

1                   TRANSCRIPT OF THE HEARING OF  
2           USACE PEARL RIVER FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT  
3                   PROJECT MEETING  
4                   JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI  
5                   DATE:  May 24, 2023 at 1:00

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8   U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Vicksburg District  
9    public meeting for the Pearl River Flood Risk  
10   Management Project was held at Sparkman  
11   Auditorium, 1150 Lakeland Drive, Jackson,  
12   Mississippi beginning at 1:02 p.m.

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22                   REPORTED BY: Dawn Dillard, CCR 1763

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1 APPEARANCES:

2 Army Corps of Engineers:

3 Thomas R. Shaw  
4 Robyn Colosimo  
5 Colonel Christopher Klein  
6 Brandon Davis

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1           MR. SHAW: Okay. Good afternoon,  
2 everybody. Welcome to the first of our two  
3 sessions of face to face meetings. Inaudible  
4 if you will for me. The Pearl River Flood  
5 Risk Management public meeting. This one is,  
6 of course, at 1:00. We will have another  
7 session at 6:00 p.m. this afternoon. I would  
8 just like to thank you. My name is Tom Shaw.  
9 I am the project manager for the project. I  
10 would -- a couple of housekeeping rules that  
11 I'd like to go over. If when you came in one  
12 exit most of you on this side, there is a  
13 second exit over here in the event we have to  
14 have one. So we do greatly appreciate your  
15 attendance here. This meeting is -- the  
16 purpose is to be informational and  
17 educational, but it's also to be -- for us to  
18 get feedback, to get input from you the  
19 public. And so it's very important to us.

20           And at this time I would like to  
21 recognize our panel speakers today. On the  
22 far -- your far right hand side we have Robin  
23 Colosimo. She is the deputy assistant  
24 secretary for the Army for project planning  
25 and project review -- or planning review,

1           excuse me.

2                   And then next to her is Colonel  
3 Christopher Klein. He is the Vicksburg  
4 District Commander.

5                   And beside Colonel Klein is Brandon  
6 Davis. He's is the planning liaison with the  
7 Regional Planning Environment Division South.

8                   So with that I'd like to open with a  
9 couple of real quick things. One is there is  
10 a sign up list out there. Of course it's not  
11 mandatory but we would love to have a record  
12 of your attendance here today. I would ask  
13 that you probably not put your personal  
14 e-mail on there because it will become part  
15 of the public record. I'd hate for somebody  
16 to see it and have some e-mail addresses they  
17 can start sending to you, so.

18                   And so, when you came in there were a  
19 couple of boards out there, one of which is  
20 what we kind of call the rules of engagement.  
21 Why is that important? Well, this meeting is  
22 being conducted face to face, and as I said  
23 we're asking for input from you. And so we  
24 want everybody to get an opportunity to speak  
25 that wants to do so. We're also offering a

1 virtual meeting as well. And so that  
2 information -- everything that you're getting  
3 there now, they will hear as well with the  
4 exception being they won't be able to ask a  
5 question except through the chatroom in the  
6 Webex itself. So I would ask that if you do  
7 come up for some -- provide us some feedback  
8 or input or comment, try to limit your  
9 question -- your comment to three minutes  
10 and, likewise, try to avoid interrupting  
11 others. And lastly, I would just ask that --  
12 please wait to be recognized. I will kind of  
13 be the moderator when it comes time. We've  
14 to two stations up here for comments.

15 So with that -- all right, let's go  
16 to -- I do want to mention, we got boards up  
17 on both sides. One of the boards is a study  
18 board. You'll see it's got some push pins in  
19 it, and we would ask that if you don't mind,  
20 if you would place a push pin with your  
21 location, where you're from. The assistant  
22 secretary of the army is wanting feedback.  
23 They also want to go know where the concerns  
24 are coming from. So that will be there as  
25 well. There's also a board that shows the

1 study area here in the Jackson Metro area.

2 And then we've got two hours allotted  
3 for this meeting, so if for some reason we  
4 can't get to your comment there's multiple  
5 ways to do it. We have a comment box up  
6 front where you can physically write them  
7 out. There's an e-mail address for you to be  
8 able to send in an e-mail question. And  
9 then, lastly, if you choose, we can do a  
10 video recording of your comment at the end.

11 So with that, let's go ahead -- and so  
12 why we're here. We're here because we're  
13 looking to provide information to you and get  
14 feedback. The Non Federal Interest is  
15 Rankin, Hinds, Pearl River Flood and Drainage  
16 Control District. That's what we call the  
17 Non Federal Interest or NFI. You're all  
18 familiar with the history of the Pearl. The  
19 Pearl has flooded a lot of times. And once  
20 again, we're trying to do something about it.

21 So the Non Federal Interest provided a  
22 report, and that report was a draft  
23 feasibility study and environmental impact  
24 statement. They provided that back in  
25 July 2022 and it was written by the ASA's

1 office, comments were generated and then they  
2 engaged us, the Vicksburg District, to help  
3 resolve the data gaps.

