addressed in our draft EIS. Those who wish to make statements here will be called upon row-by-row. I would ask you to make sure you go the microphone, one of these two down here. If we do not get it in the microphone, it will not be part of the public record so we will have to be able to record it and then we can transcribe it later on. So, I would ask everybody to do that. Because these proceedings are being recorded, I would like to ask as you are called on to come to one of the microphones in the aisle. Identify yourself and then proceed with your comment. I would also like your comments not to exceed over 3 minutes because you notice we have got a big crowd here. You can mail statements to us. You have a self-addressed envelope that can be sent to us. We value those comments just as highly as if you say something here tonight. We would invite you to do that also. We probably will put up a website later on this spring that you can visit. We do have a number of elected representatives. I want to recognize them and give them the opportunity to speak first tonight if they have a desire to do so. From Senator Trent Lott's office, we have Bo Bilbo. Where is Bo? Okay. We have State Representative Rita Martinson.

MS. RITA MARTINSON: Thank you. I hate to be the first one up to do this, but I would like to just say, real quickly, that for some 25 years we have been looking at trying to solve the problem and over the years, the issue has come before the legislature in many forms. We have tried to attack the flooding issue in this area all the way from the Shoccoe Dam proposal all the way through some of the problems that are accumulating downstream to try to control the water that is let out of the reservoir. I represent part of Madison County and, of course, it was shown on the map as Reservoir Road, which is just north of County Line Road, is in this District and that area has flooded in the past and some of the area around Rice Road and where the proposed craft center will go has flooded. Not only the Natchez Trace Parkway and some of those surrounded areas affect some of the people that I represent, but also I have lived through the 1979 flood and our place of business and our

daughter's home flooded, just as many of yours did. We need to have some solution to this, and it looks to me that like the economic development provided by the LeFleur's project would offer all of us some relief. Thank you.

MR. GARY WALKER: Thank you. Next, we will have State Representative Bill Denny.

MR. BILL DENNY: Thank you very much. I am going to have to refer to notes because we have been into this now for over a quarter of a century, and it is hard to remember exactly where we were some 25 years ago. COL Clapp, I made a remark to him a short while ago when we first started working on the Shoccoe project some 25 years ago, a lot of the adjutants I worked with were captains; they have now retired as Colonels. So it is time to get on with. The 1979 flood, I am going to try to remind my neighbors who are involved, we lost 3,410 homes, that is damage of that many homes; 1,110 businesses for a total of \$203 million. That was in 1979 dollars. In today's dollars, that would probably be extrapolated by five times. We were told as that time that was a 500-year event. Then in 1983, 4 years later, that was the fastest 496 years I ever lived. We were under it once again. Of course, we have had mitigation on the dredging and gages and so forth. I fought on the floor for the Shoccoe bill. The Shoccoe feasibility was approved, and we took it before the State House, both in the House and the Senate, but politically it never was implementable. So, here we are back once again. In my District, I represent northeast Jackson and part of Madison County as well. I want to remind the folks here when we talk about a 43 flood, that is a 43-foot flood or a 39-foot flood, when we get 35 feet we have people moving out, Colonel, and that is just as devastating as it is to have the flood itself. Since the event of 1979 and again of 1983, we probably had people move out of their homes, I would say, at least a half a dozen times more. It is time to get on with it, and I encourage the Corps and the Commission please to help us get this project passed. Thank you.

MR. GARY WALKER: Next card I have is Mayor Gary Rhoads of Flowood. Mayor, would you like to speak a few words.

MR. GARY RHOADS: Maybe if I play at this mic for 3 minutes, I will be better off. I would just like to say for the city of Flowood, of course, back if you recall the reason the levees were built back in 1965, I believe the Corps spoke of, Gary spoke of, back in 1961, we had a great flood. I know my father was present in that flood, fought the different levees they had over in Flowood that time around the industrial park. Fortunately, they probably had a lot better leadership then we have today. I am speaking strictly for myself because in about 5 years, they had flood protection, they had levees. Twenty-five years we have put up with a lot of agony and a lot of problems. One thing I would like to say, the reason we are here today and tonight is we were fortunate on having the Hinds County Board of Supervisors and the Rankin County Board of Supervisors putting up the local match. So, it is not a Flowood problem, it is not a Jackson problem, it is everybody's problem. Floodwaters do not know city limits. They do not know rich or poor, and this is something we can all work together and be concerned about the environment. I, for one, am real concerned about the environment, but also I am concerned of the loss of life, the loss of people's homes and presently, I have four hospitals sitting up here off of Lakeland Drive that if we get a 35 river, we are not flooded, but our roadways are, and we are transporting patients all over the Metro area. It can be very devastating, but the one thing I do like about this LeFleur Lakes Plan--everybody is working together and all we need now is the environmentalists and their group to work with us and all work hand-in-hand, and I think we will come up with a solution. Thank you.

MR. GARY WALKER: Okay, I also have a card for Ms. Shirley Hall, resident of Ridgeland. She was here, I do not know. Okay. We will move on. I see the Mayor of Pearl, would you like to say a few words?

MR. JIMMY FOSTER: In 1979 as a young law enforcement officer, I stood on top of the levee behind Flowood Baptist Church guarding prisoners that were doing sandbagging for boils under the levees that we were scared was about to blow out. The levee shook like

a bowl of jello, and I have never forgotten that and all I am saying is, it is 25, 26 years later and those same levees are still there. It is time we do something and get something going and get these places protected.

MR. GARY WALKER: Mayor Johnson, you are not on the list, but I do not know if you would like to speak or say a few words? We would like for you to do it.

MR. HARVEY JOHNSON: Thank you so much. It is my pleasure to be here. I appreciate the opportunity to offer just a few comments. You know, the great flood of 1979 caused millions of dollars, hundreds of millions of dollars worth of damages that have been indicated. Then we have continuing flooding since that time that have caused tens of millions of dollars of damage almost on an annual basis. These flooding events alone demonstrate a need for a comprehensive flood protection plan for the Metro area and for the city of Jackson. So, we are here to support the effort to get that started. Now the LeFleur Lakes Plan has been presented to the public, and the public has rallied around this plan as an effective way of doing that. The city of Jackson has gone on record as supporting that plan. Obviously, that plan still has to be studied, and as it is evolving, we will look at it very closely. Flooding is something that needs to be addressed in the city of Jackson and the Metro area. We have over 200 miles of drainage ditches in our area. I have people coming up to me telling me that every time it rains, they cannot go to sleep because they live in fear of having to move their furniture out of the house or having to go live with relatives. That is unfair to them to have to live in that kind of environment. I agree with the other comments. It high time that we do something about it, and we hope and pray that a solution to flooding of the neighborhoods along the Pearl River and other neighborhoods throughout the Metro area that a solution is found in the immediate future because we need to end the pain and the suffering and the loss of property that goes along with this flooding in the area. Thank you.

MR. GARY WALKER: Next, we will have Mr. Charles Barbour from Hinds County Board of Supervisors.

MR. CHARLES BARBOUR: Good evening. I am Charles Barbour. I represent the Hinds County Board of Supervisors. I represent District 1 which is eastern Hinds County. I cover downtown, the fairgrounds, everything east of the interstate. All of those areas were flooded in 1979. I want to start by thanking Mr. Walker and Ms. Dove-Jackson and COL Clapp for being here. We appreciate your support of this area. You mentioned in 1996 this plan kind of came to life. It is 8 years later and now we are going to study it, maybe. Ms. Jackson mentioned in 2000 that there was a study performed. Hinds County Board of Supervisors paid half of that study. This is important to Hinds County. It has been 25 years, COL Clapp. I am a Lieutenant Colonel in the National Guard. I was a Private when the water came down. We do not have a lot of money in this county.

COL Frederick Clapp: You may get it done before you are a General.

MR. CHARLES BARBOUR: Thank you for your confidence. Not far from where I live, the streets end and the woods begin. I take my kids back in those woods a lot. Last April, the water came up in a lot of my constituents' backyards, into the driveways, just to the backdoor. Some folks did have to move out. The Portable-On Demand Storage Company and U-Haul made a lot of money that month. A lot of people moved out of their houses. I want to mention that when the water went back down, my kids and I went down there. You could not step on the ground for dead fish. There were more dead fish. You could not step on dirt--you had to step on fish. They get trapped and they die. You mentioned the in-kind engineering services that the Rankin-Hinds Levee Board is providing. It is in-kind to them, Colonel, it is cash to us. Our Board and Rankin County both are chipping in over \$700,000 cash. We had 350 uniform Deputy Sheriffs in Hinds County. That is a pay raise. We are foregoing a pay raise for our deputies so we can study this plan. What is the outcome of the study, I do not know. We have got to move forward and protect the homeowners, the business owners. We appreciate you for your time. Thank you.

MR. GARY WALKER: That is all the other cards of elected officials I have. Do you have any other elected officials that would like to speak first? Okay. Go ahead. Just introduce yourself.

MR. LARRY SWELLS: Thank you, sir. I am Larry Swells. I am Rankin County Board of Supervisors. I will not repeat to you all the things that have been said here already. What I will tell you is, that we are very supportive in Rankin County of this project. We are very supportive and sensitive to the issues and environmental issues, and we will let you know also that we did vote unanimously to put \$700,000 in this project to make the matching non-Federal part of this. We do wish you well in this study of the, going through this Scope of Work. We do hope you will take all of our concerns on both sides of the aisles and take those and do a good job in coming back with a good report for us. I stand here ready to say that we need some help. I, too, was here in 1979 and during that flood as well and saw many of the people that I know and you know who suffered through this as well. Our Rankin County Board of Supervisors have laid their vote before you, and we stand ready to support it, and we hope that you will do a good job in that. Thank you.