4 So lastly, you'll hear about the review  
5 process shortly, but we basically are trying  
6 to get the -- the database, get that  
7 information to the Assistant Secretary of the  
8 Army by the first of September with the final  
9 NEPA document to follow-up in January.

10 With that let's get going. Next slide  
11 please. So as I mentioned earlier, this is  
12 actually the second location that we've been  
13 to. We were in Slidell yesterday for two  
14 sessions similar to these. We'll have  
15 another session here in Jackson at 6:00. And  
16 then as I mentioned earlier, we're doing  
17 virtual now, but we're also going to do a  
18 virtual only on June 1.

19 I also mentioned ways you can provide  
20 comments. Next slide please.

21 All right. And so we will get a --  
22 Ms. Colosimo, do you want to introduce ASA.

23 MS. COLOSIMO: First of all, thank you  
24 everybody for being here. I can't say enough  
25 how meaningful it is to have folks to come in

1 person during a workday and share your views  
2 here, looking forward to this discussion. We  
3 had two great session in Slidell and continue  
4 to build on that here. It's hugely  
5 important. As we move forward continuing  
6 that engagement we need transparency kind of  
7 throughout this process to deliver under the  
8 opportunity we have before us to meet our  
9 goal here. We'll talk more about that today.

10 As said, I'm Robin Colosimo, I do  
11 oversee project planning and review and the  
12 Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil  
13 Works office.

14 Long story short, anything that the  
15 Corps has to do, it comes through a  
16 recommendation that ultimately goes to  
17 Congress for authorization or will be  
18 delegated to my boss as it has in this case  
19 to make a decision, has to come through my  
20 group. So see, we are sort of arms length  
21 oversee the Corps of Engineers and what they  
22 do every day across the nation in all kinds  
23 of projects. I'm going to talk a little bit  
24 more about why we're here but first I want  
25 you to hear it from my boss who is not able



1 to attend today who is Michael Connor, the  
2 Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil  
3 Works. Can we play the video?

4 (Video played.)

5 MS. COLOSIMO: I know it spent a lot of  
6 time seeking. We are posting the slides at  
7 some point, but also have a video.

8 MR. SHAW: Yes, ma'am, we can make that  
9 happen.

10 MS. COLOSIMO: Yeah, we can make those  
11 available in case you wanted to hear that.

12 Bottom line for me is that we are  
13 honored to have Mr. Connor as our leader and  
14 what I want to share with you is that he has  
15 vast experience in solving complex water  
16 resources problems at the federal level and  
17 the state level. His experience includes in  
18 and out of government and regional work. He  
19 was most recently the Deputy Secretary of  
20 Department of Interior, and he brings a lot  
21 of that knowledge that's in a different lane  
22 of the federal government that benefits here  
23 in this kind of space. He is the ultimate  
24 decision maker in this situation and we'll  
25 come back to why that is in a few minutes.

1 And policy oversight with the Corps of  
2 Engineers, a vast agency with important  
3 responsibilities, that oversight includes  
4 plans, designs and implementation of projects  
5 for the entire scope of those activities.  
6 And he is obviously very interested in  
7 engagement of the public and the community  
8 we're talking about here is affected by the  
9 flood problems.

10 So why are we here? We're here to  
11 advance flood risk management solutions and  
12 that includes repetitive flooding in Jackson.  
13 We want to hear about your experiences there  
14 and what solutions look like. You know, that  
15 for over 100 years headwater flooding has  
16 plagued the Pearl River area and disrupted  
17 businesses and industries throughout Jackson.  
18 5000 commercial structures and residential  
19 structures impacts on a population of over  
20 500,000. And your notable events were in '79  
21 and '83 and more recently 2022.

22 I will say a personal note, I was here  
23 with Mr. Connor last year in '22 as the rains  
24 were coming and the floods were about to  
25 arrive. And it was very poignant to arrive

1 home and see what's happening on the  
2 landscape where I just stood. We also note  
3 that the Pearl River Basin has a tremendous  
4 environmental value including wetlands that  
5 become waters that eventually flow into the  
6 Gulf of Mexico that support thousands of  
7 geese, ducks, and migratory birds.

8 For decades, as you know, the Corps and  
9 non-federal interests have tried to solve the  
10 flood risk management problem in Jackson, but  
11 a lack of project justification, community  
12 support, and funding has stalled meaningful  
13 progress. That's the challenge we're going  
14 to solve with you. We look forward to  
15 working with you to do that. Next slide  
16 please.

17 So the federal interest piece that I  
18 want to get back to, why that exists. It's  
19 really about what Congress has directed the  
20 Corps to do. Congress directs the Corps by  
21 authority to study something and by providing  
22 monies to implement solutions once those  
23 projects are authorized. In this case, in  
24 1986 Congress authorized the Corps to plan,  
25 design, and implement a flood risk management

1 project. Later, in 2007 they modified that  
2 authorization to allow Army Corps Secretary,  
3 Mr. Conner in this case, to determine the  
4 appropriate plan to implement without further  
5 consultation with Congress. That latter part  
6 really matters as twice they have said you  
7 have federal interest to do something here.  
8 Congress has determined it once and then  
9 reaffirmed it. And as many folks pointed out  
10 in Slidell, others may have amplified it here  
11 as well, is we also had specific directions  
12 in 2018 to ensure we appropriately considered  
13 the potential downstream impacts as well as  
14 economic justification of any potential  
15 solution.