MR. GEORGE SMITH: I am George Smith from Hinds County Board of Supervisors, District 5. I, too, represent part of the area that is affected. I have been in office since 1980. One of the first projects I worked on was flood control. This makes my fourth or fifth time of testifying before a committee from here to Washington, DC, trying to help the people of Hinds County and in Rankin County and other areas that are affected by the flood. We, too, as all have said support the efforts that are going on. We made ourselves visible by putting our money where our mouths are. So, we ask again that you consider what we are offering here tonight; that is, that we are doing what we can do, and we are asking the Corps of Engineers to work with us, give us a good project that will make sure that our people in Hinds County are safe. Thank you.

MR. GARY WALKER: Okay, do I have any other elected officials? Okay. What we will do, we will start down row-by-row. We can start over here and go straight across. I would ask that your comments not to exceed 3 minutes because we have got a lot of folks here tonight I am sure would like to say a few words. So, let us start on this side right here. Please go to the microphone and like I said, identify yourself where it can be recorded.

MR. GARY HILL: My name is Gary Hill. I am a resident of Richland, and I have got two comments. One, I am very concerned about the environment, but I also realize from traveling this country that an environment will be set up that might be better because wildlife will have a stable platform to live in instead of the up and down cycle like the gentlemen said where fish were killed, rodents, and all come in. Another comment I would like to make is the statement that was made to me when I was flooded in 1979 in Richland by the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency representative from Pennsylvania. He asked me why I did not just move? Because in Mississippi, we never do anything. I have stayed there in Richland in the same house, have doubled its size because I know in Mississippi we can do things.

MR. GARY WALKER: I think we have covered everybody of this first row. Anybody on the second row? Okay.

MS. RUTH SULLIVAN: My name is Ruth Sullivan. I live in Madison County. I learned a little bit about this project, although I am not as well educated as I would like to be about it, but some things that I have noticed about it, it has caused me some concern. One of those is the limited area that the study would include. It only includes Hinds, Rankin, and Madison Counties, but the proposed project would affect a much larger area than that and so that I would request that the study include the whole of the Pearl River Basin of the Pearl River Watershed from its headwaters all the way down to where it empties. Also, because of that impact on a greater area, I think it is really important that other people get to make their comments about this project. Other people who would be affected both upstream on the Pearl and downstream on the Pearl. So I also think it would be important for us to have additional scoping meetings so that other members of the public get to make their contributions. And last are the impact, the direct impact on the environment, and we all know there is going to be some, but so much of this land is not mitigatable. Our brand new Natural Science Museum is about all that would be left on LeFleur's

Bluff State Park and that is a real loss to me and to a lot of other members of the Jackson community. I understand that flooding is a problem and there absolutely has to be a solution, but I think it is important to make the smart choices and smart decisions that will actually help the problem and not aggravate it.

MR. GARY WALKER: In the interest of time, I might ask the person who is right behind that when they get ready just to line up behind him.

MR. RON WIELAND: I am Ron Wieland with the Mississippi Native Plant Society and past President. I would like to speak on behalf of the environment. With the annual threat of the high water, the Pearl River has served as a defacto, protector of the remaining wetlands of the flood plain forest. As you know, a whole three-county area has been developed. The only places that are remaining that are rather natural are the Big Black River and the Pearl River. The forest wetlands are composed of many species that their habitats would be destroyed. The wetlands, of course, are fascinating areas for education, recreation, and other opportunities, especially for wildlife habitat. The Museum of Natural Science has served as a gateway to the study of these areas, and it serves as a way where we can learn a little more about these natural areas. It is very important that people understand the environment. We are living here that we continue to destroy our environment, and we need to protect some areas. As it stands now, the river has been the protector of this land. The flood plain has also served as a area for mussels, reptiles, birds, mammals, other animals, and endangered species. The habitat is very diverse and in a study in Texas, they were studying the potential of building a reservoir on the Sabine River. Their mitigation cost per acre basis on the Sabine River was 5.25. That was the study estimated loss and therefore, when we are talking 5,000 acres of development, you are considering a huge acreage of mitigation and who is going to pay for that? I mean, where are you going to find it? So, it is a huge cost, and certainly mitigation at that rate may even be low compared to the value of this land for wildlife. Loss of habitat is also detrimental to wildlife, but also to our health. These rivers serve as major sponges to

sponge up pollution. You have huge numbers of living beings improving the air quality of this Metropolitan area. We continually destroy air quality with extensive development and therefore, we need the natural features to help cleanse this air. Besides, it could indefinitely decrease the amount of ozone in the atmosphere. The forests serve to reduce carbon sequestration. We are all producing carbon dioxide and therefore, we need to help convert some of this back because of the global warming problem. We continue to destroy the trees--that process will continue to be. I have one more statement here. The project will destroy 15 million trees. Now think about that for a minute. Thank you.

MR. DAVID DOCKERY: I am David Dockery. I am speaking on behalf of the fossil site. I have a bachelor from Mississippi State and a Geology master at Ole Miss and a geology master and PhD from Tulane and Duke University. So, I am going to speak a little bit about this fossil site. It is a world class, world famous fossil site, and COL Clapp has been getting letters, I believe, from various parts of the world. It is the type of locality for the Jackson group that is known around the world. It is also the type of locality for the Jackson stage which is a time and is seen between 34 and 38 million years ago. It is a time of climate change. Now, somebody sent me a web link recently, I mean today, that the Pentagon is saying that the climatic change is going to kill us all. I do not know if you have seen that Colonel or not, but studies of climatic change are being done here in Jackson, Mississippi, at Town Creek at the type of locality of the Jackson site because that was the last warm phase of the eocene before the climate turned cold, and there was ice in Antarctica. So, there is a world class study going on in our city about people around the world today and that site is really worth saving. The only comparable site to it is Montgomery Landing on the Red River, and the Red River Waterway killed it. So we have one left, and it is at Jackson Town Creek. Now, the other thing I want to mention is also I have a background to talk about flooding. Shoccoe Dry Dam was a real solution to flooding in Jackson. It is my personal opinion that the Two Lakes project is a development. It may offer some flood control, but it would not offer the flood control that Shoccoe Dry Dam will offer the city of Jackson, plus this

newspaper shows a flood on Town Creek with a submerged car. That was a flashflood draining downtown Jackson, if you back water into Town Creek, where is this water going to go. It will stay in the streets of an area of downtown Jackson that we are trying to revitalize. Thank you.

MR. JERRY LITTON: My name is Jerry Litton. I live in Rankin County, and I sure would like to hear the word "flood reduction" because I do not think flood control in this zone we are talking about is possible and anything over a 100-year flood. When reading the announcement for this scoping meeting, a line of text caught my attention, creating an amount of anxiety. I like to make a statement. I request, anticipate, and willingly work for my right as a citizen of the United States to enjoy, experience, and use of Pearl River and its tributaries as a public water body. Under the protection of the United States Government, this river system and my rights rely on implementation of the National Environmental Policy Act, Clean Air, Clean Water Acts, Endangered Species Acts, and Federal initiatives to limit or prohibit lowland development in flood-prone areas in wetlands reduction. These laws, regulations, and studies all designed to provide and protect for existing and future citizens, the natural watershed, environment, air and water quality, wetlands, and species that dwell in these environments. I recently completed canoeing the Pearl River--it took me approximately 48 days canoeing, photographing, and camping. If you have never been out in a canoe, you need to try it. It is quite a lot of fun and quite a wonderful experience. I saw some wonderful things on our river. I also saw some things that tell me what this zone of river is really like because this particular zone of river down to mile 270 has more biowaste in it than any other zone in the river system. If this Two Lakes project goes in, it is going to receive the drainage of all the tributaries in the Jackson area, and if you are right across the interstate after one of these flood events and see the debris, are you going to volunteer to pick it up? Are you going to go out there and sand out the waste and help make the water clear? I can promise you, algae bloom every summer. I can promise you warmer temperatures in this zone because you are taking the trees down. I can promise you hot water. Think about what you are going to

do because we cannot back up. Once we do this and flood control is not in the project because we do not know how we wasted a lot of wetlands, we wasted a lot of money, may have lost some lives, may have lost some property. I have got a lot on my heart on this project, and I have been following it for 4 years. I have talked to Mr. McGowan, Gary Walker, and anybody that would listen to me--it is a huge mistake. You do not build in a flood plain. You do not erect houses to live in. It is a dangerous place and if you want your family and descendents living there. We are going to get that flood that is going to take it down. We might not see it, but somebody is and 10,000 acres are going to be filled with a number of people. Thank you.

MR. GARY WALKER: Thank you. Across the row here. Anybody is this row. Yes sir.

MR. JERA ANDERSON: My name is Jera Anderson. I am from the city of Ridgeland. I know that you had a list up earlier about the things that are already considered or already going to be considered in this study. We can sit here and hash these over and over and over again, but we are here to address a few emotions. Very quickly, yes, we do need to preserve some areas. We do need to preserve some wetlands--mitigation does that. And yes, it cost money to mitigate. I suggest the Pascagoula River as pointed out by the PBS as the only untouched, unmanaged river in the contiguous U.S. be that mitigated area. Jackson is not the place for this cause. Drive across I-20 and you look at nothing but mosquito holes in the summertime. Two words--West Nile. Am I an environmentalist? You darn right I am. What I do not want is an environment where my children and myself are having to say these two words--glub glub.

MR. GARY WALKER: See, we already get that row. Let us start right here, the third row back on this third row on this side. Anybody of this side? Anybody, yes.

MS. MARY STEVENS: I am Mary Stevens speaking for the members of the Jackson Audubon Society. The Jackson Audubon Society has passed a resolution listing many concerns that we have about this project. Let me say first that the Jackson Audubon Society is not against flood control, but we would like for the Corps of

Engineers to find a method of flood control that would be a lot less damaging to the Pearl River Watershed. One of our concerns is that the LeFleur's Bluff State Park will be severely impacted by the LeFleur Lakes project--it would be completely flooded and all that would probably be left is our wonderful Natural Science Museum, which is at the top of the hill. The park is the largest public natural area in an urban setting in Mississippi. It is over 300 acres of undeveloped land. The proposed lake would destroy a major part of the park, which was developed with land and water conservation fund monies. Those are Federal funds and if you destroy property that was developed with those funds, then you have to mitigate, and you have to replace those lands with at least fair market value, usefulness, and location. Due to the nature of the park property and its uniqueness, we do not feel that this is possible. It is not possible to mitigate this unique land. The park is a haven for birds. The Natural Audubon Society and Audubon Mississippi have designated the park as an important bird area. This is a global program. It is nationwide and global. It was designated in the park as a bird area because of the unique vegetation in the park. It provides the unique important stopover habitat for migrating birds and also provides nesting and breeding habitat for other birds in the nesting season. Some of the birds that nest there are some special concerns, there are some of our neotropical migrants--those that winter in Latin America and then come to North America to nest. The Audubon Society has documented at least well almost 200 birds species that utilize the park. The Audubon Society leads bird walks many times each month in the park offering birding and educational opportunities to adults, families, children, and scouts. Birding has become a vastly popular hobby in the United States. The economics of birding in Mississippi have become important. There was a new study just released by FWS that talked about how many birders we have in the State of Mississippi. We have 440,000 birders to come and live in the state and also travel to the state to birdwatch. This means that they spends \$303 million on birdwatching in Mississippi. All you have to do to get those folks to come to

Mississippi is to conserve habitat. There is no infrastructure to build. There is no infrastructure to maintain for birding and wildlife watching--it is only habitat conservation. So birding in the park and other natural areas in Mississippi is a substantial economic impact, and I hope the Corps of Engineers will consider that. Thank you.

MR. CY TANDY: My name is Cy Tandy. Read statement (Exhibit 1). Just quickly, how many people in the room, a show of hands, have actually been down into this corridor, either on a hike, a bike, canoe? So, you know what is there. It is a known entity. What we are proposing with the Twin Lakes project is not a known entity. So, thank you.

MR. DAN ALLEN: My name is Dan Allen. I am a resident of Jackson. We are talking about the Two Lakes--the LeFleur Lakes project and extending the levees in the flood plain, but the problem is that these problems are caused by developing in lowland areas that are subject to flooding. The more you develop in those areas, then the more flooding you are going to have. We have more flooding incidents now, and the floodwaters are getting higher, because we are being irresponsible in the development of flood plains. The best alternative to either project is to develop a comprehensive plan for the Pearl River Watershed and then to utilize that plan--use that plan to create greenway. A greenway would provide flood control benefits and water quality benefits throughout the watershed and not just the area along the floodway, and it would also allow us to bring in economic development to use the floodway as an economic development tool here in the Jackson and the Metropolitan areas. We would use the creeks that already exist, undeveloped, and under-utilized areas along these creeks to solve ecosystem restoration projects that primarily rely on natural processes, processes that also include hard and soft infrastructure and then we would develop and enforce zoning regulations to keep people from developing in known areas that are flood prone and hazardous. We would also go ahead and use nonstructural procedures to buy out properties and flood proof properties that are dangerous and that are flood prone. The greenway concept and comprehensive studies are being used in other parts of the

United States, and they generate very positive economic impacts, and they go a long way toward controlling flood reduction or reducing floodwaters, and in a much better manner than I think either project we are going to have coming out of this thing now. Thank you.

MR. GARY WALKER: Let me get this one right here. I did not get this second row. Ma'am just wait right here. Just stay right there.

MR. LESLIE LAMPTON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My name is Leslie Lampton, and I am probably the oldest member on the Hinds-Rankin Port Authority, not port authority, the levees. I was on the Levee Board in 1979 when the flood came. I can appreciate all these folks over here that are raising their hands at canoeing, but how many can raise their hands or walk around seeing their neighbors and all the people that were flooding, like those us that were on the Levee Board did it at that time. There were schools under water. There were homes under water. There were businesses under water, and I do not think the city of Jackson really realizes that Southern Bell Telephone had 5 feet of water outside of the telephone company. My office was right next door to it. We did not know what building levees were, but we followed the telephone company because they got some professionals in there to built their levees, and we kept a lot of the water out of our building. Had our building shut down, 2,000 people would not have gotten a paycheck because all of the phone systems, the electric systems would have gone out. Had the telephone company gone out, I do not know what the Government would have done--maybe they would have come up in a short period of time with some alternatives, but gentlemen, I like Shoccoe. I heard somebody over here speak about Shoccoe, and I thought it was fine, but it was as Mr. Denny said, it was not politically correct. It just could not get through the legislature. So, I know the Corps of Engineers is going to study this project and if they pass on it, it is going to be good one. For those of you that like mother nature, sometimes it is amazing when they build a lake, all the frogs and all the good things come around these lakes and maybe ya'll can be a little bit happy. I am not looking for anything but for us to get something done in the city of Jackson. The mayor of all

these cities here have told you how they have suffered. The supervisors tell you how they have suffered. We are losing our tax base, and we need some help, and this is the only thing that got its hand out right now. Thank you.

MR. GARY WALKER: Go ahead. This lady right here.

MS ANN SOMERS: Hi. I am Ann Somers. I am here on behalf of the Gulf Restoration Network, which the Sierra Club in Jackson is a part of. I am also a native of Jackson and have decided to make this a place that I am going to stay. I too am concerned about flooding, but I also want this to be a very responsible project. There are a list of items that we would like to see in DEIS. I have got them back on the table there. There are a few items that I did not see on your board that we need to go ahead and bring up. One is wholly nonstructural alternatives such as reestablishment of the flood plain. Another is for you to actually look at the impact of all the developments that were coming up, the foreseeable development, that will be coming up in this area so that it is really a true assessment of what we are going to have in our future. Looking at the contamination of the sediments in the water column of the Pearl River and how it affects everybody downstream, the DDT, toxaphene, and mercury contamination. Just like others have said, look at the mitigation on a really serious note. We are hoping that you really will be a good steward of our lands and our future in this project. Thank you.

MR. GARY WALKER: Just want to remind everybody. Want everybody to make sure you speak directly into the mic so we get a good recording of this. Okay.

MR. BO BOREN: My name is Bo Boren. Twenty-five years ago, I lived with my family on North Canton Club Circle and attended high school in Flowood. The economic impact that it had on my family and the neighbors was more than you could ever imagine and 4 years later it happened again. I saw it happen to the businesses on Lakeland Drive in Flowood. It was devastating. I understand the environmental concerns. I, too, have been flooded and paddled the Ross Barnett down to Lakeland. I have paddled the lower Pearl. My family has property in Lawrence County. I

understand the concerns down in that part of the state about the impact it would have on the sloughing of the bluffs and the litter that is downstream, but I would ask that we not wait until the next flood before we make a decision because it would be too late again, and we have waited long enough. It is time for us to move forward and make sure this does not happen to our community and to our families and to everyone that is involved. I would like for us to go ahead and push forward to see this happen. Thank you.

MR. VIC DUVIC: My name is Vic Duvic. I have been around for a long time. The Corps of Engineers is going to make a decision as to whether or not this thing is practicable. It is a matter of flood control. I doubt that the interests around here is necessarily flood control. I am afraid it is a lot to do with development of property. I am afraid, I doubt that the Corps will approve it. I am afraid that the political aspect of it will come into play, and I hope that it does not. Thank you.

MR. DON WAINWRIGHT: Hello, my name is Don Wainwright. I am with the River Oaks Health System. We are the principal providers of women health care services north and east of the Pearl River and what has been described as the flood plain. In 1979 and in 1983 Woman's Hospital and the roads around River Oaks flooded and that is when we found out very quickly that our problem was really everyone else's problem at that point. We have come a long way since then, and we have seen several hundred patients, at any given time, at one of the hospitals to seeing several hundred patients a day come in our emergency rooms, surgery facilities, and our labor and delivery suites. We deliver several hundred babies a month between both of these hospitals. We really do not see any declining trends in any of these areas. So, flooding is going to be a big problem for us. Of course, we see that as being a problem for anyone else that needs health care in these areas. In a former life as an engineer, I knew that there were always several solutions to any given problem, and I do not have any doubt that we will find one here. So thank you.

MS. DENISE KRAUSE: My name is Denise Krause. I am a Jackson resident. Development projects that have a significant effect on the environment must be well studied before implementation. Environmental factors play a direct role on public health. Therefore, environmental issues should not be taken lightly. I suggest the development of a Geographic Information System (GIS) using remote-sensing technology. A GIS is a series of maps that are built with underlying databases. A GIS would very clearly map the proposed development areas. Layers could be mapped that include, but are not limited to, sewer lines, bridges, landfills, archeological sites, and already existing development. The topography would clearly reveal existing flood plains and existing flood conditions. This technology then allows for modeling of possible future flood events and how surrounding areas will actually be affected. Other states are already using these technologies to plan for smart growth that does not compromise the health of the environment and the public. Proposed projects such as this can then be designed based on current scientific data rather than out-of-date data that does not account for a tremendous increase in development or any subsequent loss of wetlands. A GIS of this nature would allow for a proactive design of potential alternative projects that could revitalize the health of the Pearl River and surrounding areas while economic growth. These data must be made publicly available to organizations such as the Sierra Club so that environmental concerns are not overlooked and potential alternative designs that make more sense for the overall good of all people can be considered. Stagnant lakes may be an answer, but they may not be the best answer.

\_\_\_\_\_ : It is interesting tonight that we are in an ethnic museum. I would like to say a 1,000 years ago, human beings lived right here on the flood plain and built on the flood plain and the archeological remains are in the flood plain. I do not know if the Corps is going to approve this lake study, but it will all be under water at that point and what I would like is for the Corps to demand or the Indians to demand that these remains be respectfully treated, and if they permit to be studied. The other thing I would mention besides these

prehistoric remains is the historical Jackson Landing and where the ferry operated for a long, long time here in Jackson before a bridge was ever built over the river. That is a place of memory and historical significance and that is a cultural asset I would like to have ya'll study. Thank you.