16 Bottom line is we've had the  
17 responsibility to carry out a project here,  
18 we just have been unable to make that happen.  
19 The difference today is funding. Why is that  
20 different? Because Bipartisan Infrastructure  
21 Law my boss just mentioned. Monies were  
22 allocated because of a bill to plan, design,  
23 and implement a project. Once you have  
24 inaudible and funding it's a question of what  
25 you can implement and that's what we want to

1 scope with all of you. With both of those in  
2 hand it allows us to go forward through the  
3 decision process with you all. As we end up  
4 in that decision we can quickly go to design  
5 and implementation. That's a very big  
6 departure from normal processes in terms of  
7 opportunity. It speaks to the federal  
8 interest at hand. And we are looking for all  
9 of you to reinvigorate technical and  
10 community work to deliver for Jackson.

11 And with that I'm going to turn it over  
12 to Colonel Klein to walk through the details  
13 of where we are and where we're headed.

14 COLONEL KLEIN: Thank you, Ma'am. And  
15 thank you ladies and gentlemen for coming out  
16 this afternoon for this public session. We  
17 had a really good engagement yesterday where  
18 we learned a lot about impacts, even today,  
19 with the lower Pearl River but erosion along  
20 the banks, silting, impacts of the aging  
21 infrastructure down there and how it's been  
22 maintained. We also heard a lot of concerns  
23 about what's happening with the environment  
24 down there and we know that there are coastal  
25 restoration solutions the Corps is working on

1 down in our coastal Louisiana. And they  
2 really shared and how this river also impacts  
3 those as well, so a lot of really good  
4 feedback and I think we can get similarly  
5 good feedback from you all here about how  
6 this river -- what this river means to you  
7 and how these latest flooding events have  
8 been impacting you as -- here in the  
9 community of Jackson.

10 So I'm Colonel Chris Klein. I'm the  
11 Commander of the Vicksburg District, the  
12 local servicing district for the Corps of  
13 Engineers in this watershed. I am also the  
14 one overseeing this study and how we're going  
15 to move forward with this project.

16 So the Pearl River has got a long  
17 history of both navigation as well as flood  
18 risk management on it. I know the story of  
19 flood control here in the City of Jackson  
20 started in 1968 with the construction of  
21 those first levee systems. Since then we've  
22 had a flood of record in 1979. I've seen the  
23 pictures online. And then last year I saw  
24 the pictures live in 2022. I was here. All  
25 right, watching it all happen, working with

1 the team to how we did the flood fight here  
2 locally.

3 In between 1979 and now there have been  
4 many locally proposed projects as well as  
5 Corps-proposed projects that would deliver  
6 that flood risk management solution for the  
7 City of Jackson. In this latest locally  
8 presented plan was presented under Section  
9 211 of the 1996 Water Resources Development  
10 Act. The plan was reviewed and pushed  
11 forward by the local group, and presented for  
12 consideration directly to the Secretary, and  
13 that brings us to where we are today and the  
14 work that we're doing today. Go to the next  
15 slide please, sir.

16 Our latest efforts started the end of  
17 last year, 2022, by direction of the  
18 Secretary, and our mission is to build off of  
19 all previous work that was presented over the  
20 years and develop a report that assesses an  
21 array of options for technical feasibility,  
22 which includes economic feasibility,  
23 environmental acceptability, and legal  
24 compliance. And the two most critical items  
25 that we're working on right now are

1 identification of what is known as the  
2 National Economic Development Plan. All  
3 right. And that is the plan -- that is the  
4 plan that has the best -- for the best  
5 financial benefit, provides the most flood  
6 risk reduction. All right. So we're working  
7 on identifying that plan. And once we  
8 identify that plan, that is the plan against  
9 which all other arrays will be assessed. And  
10 any other option has to provide as much flood  
11 risk management as the NEP plan or more. It  
12 will never be less.

13 The second thing that we had to do is  
14 complete the all included environmental  
15 compliance activities and make sure that this  
16 is an environmentally acceptable project  
17 moving forward.

18 Finally, what we're going to do is we're  
19 going to provide an analysis of comprehensive  
20 benefits. We have two types of benefits  
21 we're looking at. We're looking at  
22 quantitative, those that we can measure, you  
23 know, be it economically by numbers; as well  
24 as qualitative, because we know flood risk  
25 management means a lot more than just the



1 numbers. It means a lot, you know, floods  
2 take an emotional toll on folks as well. All  
3 right. There's also a lot of ancillary  
4 benefits that come with other projects, so  
5 we're taking a look at the comprehensive  
6 range of benefits and, you know, really  
7 appreciate your feedback on that.

8 The last thing I want to leave you with,  
9 the Corps of Engineers, we're not a proponent  
10 or an opponent of any one project. We just  
11 want to deliver flood risk management  
12 solutions for the nation, and today we want  
13 to deliver that for the City of Jackson. To  
14 that and take you more through where we are  
15 technically in this particular effort I'm  
16 going to turn it over to Mr. Brandon Davis.