DR. LOUIE SHORT: I am Dr. Louie Short. I do not represent any organization. I live in Jackson and in 1979 my office had about 7 feet of water in it. My lot had water right up to the house, but I would have to have had about 8 more feet to get into our residence. What my wife and I was concerned about, we had heard a report, since we are talking flood control, that the integrity of the reservoir dam was in jeopardy, and they had even considered cutting a sluiceway through the south end near Bell Creek to relieve some of the pressure on the main dam. We think the flood on 1979 was bad, think a minute what would happen if we had a foot higher than then and then if that dam gave way. I would like to be reassured that thoughts have been given to reinforcing the dam and possibly make a workable sluiceway on the south end just like we have on the Bonnie Claire Spillway on the Mississippi in the south part of Mississippi.

MR. GARY WALKER: Thank you.

MR. LELAND SPEED: My name is Leland Speed. My wife and I, in 1979, had 5 feet of water in our house. We built our house. The floor level was 1 foot above the 100-year flood plain when it was set. That was 25 years ago, which was probably one of Jackson finest moments, the way the city came together at the time of the flood. Our neighbors and friends and strangers fed us for weeks. They took our clothes. They took our dishes. They took everything and cleaned it and returned it to us. Then when the waters receded, they were there for a week. They came in and helped us bust out sheetrock out of the walls of our house and strip it down to the studs. I am very grateful of that, but those memories have faded. It has been 25 years ago, and we have not had any water in any great number of houses just lately. I would like to suggest that it is high time that we get on the program. I also would like to come out emphatically in favor of the LeFleur Lakes project as a way to resolve this problem. It has been pointed out that 5,000 acres of water is

going to be created by this. That is one-fifth of what has been created in Pearl River Reservoir here. Anybody ready to cut the dam? Louie, do you want to blow it? I do not think so. I think our community has benefited from the existence of the reservoir. When we talk about the environmental impact, this will be one-fifth of what we have already got up here that everybody seems to like. I have not heard any objections to it lately. This has an opportunity for the city, the counties, the surrounding communities to have a real asset rather than a couple of levees running along the sides. Because I have not heard anybody bringing up any other alternatives. Are we talking about levees or are we talking about the LeFleur Lakes project? We need to keep that in mind. Thank you.

MR. DUANE O'NEILL. My name is Duane O'Neill. I am the president CEO of the Metro Jackson Chamber of Commerce. Our organization represents over 2,000 businesses in the three-county area and many businesses that lie outside of the Madison, Hinds, and Rankin County areas. We are here tonight not to argue the environment--we are very environmental friendly, but at the same time we need to go on record to say this is about flood control from the business community, and the loss and the devastating loss that we suffered in 1979 and again in 1983 and again some last year. It has been something that we need to rectify and so the business community is very supportive, and the Chamber has gone on record numerous times. We took this on as a major initiative back in 1979. Many of the folks in this room were serving on some of those first Chamber boards when we said that it is all about flood control and that is why here still tonight 25 years later. We wholeheartedly endorse the LeFleur Lakes project, and we offer up all of our resources. We talked about resources earlier, and we bring those resources to the table to tell you that we as business community stand ready to help the Corps in this initiative. Thank you.

MR. ROBERT WILLIAMS. Thank you, sir. I am Robert Williams. I am a former Second Lieutenant of the United States Army. I was in the 412th Engineer Command in Vicksburg, Mississippi. I also have two brothers who are in United States Army who wear the engineer castle also, Colonel. I am here to specifically, I

guess, speak to the many issues that affect our senior citizens, our apartment communities, our low-income residential areas who are very very impacted by this issue. Many who are on fixed incomes in areas that have been neglected for so long. What we would ask is that this project be given all of the attention and that the attention does not go away after tonight's meeting. To remove someone's carpet in a three-bedroom apartment is somewhere between \$1,000 and \$1,500. Many of the residents in these areas are already drinking bottled water because 2 inches of water sometimes floods their places--their homes. So I am asking, Colonel, that this team and straight body continue on the fast track to find the funding sources and allow this project to move forward. I want to thank Mr. McGowan for his efforts and his vision for pushing this project, as well as many entities that are here tonight. Thank you.

MR. JOHN DAVIS: John Davis. Read statement (Exhibit 2).

MR. BRAD \_\_\_\_\_: My name is Brad \_\_\_\_\_, born and raised here in Jackson. I guess the first thing I want to say is memories are nice, but floodwater is not in my house that I got to work everyday to pay the mortgage on is even nicer. Secondly, I guess I am a self-proclaimed environmentalist. Some people would call me that. I spend 75 percent of my time on the weekends in the woods, either hunting or fishing. I actually grew up spending a lot of time about 3 miles south of the dam and the bottom lands that will be affected by this project. With that set, I am all for it. The LeFleur Lakes project, the benefits outweigh the supposed cost. Also, secondly, people have come forward with a lot of environmental concerns. I say look at what the reservoir has created. If you want to go birdwatching, there is not better place in Mississippi than the Ross Barnett Reservoir. There is more migratory waterfowl in that area than anywhere else that I have found. You can just look at the photography of Jerry Mac Hudvic, a renown photographer from here in Jackson. He takes most of his pictures from the Ross Barnett area--the Highway 43 area. His photographs are known throughout the world. The project, I believe, will save the obvious \$400 million that the taxpayers have spent on recovering from the floods in 1979, 1983, 2000. So, I think I would appreciate ya'll taking a serious look. Thanks

MR. SKIPPER ANDING: Good evening. My name is Skipper Anding. I am President of the Jackson Audubon Society. I am also the Regional Coordinator for the Mississippi Breeding Bird Atlas for the central Mississippi area out of Mississippi State University and backed by Mississippi Audubon. One concern I have is the waste of taxpayer money to benefit a developer which seems to be inappropriate. A dam only backs water up so low-lying areas would not be available to contain water in the event of a flood. Another concern is LeFleur's Bluff State Park, which is the best place in the entire Jackson area to observe migratory birds and that is used by migratory birds. I think it has been mentioned that the bottom-land hardwoods available there are just about one of the few places that has mature bottom-land hardwoods which have become extremely rare in Mississippi. As I go around the state, it is a shame to see that you can go to areas and just find no mature trees. They have all gone off to the mills. It is a shame. This is one real treasure that we have in the Jackson area. It was my privilege some years ago to speak when a developer named Armie Brown tried to purchase LeFleur's Bluff Park and make it into an office development. I said at that time I cannot believe we are having to come down here to save our riverside park. It just seemed unbelievable. The public prevailed in that case. The beautiful park was rescued. Those are my concerns. Thank you.

MR. HARRISON YOUNG: My name is Harrison Young, and I would like to respond a little bit to the environmental concerns. In terms of development, the most environmentally unsubstantiable development is suburban spall. The infrastructure that has to occur for transportation and the development of that and then back into urban fabric is to keep that area and save it. An urban fabric is destructive in an overall environmental standpoint. And not just the area that is directly available for development, the adjacent area in downtown Jackson that is unused and has a lot of potential to be indirectly affected and in terms, bring people back into Jackson and redo suburban spall which will increase the environmental sustainability on a more global standpoint. Thank you.

MS. CHRISTINE LIBERTO: My name is Christine Liberto, and I am here on behalf of the central group of the Mississippi Chapter of the Sierra Club. Read statement (Exhibit 3). Thanks.

MR. LARRY TAYLOR, JR.: Good evening. My name is Larry Taylor, Jr. I have been a resident of northeast Jackson my entire life. I was in school at Jackson Prep in 1979 during the flood of 1979. I remember launching boats at the end of Ridgewood Road and Lakeland Drive, driving boats down the sides of the road and loading up computers and shoveling books into wheelbarrows and into trucks trying to get them out of those locations so we went through that. Also, we did not sustain a residential loss, but we did sustain a business loss. The business was newly located down on the Squirrel Creek on the east side of Highway 49 in Ridgeland. We had been there for about 2 or 3 months when the flood of 1979 occurred, and we took water at that time. In 1983, the water got very close, but we did not take water. I am also in the insurance business so I have looked into the face of people who experienced devastating loss, and I have delivered the checks that have compensated them and gotten their lives started. When you have looked into someone's face of despair and you realize what they are going through, it is something that you will never forget. One thing that I have learned is that when water is approaching your house, all these other issues go out of the door, and I do not care who you are, you are going to do whatever is necessary to keep the water out. Thank you.

MS. CATHY SHROPSHIRE: I am Cathy Shropshire, Mississippi Wildlife Federation. The Mississippi Wildlife Federation appreciates this opportunity to talk to you tonight about this project. We do have some concerns that this project, as we understand it so far, violates national mandates for protection of wetlands, bottom-land hardwoods, riverine systems, flood plains, threatened and endangered species, and habitat for migratory birds and other wildlife. We believe there are other alternatives for flood control that are more viable, less costly, and more environmentally friendly than this project, and we strongly encourage you to consider a greenway project. As you evaluate this project, we hope that you will consider, and know that you will after we have seen what you have done tonight, the loss of delineated wetlands in 2003, it was reiterated that there would be no net loss of wetlands by the Administration. We also are concerned about the loss of bottom-land hardwoods as we talked about before and also

endangered species. We ask that when you consider mitigation that you consider no harm first, minimizing second, and mitigation as a final concern. Water Resources Development Act of 1986 requires fish and wildlife mitigation. We also request that the mitigation be accomplished simultaneously and that those goals be met. We also request that the same type habitat be used for mitigation. We also request that you look at this on a watershed scale so we can come up with the truly best alternative because we are not against flood plain or flood control. The Mississippi Wildlife Federation encourages the U.S. Corps of Engineers to consider sustainable, nonstructural alternatives such as voluntary buyouts and development of green space that reduce the flood control buyout/bail out liabilities in the Pearl River Watershed project area. Nonstructural approaches could provide increased wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities consistent with national trends and flood plain management. We are not opposed to flood plain protection in the city of Jackson and the surrounding areas, but we do believe that it can be done in a more environmentally sustainable manner and a more economically feasible manner. Thank you very much.