17 MR. DAVIS: Thank you, sir. And great  
18 to be here. My name is Brandon Davis and I  
19 am the planning liaison at the Vicksburg  
20 District Corps of Engineers. I'm an  
21 agricultural environmental economist by trade  
22 so I have a lot of experience in that area as  
23 well. And echoing what Robyn and Colonel  
24 Klein have said, I want to thank you guys for  
25 being here today. I'm a local boy and I

1 understand some of the impacts of what's  
2 going on in this area, of what you need or  
3 what you're looking for, but I also have an  
4 appreciation for those that have concerns and  
5 I think today it's very vital that we have  
6 your input as we go through this, and so I'm  
7 just grateful for you to be here.

8 To set the table for these next few  
9 slides here on what we're going to go -- what  
10 we're going to be talking about. We get an  
11 overview of the non-federal interest, the  
12 reports that they did. We're going to go  
13 over some of the alternatives that are  
14 currently being evaluated. We'll look at the  
15 study area of this project and then we're  
16 going to talk about areas of interest. We'll  
17 get to that in a second. I just wanted to  
18 lay the table out for you as we go. And if I  
19 say something in one of these previous  
20 slides, you know, that catches your attention  
21 I'll probably get to it before we're done  
22 here today.

23 But at any rate, in non-federal  
24 interest, their report -- their report was  
25 authorized to be completed under Section 211

1 authority of the WRDA Water Resource  
2 Development Act of 1996. A memorandum of  
3 agreement was executed on July 19, 2012  
4 between the non-federal interest and the Army  
5 Corps of Engineers that described the terms  
6 of the Section 211 authority. Those terms  
7 are specified in the 211 feasibility  
8 report -- specified, excuse me, in the 211  
9 feasibility report will serve as a decision  
10 document for the Assistant Secretary of Army  
11 for Civil Works for review and for approval.  
12 The alternatives that are non-federal  
13 interest looked-at and you see up here on the  
14 screen, a non-structural plan, a levee plan,  
15 a channel improvement plan which was their  
16 preferred alternative that consisted of  
17 constructing channel improvements, the  
18 demolition of the existing weir near the  
19 Fewell Water Treatment Plant along I-55  
20 constructing a new weir, a low flow gate  
21 structure further downstream that would  
22 enlarge the existing river channel, federal  
23 levee improvements using excavated  
24 material -- excavated material plan, and  
25 upgrading existing non-federal levee into a

1 federalized ring levee that surrounds the  
2 Savannah Street Water Treatment Plant down to  
3 the south.

4 So what's been going on since they  
5 submitted their report. So, the Assistant  
6 Secretary of the Army's office and the Corps,  
7 we've been working the non-federal interest  
8 on resolving some identified issues that were  
9 in their 211 study.

10 Currently, the Corps has been preparing  
11 a draft environmental impact statement to  
12 identify the National Economic Development  
13 Plan, and as Colonel Klein was talking about,  
14 the NED, sometimes people get tripped up on  
15 that, but really it's how we get the best  
16 bang for our buck. To make it as simple as  
17 possible, if we know where flood damage is  
18 before the project was \$10, and that's just a  
19 rough number, if we can implement some type  
20 of project that reduces it down to \$5 then we  
21 have \$5 in benefits. Again, that's very  
22 elementary, I'm just trying to give you an  
23 idea. We're trying to implement a plan that  
24 maximizes the NED. So that's one of the  
25 things we have been charged to do with.

1           When we're comparing the level of flood  
2 protection provided by the NED plan that the  
3 non-federal interest has determined, and as  
4 we said, their preferred plan is the channel  
5 improvement plan, we're comparing that to see  
6 the level of flood protection of their  
7 alternatives versus the alternatives that  
8 we're going to be evaluating, but something  
9 that needs to be really pointed out that's  
10 important is the environmental laws, right?  
11 Because we have wetlands down to the Pearl  
12 River Basin and we need to make sure that  
13 we're a good steward of that. So we're  
14 currently in the process of assessing the  
15 environmental acceptability and the technical  
16 feasibility of these alternatives. We'll  
17 provide the Secretary with the necessary  
18 information to choose a plan to be  
19 implemented. Robyn made that clear that the  
20 Secretary is the one who is making -- will be  
21 making the recommendation. We just have to  
22 provide Secretary Conner the information to  
23 do so.

24           Additionally, consistent with Section  
25 1176, the WRDA 2018, this draft environmental

1 impact statement will also assess potential  
2 downstream impacts in the Pearl River Basin.  
3 We talked about that, the importance of  
4 protecting the environment, protecting the  
5 Louisiana coast, and all areas to the south  
6 of us. Next slide please.

7 All right. So the alternatives that are  
8 being considered, and this is what the Corps  
9 right now, what we are considering, and the  
10 first you can see is a non-structural  
11 alternative. And that's really something  
12 that we do for all of our projects. We look  
13 at a non-structural plan. We have Plan A,  
14 which is relocating structures, buy-outs and  
15 relocating properties both commercial and  
16 residential. Also, you see A1 there, it's --  
17 additionally, it's a non-structural measure  
18 of increasing maybe the elevations of a  
19 structure and flood provisions. And, again,  
20 these are things we're looking at. I will  
21 point out to you guys though that on  
22 non-structural alternatives, these are the  
23 only alternatives where there are no  
24 structural features being considered such as  
25 any type of channel improvements. So it's

1 just the buy-outs, the flood proofing,  
2 elevation increases, things of that nature.

3 So if we look at Alternative C, this is  
4 the Channel Improvement Plan, the recommended  
5 plan of the non-federal interest. It is  
6 similar to what -- this plan here is similar  
7 to what we've seen from other Corps studies  
8 of -- around the country. There was a  
9 project in Forth Worth District of a river  
10 widening and it has similarities to that.  
11 What this alternative includes is excavation  
12 of widening of a river channel, the use of  
13 materials to enhance levees, create islands  
14 for environmental habitat, and a real  
15 location down towards the south or at some  
16 point in the river channel because we need to  
17 make sure that we are cognizant of the  
18 infrastructure of Jackson with the water. So  
19 we're going to put a weir into the system  
20 with the water for the City of Jackson within  
21 that alternative.

22 There's also some type of a potential  
23 for a combination of a hybrid plans. Even  
24 though you see a non-structural and you see  
25 an Alternative C, that doesn't mean that

1           that's it. There could be a combination of  
2           that, some type of hybrid plan to be  
3           considered.

4                     And there's also looking at other  
5           potential alternatives meaning that it's been  
6           brought to our attention -- one of the most  
7           brought to our attention, there were some  
8           students from the University of California  
9           Berkeley, they had put together a plan, they  
10          submitted that to us and that's something  
11          that we'll have to consider as we're going  
12          through this process. Next slide please.

13                    So our study area, the area, I know it's  
14          a little bit difficult for you to see there,  
15          I just want to point out that what I'm  
16          showing here is a 100 year flood inundation  
17          slide. And it's kind of difficult to see.  
18          Excuse me, I'm going to stand up just to show  
19          you guys. Make sure I've got enough cord so  
20          that I don't tell my wife I'm tearing  
21          something up.

22                    If you can see this area through here,  
23          it's a little darker shape gray, that is the  
24          100 year inundation sites or the area, the  
25          footprint, of this project. So what we're



1 looking at here or what you're seeing, you're  
2 seeing up at the top Ross Barnett Reservoir  
3 and the mouth of that is the spillway and  
4 down to the south, it gives you a good idea,  
5 down to the south there is just to -- go back  
6 to the east and that's Florence. So it gives  
7 you an idea of the 100-year footprint in this  
8 area. But also, you need to be -- we need to  
9 be cognizant of what's going on downstream as  
10 well. Next slide.

11 So areas of interest. Something we got  
12 to talk about and this is where I really need  
13 your help. I really need your help here. So  
14 these are some things that we have considered  
15 working with the non-federal interest and  
16 working with our project delivery team. But,  
17 again, I need to hear from you. You guys are  
18 out there and you know the ground-truth, you  
19 can tell us. Some of the things we've looked  
20 at is flood risk reduction, water supply,  
21 water and wastewater treatment, the impacts  
22 of the ecosystem restoration in the  
23 environment. Also, there's some existing  
24 waste sites out there, cultural resources --  
25 we want to inaudible fossils and make sure

1 that we aren't damaging culturally sensitive  
2 areas. Transportation, how is this going to  
3 affect transportation on the interstates, on  
4 local roads, things of that nature.  
5 Downstream impacts, we talked about that.  
6 Recreational access and opportunities,  
7 community impacts. Quality of life, if we  
8 put some type of project in and how it's  
9 going to help, how is it going to, you know,  
10 be a part to that.

11 Economic opportunities. We'd love to  
12 see more economic opportunities for Rankin  
13 and Hinds County. But there are potentially  
14 others out there that you guys could help us  
15 with that we may not consider. There may be  
16 something out there that you have in mind  
17 that we would love to hear on maybe the flood  
18 risk or whatever it might be, let us know.  
19 There may be a process that we haven't  
20 thought of, so please be open with us and  
21 provide that information. Next slide.

22 All right, well, I'm going to yield the  
23 microphone back to Colonel Klein, thank you.

24 COLONEL KLEIN: So this is our timeline.  
25 It looks pretty aggressive. Right now that

1 technical teams work is continuing. And  
2 we're here today to receive your feedback and  
3 take into consideration everything that  
4 you're observing on the ground and what you  
5 want as a community. By August we'll have  
6 the draft report complete. That draft report  
7 will go out, again, for review as well as  
8 comments. Of course, we understand there are  
9 processes and that will inform the final  
10 report which we're hoping to be complete in  
11 December and will then go to the Secretary  
12 for a decision in January. It does seem like  
13 a streamline and aggressive timeline, but  
14 it's very feasible and that's because we're  
15 building on many, many years of work. A lot  
16 of information was already there and, you  
17 know, with your feedback and with all the  
18 work that's being done we can get to a flood  
19 risk solution for the City and the community.  
20 Thanks a lot folks. We look forward to  
21 hearing from you today and thanks for coming.