MR. LILES WILLIAMS: My name is Liles Williams, and I am with Irby companies in Jackson, and I am representing 800 species of working men and women who are trying to support their families. Our company headquarters is located at 815 South State Street, which is pretty much in the downtown area, and we have been in that location since the mid-40s. Our company was chartered here in Mississippi in June 1926. In recent years, and I say recent over the history of our being in this location, we have had water on our property any number of times. Not any of those would compare with the great of 1979, which has been mentioned many times during which our building had from 3 to 8 feet of water in our corporate headquarters. Inventory, desks, chairs, furniture, computers, everything was literally devastated. We had to move out and start over. I had an interesting experience on the first day of that activity. Two or three of our people did not show up. They showed up the second or the third day of this disaster and when they showed up I asked them "where have you been when we need you most of all to salvage what is salvageable in this situation?" They said "well, we have been

down signing up for unemployment." I said "unemployment, we are not out of business, we are just regrouping, and we are going to solve this situation, and we are going to come back here, and we are going to survive, and we are going to stay here." We have made a conscious decision to stay in the downtown area for the last 25 years since this flood even though we were flooded again in 1983, and mayor, we do not intend to go anywhere, but this is not about development for us--it is about survival. So, we need some help, and I am not smart enough to know whether or not the LeFleur Lakes project is the only way or even the best way, but I do know that we, and many others like us, must have some relief, and Bill, it has been a quarter of a century, but we are hanging in, and we are going to continue to hang in. Thank you very much.

MR. TOM PULLEN: My name is Tom Pullen, and I am from the Byram community just south of Jackson, down Mr. George Smith's, supervisory district. George, you and I need to talk about this a little bit after the meeting. What I would like to do is to is kind of summarize some things that have already been said and reemphasize a couple of issues. One of these is the overall scope of this study as it is presently described--the primary area of emphasis is going to be between Byram and the Ross Barnett Dam. Yet the study is called a Pearl River Watershed Study. In my opinion, the scope of this study is too narrow. The Corps of Engineers has been looking at flooding issues in Jackson Metro area for years. It offered the Shoccoe Dam quite a while ago, which as a number of people has pointed out, would have solved a lot of the problems. The Corps also developed a comprehensive levee plan, which would have helped a lot with the flooding problems. Neither of those plans would have been terribly hard on the environment. What are we looking at in this study as presently scoped out? We are looking at levees again, and we are looking at LeFleur Lakes proposal--a very narrow range of alternatives. I believe this study should be greatly expanded. It should go far upstream. It should go downstream. It should look at nonstructural means of dealing with flooding, buying people out of the flood plain. It should look at the Shoccoe Dam again, and it should look at the environmental restoration needs of the Pearl River. The only way I think you are going to get everybody to support a plan is

if it addresses all of these issues. As long as we are looking at a single-purpose flood control issue that is caps in economic development terms, there is going to be a big segment of the public that is not going to support it. So, I would urge you to expand this geographically and make sure that in doing that, you address all of the mitigation issues thoroughly as well, and this includes the need for aquatic mitigation. If the LeFleur Lakes proposal goes in, there may be adverse effects on fisheries resources in the Ross Barnett Reservoir, depending on what happens with the way the reservoir is regulated. There are a lot of issues out there that need to be looked at. Simply stated, the study needs to be expanded. I am convinced that a workable solution to the flooding and environmental problems in the Jackson area can be found if that is done and if the politicians will support it. If the politicians will not support it the future, maybe we need new politicians.

MR. MART LAMAR: My name is Mart Lamar. I work for John McGowan. I have worked for him since it was legal to work. I have since then gotten a degree in engineering, and I am a licensed engineer now. I worked on this project with him since the day it was first started. I am a codeveloper of it with him. This scoping meeting is to gather information. One important thing, some important information I think we need, there have been a couple of attempts to get some flood control relief in Jackson in the past, and it did not pass because there was not local support. So one thing I want to do real quick. I may be crazy listening to the speaker before me, but I want to see a show of hands of the people who are in favor of doing a study and if that study proves successful, to build a LeFleur Lakes project. How many people in here are in favor of it? Okay. Now, how many people in here are against it?

\_\_\_\_\_ : You have got two questions going on here, your study.

MR. MART LAMAR: No. It was a continuous. If that study is successful, both answers have to be "yes."

MR. GARY WALKER: We are not debating plans or voting.

MR. MART LAMAR: I saw about 95 percent hands in favor of it and about 5 percent hands opposed. One more thing, I noticed a lot of misconceptions on how this plan works. I am the engineer that worked on this thing from day one. The way this project works--it is not stagnant because it has got the Pearl River, just like the reservoir, it has got a minimum flow of 350 cfs flowing through it. So, it is impossible for a lake with this big of watershed to be stagnant. It is a very dynamic lake, but the way this lake works, I am going to turn around here, the way this lake works, you can consider it similar to a ditch--a big drainage ditch. Right now the ditch is choked out with sand. Let me talk now. Right now the ditch is choked out with sand, trees, vines, sewage lagoons, and it does not allow flow to go through it. It takes 15 feet of head for water to go from the Ross Barnett Reservoir, below the reservoir dam, to the town of Richland, south of I-20, 15 feet. This lake, it is really simple. Everybody in this room will understand it when I finish. It clears these trees for about a 0.6-mile width. It removes these sandbars, removes the protrusions in the thing, and you wind up with a nice, clean, efficient ditch a mile wide. I am explaining the hydraulics of the thing, not the looks of the thing. You wind up with that 15 feet of head becoming 3 feet of head to go from one end to the other. So, you have just knocked 12 feet off the flooding that we have. I appreciate ya'll listening to me. Thank you.

MR. ANDREW WHITEHURST: My name is Andrew Whitehurst, and I have got a written statement (Exhibit 4). Thank you.

MR. JOE LAUDERDALE: Good evening. My name is Joe Lauderdale. I am a resident of Hinds. I also have a cold, so excuse me. I had spoken to the Mississippi River Commission several years ago at a public hearing in Vicksburg about the LeFleur Lakes project. At that time, it was called the Two Lakes Project. I have been very familiar with the project since its inception when I was Hinds County Supervisor in District 1. I have looked at the merits. I am also environmentally conscious. I am an avid outdoors person. I respect the opinions of those that are involved in the outdoors. That was one of the first things that I weighed. When this project was looked at initially, that some of the main concerns that we had and tried to address that--the

downstream flooding. The usual problems that you, I do not say problems, situations that you undertake to work out a solution for anytime you run into a project like this. This is a very, very viable project. It is not going to do all the harm that everybody is kind of trumping it up to do. One thing, I investigated the ring sawback turtle when I first heard about this years ago. Okay. Ring sawback turtles like calm tranquil waters. They like to sit on their same little log in the sun all day long. In fact, there is a sanctuary north of the Pearl River, you know, up by the Cold Bluff area for ring sawback turtles. They do not like this lower area especially in January and February when we have these spring floods. It flushes them all down the river. I do not know what the population is now, but some of these things that people throw out there; if you research, there is still going to be a place for all these. In fact, there will be a better habitat for that particular species if this lake is done. You will see that a lot of other species too will prosper in this. So, please as this goes along, do your research and see what kind of environment those like. Personally, I am very much in favor of the LeFleur Lakes project. I think it will be very beneficial for us. I do not like flooding. I had it a year ago this month. My business is downtown. Like Mr. Williams over there, not nearly as large as that, but that my people had that same potential of not getting a paycheck or something, but it is real important that we protect people first because we know what happens to them. They have an individual name and address when this flood hits them. That snail darter or whatever, he is going to swim off to the side and usually he will show back up. Please take all of these things into consideration when you look at what is the most important thing out there. I think there is a compromise that can be made. Thank you.

MS. RUTH PULLEN: My name is Ruth Pullen, and I did not have any prepared statement tonight, but as I sat here, one thing, I have been reading the factsheet that was available at the entrance. One thing that concerns me is that the scope of this study first says that it will be conducted to fully evaluate alternatives to provide a comprehensive plan for flood control. At the next sentence, it says of analysis of alternatives will be limited to the levee plans and the LeFleur Lakes plan. I would really ask

that you spend my tax dollars evaluating all possible plans so that you will come up with the most viable and the one that will be for the most protection for people and for the environment because I think you can have both. I also would ask that you can come up with a plan that does not encourage building in a flood plain because when you build in a flood plain you are going to have floods. I think that looking at all the costs that people have been talking about and the billions that have already been lost and spent in insurance and everything else people have spoken about. You think about buying out. I know it is being done in other areas. You think about buying out the people that are in the flood areas and compare those costs to the costs of building and maintaining a project to prevent floods. Thank you.

MR. DAVID RUSSELL: I am David Russell. I would like to submit that I have been a little involved with the Corps on this project and PRBDD who was the local sponsor before this. There have been a number of alternative plans looked at of flooding plans. They have whittled it down to these two with the levees and the Two Lakes or the LeFleur Lakes. Now, I submit that the LeFleur Lakes is a lot less invasive and more environmental sensitive than the levees or anything else that they have looked at. The cost of buying out all the current development in the flood plain, I think, is not a feasible situation. You are talking about the coliseum, the trademark, and everything else down there. It is just not feasible. Why are we building in the flood plain. First of all, if the LeFleur Lakes goes in, it will not be a flood plain anymore. It will not flood. Second thing, is that all the great civilizations of this world are in a flood plain. That is where your resources are. That is where you can grow crops. That is where people live. They do not live anywhere else. You cannot go in the area and hills somewhere and produce anything. I realize that the environment is important. We have to make consideration for it. I heard Mr. Davis, who I respect. He taught my son science. There is not a better scientist out there. I respect his opinion. We do need to take consideration for the environment, but there is a way to do it. Thank you.