22 MR. SHAW: Okay. Thank you, Panel.

23 So we are now about to enter into the  
24 time where we would like to have input. We  
25 would like to have feedback from you. And so

1 before we do that there are multiple ways  
2 that you can submit your feedback as well as  
3 through your personal testimony here. So I  
4 would ask that you come to one of the  
5 podiums, please wait to be acknowledged, and  
6 then the panel will respond to the questions.  
7 So with that we can begin. So whoever would  
8 like to come up and make a statement.

9 Yes, ma'am.

10 REPRESENTATIVE BECKY CURRY: I'm  
11 Representative Becky Curry, District 92. I  
12 have Copiah, Lawrence, and Lincoln Counties,  
13 which the Pearl River goes right through my  
14 district. And we have very much concerns  
15 about this One Lake. It was Two Lake and I  
16 understand they're trying to call it  
17 something else now because nobody wants it.

18 You said that you're having problems  
19 with funding but what you mean is you needed  
20 tax money in order to do this and we the  
21 people don't want it. One Lake is a private  
22 real estate development scheme masquerading  
23 as a flood control project. We have some  
24 very strong politicians who've made sure you  
25 have the money to do it now. And I say a

1 flood control scheme because I don't believe  
2 that the flooding in Jackson, Mississippi  
3 will be better if you put a dam or whatever  
4 you're proposing to do, you're going to have  
5 more, more flooding. And I don't think you  
6 can assure us that that won't happen.

7           When you have a group of people, rich  
8 people who just want to get richer by having  
9 reservoir number two, we're going to sell  
10 lake front properties and we're going to make  
11 sure the water stays up here, you have to  
12 understand we have a whole lot of problems in  
13 Jackson that come down the Pearl River and  
14 it's of nobody's fault in Jackson,  
15 Mississippi. We get raw sewage every day  
16 from Jackson. What are you going to do with  
17 that? Block it up some more. I just don't  
18 understand. This does not compute with me.  
19 And I don't think the Corps of Engineers  
20 wants to be a part of a get rich quick  
21 scheme. I just am so upset about this.  
22 These waterways are owned by the people of  
23 Mississippi. They're not owned by anybody  
24 else. They're owned by us. We want to swim.  
25 We want to fish. We want to have our

1 wildlife. We can't do that right now because  
2 of the sewage that comes through our  
3 district, but we have been in hopes for 20  
4 years that that would be fixed. If we want  
5 to take this much of taxpayers money, for  
6 God's sake let's fix the sewage before we go  
7 into anything else. There's so many other  
8 problems that need to be fixed. You may have  
9 to flag me when my time is up because I have  
10 a lot to say.

11 One Lake is probably going to raise  
12 everybody's property tax, everybody's  
13 property tax. I'm in the state legislature  
14 and unfortunately unbeknownst to most of us  
15 we've passed several bills in a disguise  
16 years ago, I've been here four terms, 16  
17 years, and I'm unopposed so you have to  
18 listen to me for four more, I'm sorry, but  
19 they have a levee board who we gave the  
20 authority to raise your taxes and they don't  
21 have to answer to anybody. How stupid were  
22 we, and I apologize for that.

23 We have people in our Congress who are  
24 not worried about people south of Jackson,  
25 they're worried about Rankin County. Well,

1 don't come looking south of Jackson for a  
2 vote let me just assure you because we're all  
3 mad. And I'm going to stop there before I  
4 say something I'll regret. But I want you  
5 guys to know, the people of Mississippi do  
6 not want this. Only a handful of people who  
7 want to make money off this want this.

8 MS. COLOSIMO: Thank you for your  
9 service, first and foremost, and thank you  
10 for your input. For reminding me that number  
11 one of which is, yes, we do have an  
12 opportunity to deliver a project not yet  
13 designated here, right. But the number one  
14 thing is it could actually be no action as  
15 well. So it can be no action, it can be this  
16 NAD non-structural thing, the NFI's plan or  
17 it can be something else. So also interested  
18 in your ideas here that I'm sure you have in  
19 your experience about what could work for  
20 flooding and flood risk management in  
21 Jackson. So please, also take the time to  
22 share those with us. Thank you.

23 MR. SHAW: Sir.

24 ATTORNEY JUSTICE GIVENS: First of all,  
25 thank you all for putting this on. I'm

1 Attorney Justice Givens. I'm a young  
2 professional here in Jackson, born and  
3 raised. And one of my main concerns sets in  
4 with flooding and issues that's been  
5 impacting low income and minority communities  
6 in the City of Jackson. I really think that  
7 once the issues, the big ticked issues that  
8 we've been dealing with is this investment in  
9 the City of Jackson, flooding, and also  
10 increase in economic development. So there  
11 are a few EJ neighborhoods that have  
12 unfortunately been experiencing more flooding  
13 as a result of the current levee system, the  
14 system that's been in place since the 1960s,  
15 so I'm looking for solutions for those  
16 communities with are within the City of  
17 Jackson. I hope that you guys have done much  
18 research on those areas that continue and  
19 continue and continue to have these problems.  
20 And so, again, I think that the current  
21 system that we have in place that protects a  
22 lot of other areas than those that's been  
23 impacted regularly for years and years.