MS. BARBARA QUALLS: Hi. I am Barbara Qualls. I am speaking for the members of the Jackson Audubon Society. One of Audubon's concerns with the LeFleur Lakes project is that it will destroy approximately 6,000 acres of bottom-land hardwood forests and wetlands that provide biologically diverse habitat for birds and other wildlife along the Pearl River. The complex streamside vegetation provides food, shelter, nesting habitat, and it is an important migration route and stopping site for neotropical migrants. Because of this riparian system, it is so important to these birds, it deserves conservation and it is imperative that it is brought into discussion. I would like to say that one of Audubon's missions is to connect people with nature. The Jackson Audubon Society regularly utilizes this valuable habitat to introduce children and adults of all backgrounds to their unique natural history. We hope that an alternative can be located that will do this and still provide flood control for the Jackson area. I would like to say that Mr. Churchhawk's book "Birds of Mississippi" is considered by many birdwatchers in Mississippi the Bible as far as birdwatching in this state. I would like just to read two quotes from his book. One is that "bottom-land hardwoods are the most productive wildlife habitat. It is also the type of wildlife habitat that is most affected by clearing land, drainage, and conversion to other usage. The importance of our natural heritage cannot be overestimated. It must be nurtured by all Mississippians for future generations to enjoy." I hope you take all these considerations into consideration. Thank you.

MR. BILLY MOUNGER. I am Billy Mounger. I am a native Jacksonian. I grew up with Leland Speed, among other people. The easiest thing in the world is to come up with negative things. Everybody always find out something why you do not do something. If I live my life like this, like being negative and not doing things, I would have never have accomplished anything. Jackson would not be here. Paris would not be located where it is on the Seine River or whatever. I heard a phrase before, and I have got to admit, this is the first time I have experienced what this phrase really means, and I wish I had originated this,

but the phrase is and what I have heard tonight, are the "nattering nabobs of negativism" and that is wrong and we should get forward on a good great project that will benefit the people of Jackson, Richland, and Rankin County, and Hinds County. Thank you.

MS. VIVIAN LACOSTE: I am Vivian Lacoste, and I would like to say that I represent the mothers and wives who suffered through flooding with our families and children. We had just moved to Jackson in the 1979 flood, but a flood was not a one-time thing. You continually go through the threat of flooding every year. So remember, a flood is not just a 1979 event. It happens several times every year it seems now. Every time the river goes up, we read the river stages, and we read it as it goes up, and we read it as it goes down. We have so much economic impact every time this river goes up and goes down. You have areas that flood. The water stays in those areas when the water goes back down and you have terrible mosquito problems. The sewer system sometimes gets flooded. The water supply for Jackson has problems every time we have a bad rain and the water supply for Jackson gets damaged. Okay, so we are talking about a people habitat, and I am very much concerned about the people of Jackson. We are tremendously economically impacted every time we have a rain like we did a few weeks ago here in February. It is not even spring. I like to say that I really believe in this LeFleur Lakes project. Its cost-benefit ratio is the only project I have seen presented in the last 23 years that means anything when you look at what the benefits would come as compared to the cost. Nothing else compares to this LeFleur Lakes. Jackson would be greatly benefited from LeFleur Lakes project in many many ways in a naturally beautiful environment for us all to enjoy in a way that it would keep us from flooding. I would like for you to consider the cost-benefit ratio for LeFleur Lakes.

MR. GARY WALKER: He was on his way to the microphone just a second ago. Go ahead.

MR. PAUL CROWSON: Thank you. My name is Paul Crowson. I was born and raised here in Jackson, Mississippi. I am 41 years old. Born across the highway in 1962. In 1979, I was a junior at Calloway High School, a public school in Jackson,

Mississippi. Many of my friends' homes were inundated in the floodwaters. So, let me just, first of all, say I am for flood control. I do not think that this is the project that we need though. I do think that we need to study alternatives. My primary concern is the loss the LeFleur's Bluff State Park. The only 4 years of my life that I did not live in Jackson, I lived in Boston, Massachusetts. Believe me it is a place you love to visit, but do not want to have to live there. In the center of Boston, they have the oldest commons, many acres of green area with forest called the "Boston Commons." In New York City, they have Central Park, which is a place where environmental studies can actively be done. It is a \_\_\_\_\_, a place for people to take a break from the skyscrapers. I believe if we do this Two Lakes project, we are really sacrificing Jackson's equivalent of New York City's Central Park. It is a place where citizens from all over the state come to, as well as those of us who are taxpayers in Jackson and Hinds County. I would be willing to trade, perhaps just as a thought, LeFleur's Bluff State Park for the public land being the island in the middle. I would be much less suspect of this project if the island in the middle was not going to be there and be the subject of private profit. Since we are taking all of this land from the public use, let us give some back to the public in a nice place. The lake is going to be so great--make it available to everyone in the public. Thank you.

MS. BARBARA POWELL: I am Barbara Powell. I am representing the League of Women Voters. For over a year, the League of Women Voters has had a study going on of the impact on the quality of life by the Pearl River in the Tri-County area. Issues that were studied include environmental, financial, political, historical, archeological, economic, and private versus public interests. As a result of this study, it is the consensus of the League of Women Voters to make the following recommendation. The League of Women Voters of the Jackson area recognizes that the Pearl River can be a valuable asset for development, flood control, recreation, and enjoyment of nature in the Tri-County area. However, the League supports exploration of alternative

proposals other than LeFleur Lakes project. The League is interested in alternatives which would be less expensive, create less damage to the environment, do not destroy existing habitat and recreational opportunities or not irreversible, and provide more public space. Thank you.

MR. LEWIS LIDDELL, JR.: My name is Lewis Liddell, Jr. I am a citizen of Jackson. I am going to address three concerns. My first concern is the impact on the minority community. If the LeFleur Lakes project goes through, it is going to destroy the LeFleur's Bluff State Park and at least 50 percent of the children that use those educational facilities are children of color and that will be lost. The next thing that I want to talk about is the archeological. I am not an archeologist, but I actually have maybe more of a stake than an archeologist does because I have a lot of Choctaw in me, both from Louisiana and Mississippi, and some of it is right here in Hinds County. I know that Jackson used to be a Choctaw village called \_\_\_\_\_ . So, we know there are archeological ruins there. They could be distant relatives or distant ancestors of mine that LeFleur Lakes project is going to flood right over. The final thing I am going to say is just on the environment itself--God created all of us, human beings and animals. We should leave LeFleur Lakes just the way God created it.

MR. DAVID MCNAIR: My name is David McNair. I am a land developer in Rankin County. I went through the flood in 1979. I was flooded not one, not two, not three, but four different places--basically in Hinds County at the time. A little humor, I had a restaurant that was 3 months old and I remember standing by the drive-up window with 3 feet of water inside the place and one of the kids said "look boss, look out of the window." Biggest alligator I ever saw was floating by there. I said, "Lord take me out of this scene, I do not belong here." But, I went on and continued with it. I do land development, Colonel. I work with your people, and I appreciate them. I am for this project. Several years back, Mr. McGowan asked me to look at it. I did. I said, "John, I think it will work wonderfully well." It is a win-win situation. It is win situation from preventing this terrible catastrophe from coming on us all again. Number 2, yes, there will be some development around it.

I am an environmentalist, and I want ya'll to know that--I am proud of two plaques that I have on the wall of my house. One of them is from the Sierra Club honoring my mother in 1982 for what she did working with you all. Another one in 1990--I was a State Volunteer of the Year for the Nature Conservancy. I am an environmentalist, and I see what can be done. I do not see many people kayaking on the Pearl River. I see a lot more of the Ross Barnett Reservoir, which is where I go when I want to boat. I think this will work. I think we have to do something. It has been 25 years, Colonel. We are begging that something be done with this. It is not going to destroy the town. I think we have gone from 5,000 to 6,000 acres of wetlands already being destroyed. We have increased that number. Please look at it carefully and consider it carefully because I think it is the only thing that is going to work. Thank you.

MR. MICHAEL GILLESPIE: I am Michael Gillespie. I am a lifelong resident of Jackson. I went through in 1979. I was a high school senior. Went through it again in 1983. Call me an idiot, but I live in the flood zone now, down at the end of Meadowbrook Road. One of the big reasons that I moved down there was because of the area. I grew up going down to the river. I wanted to take my kids down to the river. This is a project that needs to be done. I think there is a way that they can do it, both economically and environmentally. I am not going anywhere. I am not going to Madison. I am not going anywhere. I want to be in Jackson for the rest of my life. I want my kids to come back here. I want them to settle here, but we have got to do something in order to bring the economic base here. If we do not do that, you may as well just push the rest of it down the river too. Thank you.

MR. KEN RUCKSFUHL: My name is Ken Rucksfuhl. I am a geologist. I live across the reservoir on the Rankin County side. Being a geologist, I must echo what David Dockery said about protecting the fossil sites. I do not speak for the fossils, I guess he does. I have a few procedural things that I would just like to ask for the record. You do not have to answer tonight, but at some point I would hope you would. I am a little confused about how this scoping process is going to address the feasibility study and an EIS together. Typically, I would think there would

be a project proposed and there would be some portion of the feasibility study done or a proposal that would say "what is the scope of the project that we are looking at doing an environmental impact study on?" So I am a little confused as to how we can engineer the feasibility study and alternatives at the same time we are doing EIS on the different alternatives. If that is what you propose to do, is study the environmental impacts of all the different alternatives, that is good, but I would really like to know what those are at sometime in the future because we have not had the opportunity to say what is being proposed, to have a document that says this is the proposal and we are going to study the environmental impacts of it. I would also ask what is the cutoff date for scoping comments such as we are having tonight to submit written comments at later that? Is there a specific cutoff date?

MR. GARY WALKER: 30 days

MR. KEN RUCKSFUHL: I would also ask that one entity be designated to establish a comprehensive website that would give the current status of the project in the future. The Corps may do that, I guess there are some other websites. There is one--TwoLakes.com. There is the Pearl River Flood District website, but there are too many sources to really know which one represents what we are going forward with and what we are studying. If we could get that coordinated. On that website, I would like to have things like project milestones, studies that are being initiated, reports that are being available as they become available, meeting transcripts to be posted on the website, and meeting notices of advance of future public meetings. That is all I have.

MR. ANDY HILTON: My name is Andy Hilton. I am a resident of Jackson. Read statement (Exhibit 5). Thank you.

MS. CHERYL BULLOCK: My name is Cheryl Bullock. I was born and raised in Jackson. Unlike a couple of the folks earlier tonight, I am not going to tell you how old I am, but I will tell you that I remember when the Ross Barnett Reservoir was built. I remember many comments and conversations just like I what I am hearing tonight. I think the Ross Barnett Reservoir

has turned into a marvelous facility for all of us. Now, I am Cheryl Bullock, Executive Officer for the Jackson Association of Realtors. A large majority of homes suffered the same impact and devastation in 1979 and 1983 that we have heard discussed here tonight and came to the aid of lots of people, their neighbors, their friends, to help them out. We signed on to the Two Lakes project early on because we believe that we have got to have relief. In 1979, I was married, I was away from Mississippi. My husband was a career military officer, and we were thousands of miles away from here. But, I will tell you in the national news, I saw Jackson, Mississippi, under water and gone. Today, the impact of the 1979 and 1983 flood lives on because as I spot check listings that come into the multiple-listing service on a daily basis, I see today comments did not flood in 1979, but had water in 1983. Folks, the impact is here today. It has not gone away 25 years later. We support the seven counties covered by the Jackson Association of Realtors--the Two Lakes project. Thank you.

MR. JACK DEMPSEY: I am Jack Dempsey, not the heavy weight champion, but there are several things that come to my mind. Primarily, that me and my wife are founding members of the new museum--National Science Museum. If we are going to have water that is going to inundate that area that is used by so many kids for environmental studies, then I cannot see Two Lakes. Now, my next question is this. I know that the Corps is doing studies other than Two Lakes. We should be informed as to what is going on other than Two Lakes--we are talking about levees. Alright, explain what levee system is going to be installed, how much it is going to cost compared to what Two Lakes will cost. Secondly, I would like to know once Two Lakes, if it is improved, who is going to own Treasure Island in the middle of the lakes? Thank you.

MR. RORY REARDON: My name is Rory Reardon. I have kind of kept up with this project for a few years. You know, I am not an engineer. I do not understand a lot about hydraulics, but I do know that there is not very many ways that water can move from north to south. I think you can slow it up with a dam and back it up and send it through gradually, but I think that we found that plan failed. I think you can try to contain it within

walls, but if too much comes, it backs up into homes, as in 1979. So, the only alternative is to spread it out, control the pool at the reservoir, and make it safe for the people downstream. In talking about the fossils and things of that nature, everything I have heard tonight, the fossils and I am sorry, I am going to plead ignorance on this one, but if they were so valuable, it seems like we would know about it than from people other than those who studied it. The only people I have heard in here tonight who would value them are those who studied them. I am going to plead ignorance on this, but you have got to do a better job in telling us about fossils. In the process, you have to offer something. They have studied every plan. The reason we are down to two is because that is all they have got left. In terms of cost, it absolutely is economically feasible. It is less than \$250 million, and you saw in the paper yesterday that the flood damage in 1979 was \$400 million. They do not even consider the cumulative effects of other floods that everybody here in this room has talked about. As far as economic development, and if you do not understand how it works, I would cite the dam out in, I think it is between either Arizona, Utah, and Nevada, that led to the development of Los Vegas. I think they have economic development out there. In terms of how long we have been studying this, a child born in 1979 could have gotten a PhD in engineering. I am also a little bit disappointed that we are now at the point of still talking about studies. We have not done any environmental surveys. The environment has not changed that much since 1979 and a lot of this could be done. If there was a flood in 5 years coming, and you knew it was coming what would you do, and I would urge you to act with that expediency. Thank you.

MR. LEWIS SLATER: I am Lewis Slater, and I am speaking on behalf of myself. I, too, have gone through the 1979 flood, the 1983 flood, and every kind of scare that has developed since that time. I would just like to say that I would like to see the people that have victimized, the people and the businesses that have been victimized by these periodic floods of the Pearl River be considered a significant issue, along with the birds, the fish, the wildlife, and the other factors that have been mentioned. They are all important, and I hope that a solution can be developed that will solve our problem without being detrimental to those upstream or downstream. Thank you.

MR. HOWARD ADAMS: I am Howard Adams. I moved to this area in 1974, about 5 years before the flood. And no, I suffered no damage directly from the flood. I am sensitive to everybody else's plight, those who did suffer. I speak strictly as a layman. I am not an "environmentalist or an engineer, geologist, hydrologist, whatever," all I can say is the very first moment that I saw this LeFleur's Bluff plan--an artist rendition of it--in the Clarion-Ledger, I cannot express the excitement of the euphoria that I was in. I said "Wow, at last something will probably help put Jackson on the map." I would like to make some suggestions for this study. I have noticed that there have been, seems like the main repetition or concern in the opposition to this plan has been the Natural Science Museum and the park. I would like to suggest that if this LeFleur Lakes project goes through, could it not be possible because of the topography/geography or how you describe of that area, could not a low profile levee be built around the areas that would preserve these hardwoods and nature trails and things that everybody is so concerned about losing and still you could have the LeFleur Lakes project, but the science museum and surrounding environment would be protected by a low-lying constructed levee. Both parties would be happy. You will have your natural museum with the trails, the natural environment, and everything. I hate to reiterate what has already been mentioned, but I am not an engineer, but it seems like we only have two alternatives here. People keep mentioning this phrase "alternatives." I do not know how many there is. Shoccoe Dam was knocked down so that seems to be out of the picture. There seems to be levees or a system of new levees and this LeFleur Lakes project seems to be the only two alternatives. Now pray tell, outside of these three areas, what alternatives are we talking about? I do not understand. You know, Noah had to build an ark. He did not have many alternatives. What other alternatives are we talking about? Since I moved in this area, I have always appreciated that I do not live out in that area. I have always appreciated the Ross Barnett Reservoir, and this one lady mentioned here that she was present when they had to carry everything on that. I suppose people were opposed for very much the same reasons about the Ross Barnett Reservoir. You know as many times, I am not a photographer, but I do a lot of nature photography. I have been up there taking pictures of

all of the headwaters and everything. It is a beautiful area. We have got Canada geese that even like to hang around almost year round to propagate up there. We have got alligators, we have turtles, we have mocassin snakes, we have got everything from the snail darter to what have you up there. It does not seem like the Ross Barnett Reservoir has obliterated the environment to the degree that we do not have natural habitat or natural wildlife. I do not see how this project is going to totally obliterate all of nature so we do not have fowls, mammals, fish, and so forth. Maybe more educated folks can help me understand how this project is going to completely take all of this away from you. I just do not understand it. As far as development is concern, I would concede that there will be development. As far as people living in flood plain areas, since time began, people choose to. We can preach to them all we want to about you should not live there, but invariably, cities and civilizations will build and habitat flood plains. I guess our forefathers should have thought about that before they built Jackson. You know, it could have gone a little bit west up on the higher banks, and we could have avoided all this down here and let the wildlife have the wetlands, and then we would not be talking about being flooded out tonight, would we, if Jackson was, say, about 10 miles farther west, you know.

\_\_\_\_\_ : I got up to address this comment he just made. One hundred eighty years ago, they chose to put the city here on Yazoo clay which gives foundation problems or the bottom of the river which gives flooding. We are caught between that. Seldom do we have a 25-inch rain in Carthage that comes down here. I do not understand how you can imagine that it would not happen if it is a river drainage area. This specific thing he mentioned about trying to save the Natural Science Museum Park--the outdoor park area--Eubanks Creek, I believe, is the correct creek that drains into that. It drains a great deal of north Jackson. If you put the levee on the river end of it, then all of Eubanks Creek is going to be behind the levee. Then you are going to have to have pumping stations to pump it over into the lake. The lake will need to be kept dry most of the

time in order to wait for the 25- to 100-year flood that is coming so you can catch it. It is a weird combination--we are torn being in a situation in a flood plain and trying to deal with it, but in the 25 years since the flood, we have continued to build in the lowlands. Mankind is asking for trouble, and I do not see that this would be an answer.

MR. DENNIS RIECKE: My name is Dennis Riecke. I am a fisheries biologist. I live in Brandon about a mile south of Ross Barnett. I want to say something that I have not heard anybody say, that is, stream mitigation. I would hope that the Corps of Engineers would assess the quality and the quantity of all the streams in the project area and compute mitigation requirements. It is something new for the Vicksburg District, but it is happening in the Mobile District. I am aware of a project where someone wants to build a lake, and they will flood 3 miles of stream and they are required to compute stream mitigation credits and mitigate for any adverse impact. Thank you.

MR. KENNY DAWSON: My name is Kenny Dawson. I probably live closer to the Pearl River than anybody here. I live right on the banks of the Pearl River. I have got 140 acres down in the southwestern corner of Rankin County. My major concern is back in the 1950s and early 1960s when the Ross Barnett Reservoir was pushed through, it was initially disguised to provide water for the city of Jackson and flood control for the Pearl River Basin. The flood control part has since disappeared. What we are left with down on my end of the river is an enormous amount of erosion. In the last couple of years, I have lost almost 3 acres to the center of the river. It has widened roughly 40 to 50 feet in the last 5 years. I do not know whether I am for this project or against it. I just want some information. I am tired of paying taxes on property that is out in the middle of the river. I just want everybody to be protected from the floods. I am for flood control, but I also want some assurances that the continual erosion on the lower end of this lake project would cease. We are tired of losing our land. We have worked hard for it. We enjoy it. I think it does create some environmental problems downstream for other people and that needs to be considered. Thank you.