24 So, also, there's a choke point in the  
25 current levee system that actually increases



1 the flood levels north of the levee to my  
2 understanding. And I believe that at least  
3 this is a solution or at least something  
4 that's been proposed to help the people that  
5 are within the city limits that have been  
6 going on with these issues for a very long  
7 time.

8 Also, the nonfederal sponsor that's  
9 adopted one of the most progressive minority  
10 contracting policies that will insure that if  
11 a project does proceed that the economic  
12 benefits will funnel back into the local  
13 communities by this contract and that's very  
14 important so that money, of course, can help  
15 us with these economic issues that I've been  
16 discussing. So thank you, again, for  
17 providing this forum.

18 MS. COLOSIMO: Thank you for your  
19 comments. On the EJ part, in particular,  
20 it's a huge priority to this Administration  
21 particularly for my boss. So we want to make  
22 sure that any solutions put forward doesn't  
23 just deal with maximizing the benefits and  
24 leaving communities behind. So if you have  
25 particular areas, we want to see what those

1 suggestions are as well; we'll have ideas in  
2 our plans, but we want complete solutions to  
3 ensure that actually is taken care of. So  
4 thank you.

5 MR. SHAW: Sir.

6 MR. DAVIS: Yes, so I just want to add  
7 on what Robyn is saying. If we could I'd  
8 like to meet with you to see on the map some  
9 of the areas you're talking about, impact  
10 areas that we are looking at that has the EJ  
11 areas that are impacted. We'd like to know  
12 if there are more of something that we might  
13 have missed. One thing we don't want to do  
14 is we want to make sure that whatever project  
15 is implemented does not create any type of  
16 (inaudible) areas as a result of  
17 environmental justice and we're taking care  
18 of everyone and no one is going to be singled  
19 out. So I really would like to meet with you  
20 afterwards so we can see some of those areas  
21 on the map. Thank you.

22 COLONEL KLEIN: I appreciate what you  
23 said too about getting the contracts going  
24 back. And so there's one thing that we're --  
25 that this district is really good at and we

1           were just recognized for it by the  
2           Mississippi Small Business Association,  
3           delivering back to 8(a) and Hub-zone  
4           companies and so that is absolutely -- we  
5           will need small business owners for all of  
6           the work we will be doing. So thanks a lot  
7           for highlighting that.

8           MR. SHAW: All right. Sir.

9           MR. ROBERT GRAHAM: Good afternoon. I  
10          rise in support of One Lake Project. My name  
11          is Robert Graham, Hinds County Supervisor  
12          representing District 1. I'm also a Levee  
13          Board member. District 1 encompasses north  
14          and northeast Jackson. There are over 47,000  
15          registered voters in District 1. The  
16          majority of those voters live on the east  
17          side of Interstate 55, the side that is most  
18          prone to flooding. The people on that side  
19          of the interstate are the most anxious every  
20          time that it rains or that we receive heavy  
21          rain knowing that the river is going to rise  
22          and that there is a potential for flooding.  
23          The household with the most anxiety is the  
24          person that lives at 531 Rolling Wood Drive.  
25          The reason for their anxiety and fear is

1           because that's the first house that will be  
2           flooded in the event that we receive heavy  
3           rain in the City of Jackson. Many citizens  
4           in north Jackson not only feel the emotion of  
5           anxiety but they are also afraid. Afraid  
6           that politicians are going to or not going to  
7           do anything this time around. Afraid that  
8           the One Lake Project is going to slip away  
9           one more time. Afraid that we will let  
10          politics and good common sense get in the way  
11          of us doing something to improve the lives of  
12          the citizens of the City of Jackson and Hinds  
13          County.

14                 So I rise in support of the One Lake  
15          Project. I'm speaking on behalf of the  
16          people that have been flooded nine to ten  
17          times over the last ten years. The people  
18          who live on Rolling Wood, River Wood, River  
19          Run, downtown Jackson, and many other streets  
20          in the City of Jackson. The One Lake Project  
21          is not only good for Jackson and Hinds  
22          County, but it will help improve the quality  
23          of life for the citizens and bring good  
24          economic development to the entire area. So  
25          it's time. It is time for the vision of

1 Mr. John McGowan to come to light under the  
2 One Lake Project.

3 I can sum it up with two words followed  
4 by five words. The two words are flood  
5 control. The five words, controlling the  
6 flow of water. That is One Lake. It's time  
7 to get it done. I thank you for your time.