MR. CHARLES JOHNSON: My name is Charles Johnson. I am native of Jackson. I am geologist. I frankly did not know there were so many of us around this neck of the woods. I am not here to speak for the fossils because truthfully, we are all going to be fossils one of these days. I hope somebody speaks in favor of me in 50 million years like they do for the Jackson group type locale. At any rate, I took my geology studies in Austin, Texas. I do not know if any of you have ever been there, the Colorado River goes right through town, but it is not a river. There is a series of dams--Mansfield Dam, Tom Miller Dam, Longhorn Dam. That creates Lake Travis, Lake Austin, and Town Lake. It is a beautiful area. I do not think you will find another city, well maybe so, west of Sierra, Nevada, but I do not think you will find another city east of there with as many diehard environmentalists as you have in Austin, Texas. Everyone loves that entire series of lakes. They are recreational, they are beautiful--they are incorporated into that entire lifestyle. It is absolutely a wonderful area. In the last 20 years, that city has probably doubled in size. They have all handled that in an environmentally sensitive way, in a great way. It is also the capitol, forgive me, the great State of Texas. There is a way for us to do this LeFleur Lakes plan that would make it very similar to that. I will tell you, it boiled down to two plans. Everybody wants to know the options are, what are the alternatives. Well, it is levees or the LeFleur Lakes. If you build those levees, miles of levees, you condemn everything inside those levees, and you have to have reserve area outside, so you are going to condemn a pretty huge volume of area out there. If you develop these lakes, yeah, you will have building. You will also have a huge amount of increase in our tax base. I would like to see my millage rates to go down because they can tax a lot more area. The house I live in now got 4 feet in 1979, got 6 inches in 1983. That was before I bought it. My taxes went up 50 percent last year because of reappraisal. I am liable to have a few feet of water in there sometime down the road. This is not a Government giveaway program. If you build this and reduce the flooding, everybody like myself that has to spend hundreds of dollars a year on flood insurance would have that money to put back into this community to support businesses and help reduce taxes even more. If ya'll are for taxes, do a different plan, but if

you want to help everybody out and make this a beautiful place to attract people, let us do the LeFleur Lakes. What happens to Treasure Island? I say we ought to deed part of it back to the Choctaw Nation. That would be politically correct, and I think the Choctaws have a few ideas on how to do development right, create revenues, and bring people in.

MR. GARY WALKER: We got anybody left? This gentlemen right here, I guess. Okay. Do we have anybody else now?

MR. JIM WALDEN: I am Jim Walden. I do not have any prepared remarks, but I moved to Jackson in 1973. In 1979, my personal home had 6 feet of water. My wife's parent's home had 5 feet of water. Her office had, I believe, 5 feet of water. My brother-in-law's real estate office had 5 feet of water. I feel we have a very big impact, unless you have lived through it, you do not know what it is like. But a lot of people have been really devastated by what happened. I am really disappointed it has taken this long to come back. I would urge to you expedite and try to find a cure for our problem. I am for the environment. I love outdoors, but at the same time, we have to be sensitive to those people that are there because, when houses were built, a lot of them were not in the 100-year flood plain. They thought they were not going to be flooded. So, that is not what happened. I would just encourage you to expedite these projects as soon as possible to give some relief to those people in the flood area. Thank you.

MR. GARY WALKER: Looks like we are rapidly winding down. Do we have anybody else standing up in the back or any place else, center of the room? Colonel, do you want to say a few words before we go?

COL FREDERICK CLAPP: I appreciate everybody's participation tonight. I especially thank everybody that has stayed here until the bitter end to make their voices heard. We are certainly going to consider all of these comments as we go forward with our partners in studying this project. We will keep everyone informed as we move through this study and learn more about the alternatives that we are discussing here, particularly as we develop the EIS. Thanks again for your attendance tonight.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

LIST OF EXHIBITS:

Exhibit 1 - Letter from Mr. Cy Tandy

Exhibit 2 - Letter from Mr. John Davis

Exhibit 3 - Letter read by Ms. Christine Liberto on behalf  
of the Jackson Chapter of the Sierra Club

Exhibit 4 - Letter from Mr. Andrew Whitehurst

Exhibit 5 - Letter from Mr. Andy Hilton

Exhibit 6 - Statement from Ms. Cathey Russell

Exhibit 7 - Letter from Mr. Matthew Hicks

Exhibit 8 - Letter from Supervisor George Smith, Hinds County  
Board of Supervisor, District 5

Exhibit 9 - Letter from Mr. Lester Spell, State of Mississippi,  
Department of Agriculture and Commerce, February 19, 2004

Exhibit 10 - Letter from Mr. Daniel S. Allen, Pearl River  
Greenway Comments

Exhibit 11 - Letter from Mr. Daniel S. Allen, Alternative Flood  
Reduction Plan Comments

Exhibit 12 - Letter from Mr. Daniel S. Allen, Cultural Resource  
Comments

- Exhibit 13 - Letter from Mr. Ashley William Vaughan, Green Party  
of Mississippi, February 23, 2004
- Exhibit 14 - Letter from Mr. Charles S. West, February 23, 2004
- Exhibit 15 - Letter from Gulf Restoration Network
- Exhibit 16 - Letter from Charlie Brenner, February 23, 2004
- Exhibit 17 - Letter from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,  
February 23, 2004
- Exhibit 18 - Letter from Ms. Cathy Shropshire, Mississippi  
Wildlife Federation, February 23, 2004
- Exhibit 19 - Letter from Mr. and Mrs. Jack Dempsey,  
February 23, 2004
- Exhibit 20 - Letter from Mr. Thomas M. Pullen, Jr.,  
February 23, 2004
- Exhibit 21 - Material from Ms. Mary Stevens, Jackson Audubon  
Society
- Exhibit 22 - Comment Sheet from Mr. Spence Dye, February 25,  
2004
- Exhibit 23 - Comment Sheet from Mr. Norwood Smith, February 24,  
2004
- Exhibit 24 - Comment Sheet from Mr. Jimmy Fowler

Exhibit 25 - Letter from Ms. Cynthia M. Sarthou, Gulf  
Restoration Network, February 20, 2004

Exhibit 26 - Letter from Mr. David T. Dockery III, March 16,  
2004

Exhibit 27 - Letter from Mr. Don Davis, Greater Jackson  
Industrial Center Association, March 3, 2004

Exhibit 28 - Letter from Mr. Ronald Wieland, Mississippi  
Native Plant Society, March 7, 2004

Exhibit 29 - Comment Sheet from Ms. Judy R. Morris, March 11,  
2004

Exhibit 30 - Letter from Mr. Homer L. Wilkes, Natural Resources  
Conservation Service, March 1, 2004

Exhibit 31 - Request from Ms. Christian Spies, February 24,  
2004

Exhibit 32 - Comment Sheet from Ms. Tippy Garner

Exhibit 33 - Comment Sheet from Ms. Barbara Qualls

Exhibit 34 - Remarks from Mr. Lewis Slater, Metro Jackson  
Chamber of Commerce

Exhibit 35 - Letter from Mr. Jerry L. Litton, March 5, 2004

Exhibit 36 - Letter from Mr. Andrew K. Rindsberg, Geological  
Survey of Alabama, February 12, 2004

- Exhibit 37 - Letter from Mr. David T. King, Jr., Auburn University, February 12, 2004
- Exhibit 38 - Letter from Mr. Duncan Heron, Southeastern Geology, February 10, 2004
- Exhibit 39 - Comment Sheet from Ms. Denise Krause
- Exhibit 40 - Letter from Mr. Alan Beu, Geological and Nuclear Sciences, February 10, 2004
- Exhibit 41 - Comment Sheet from Mr. Lewis Liddell, Jr.
- Exhibit 42 - Letter from Mr. Ethan L. Grossman, Texas A&M University, February 10, 2004
- Exhibit 43 - Letter from Mr. Carlton Dufrechou, Save Our Lake, Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation, February 17, 2004
- Exhibit 44 - Letter from Mr. Gary L. Stringer, The University of Louisiana, February 14, 2004
- Exhibit 45 - Letter from Mr. Christopher Garvie, February 14, 2004
- Exhibit 46 - Letter from Mr. Paul Jeffery, Oxford University Museum of Natural History, February 12, 2004
- Exhibit 47 - Letter from Mr. George A. Allen, Mississippi Museum of Natural Science Foundation, February 19, 2004

Exhibit 48 - Letter from Mr. Carey R. Varnado, Montague,  
Pittman & Varnado, March 3, 2004

Exhibit 49 - Letter from Mr. Brent Bailey, Mississippi Farm  
Bureau Federation, February 24, 2004

Exhibit 50 - Letter from Mr. Gerald Beard, February 24, 2004

Exhibit 51 - Comment Sheet from Ms. Morella Henegan,  
February 24, 2004

Exhibit 52 - Comment Sheet from Mr. Dean Rhodes

Exhibit 53 - Comment Sheet from Mr. Jeff Good, Mangia Bene,  
February 24, 2004

Exhibit 54 - Letter from Ms. Judith A. Schiebout, Louisiana  
State University, February 20, 2004

Exhibit 55 - Letter from Mr. John H. Wrenn, Louisiana State  
University, February 20, 2004

Exhibit 56 - Letter from Mr. Earl Manning, February 26, 2004

Exhibit 57 - Letter from Dr. Klaus Bandel, Universitat Hamburg,  
March 1, 2004

Exhibit 58 - Letter from Dr. Donn L. Tippett, February 23, 2004

Exhibit 59 - Comment sheet--No name or address

Exhibit 60 - Letter from Mr. Kirk D. Ladner, Islander Marina,  
Inc., March 15, 2004

Exhibit 61 - Letter from Keath M. Ladner, Terry's Seafood and  
Ice, Inc., March 15, 2004

Exhibit 62 - Public Notice of Scoping Meeting

Exhibit 63 - Mailing List

Exhibit 64 - Factsheet

Exhibit 65 - News Release