8 MS. BETTY JOYCE JOHNSON: My name is  
9 Betty Joyce Johnson and I live at 830 Cypress  
10 Trail. I was in the news several times to  
11 consider the flood. I lived through the  
12 flood and half the people in the community of  
13 Pearl River flood. I'm not afraid because  
14 God has not given me a spirit of fear but of  
15 love. But I know one thing, something new  
16 got to start because what we been having it  
17 got to end because it not going to work. But  
18 one of the things that I have a problem with  
19 is that when the flood happened nobody came  
20 out and helped us except a few members of the  
21 church. Now, our supervisor, they came and  
22 did a little bit of looking but nobody came  
23 to our rescue. We did not receive any  
24 funding and a lot of people had to live in  
25 their cars and all over due to the fact that

1 the flood happened. I don't know where y'all  
2 spending money at but we did not receive the  
3 money. And that was my main concern. Our  
4 insurance would not even pay for our hotel.  
5 I had to stay in the facility of my church  
6 for three months. I had insurance, but you  
7 have a lot of folks that did not have  
8 insurance and did not have a way to get  
9 around due to the fact that the government  
10 did not help us. And my house had to be  
11 completely remodeled. Now, I don't want this  
12 to happen anymore. And I speak on some of  
13 the elderly. I'm an elder, 68 years old and  
14 some of the elderly have problems with people  
15 coming and helping them and then they have a  
16 problem with not receiving any type of  
17 funding and then you have some people that  
18 didn't have insurance.

19 My main concern is what is you all going  
20 to do about the welfare. And some people had  
21 anxiety, some had depression that hit them so  
22 bad -- even I had a little depression because  
23 I was tired. I worked the same sort of flood  
24 when I got out of college in '76. I worked  
25 this area and then it increased. But to live

1 through it myself I saw the residue that it  
2 left. And the residue is still upon people's  
3 heart. Every time it rains my neighbor get  
4 afraid and nobody around there help them.  
5 And then any time a little water come up they  
6 become afraid because they're afraid of their  
7 life, afraid of their property, and a lot of  
8 them have invested and they're retired, have  
9 invested a lot of debt. And they don't want  
10 to leave Jackson. What I want to know as a  
11 whole, what are we going to do. We can have  
12 politics come up here all day long, they done  
13 talked noise, but they not doing anything. I  
14 need to know from you all if giving them  
15 assurance that if something happens next time  
16 that you all are going to be there to help  
17 them. I have seen neither one of your groups  
18 coming out to help. I didn't see nobody  
19 because I had to take a boat in '20 when it  
20 happened to go get my medication out of my  
21 house. But nobody else came out to help us.  
22 But my main thing is for the people's voice  
23 is that, what are you all going to do? Do  
24 the best thing you can do to ensure that this  
25 flood won't happen anymore. And if you have

1 a program, do it well because we depending on  
2 you. We not depending on these politicians  
3 running around here saying what they going to  
4 do because they haven't did nothing so far.  
5 So I need to know what happened to the money  
6 that was supposed to be allocated for our  
7 neighborhood, our streets are still unpaved.  
8 Yes, they're paved a few of them running  
9 around. I don't have nothing to lose because  
10 I'm saying nothing happened, nothing  
11 happened. It messed up the treat. It messed  
12 up everything but we don't have a voice, but  
13 today I want to be part of that voice. I  
14 want to be the voice in the wilderness to say  
15 I experienced and I've been through it, but  
16 I'm not afraid. I'm more concerned about my  
17 neighborhood. We as a people have to help  
18 each other out in order to secure and let  
19 them know that what we all are going to be  
20 all right, depending on you all to do y'all  
21 part. I don't want to get up anymore, but  
22 these things doing this and that, but nothing  
23 came out of it. But I want to see -- I want  
24 somebody to tell me so I can go back to my  
25 neighborhood and give assurance that things



1 are getting ready to change. That's all I'm  
2 asking you all today, do the best you can,  
3 not the least, because not only did it affect  
4 my neighborhood, it affect all these other  
5 folks. They tired. These are retired  
6 people. They need help because we're not  
7 relying on our city officials, we're relying  
8 on you. So we help pay your taxes because I  
9 pay taxes on my house even as a senior  
10 citizen because my house is more than what  
11 they allow. I pay tax on my automobiles and  
12 I'm expecting you all to do work under this  
13 term, that y'all doing something different.  
14 And this is the first time me seeing you all,  
15 but I want to thank you all for letting me  
16 speak. I'm Betty Joyce Johnson and 830  
17 Cypress Trail. Thank you again.

18 MS. COLOSIMO: Ma'am, I really  
19 appreciate your words on so many levels and  
20 we want to make sure we're capturing your  
21 experience because it does cost at parts of  
22 government, state, local, federal, and we  
23 need to do better together, but I clearly  
24 heard a lot of what you said, but do the best  
25 you can and not the least should be a

1 guidance principle on what we are doing right  
2 now and I'm going to take that to heart.

3 MS. BETTY JOYCE JOHNSON: Okay. Thank  
4 you.

5 MR. SHAW: Sir.

6 DR. SCOTT CRAWFORD: Good afternoon. My  
7 name is Dr. Scott Crawford. I live about a  
8 mile and a half away near the intersection of  
9 State Street and Meadowbrook Road on Choctaw  
10 Road right adjacent to Eubanks Creek. I can  
11 speak for everyone in Jackson when I say we  
12 all want the risk of another 1979 flood  
13 minimized. It was awful, no doubt. You've  
14 seen the photos. Doing nothing is not an  
15 option. However, I must share that we can't  
16 ignore the flash flooding risks along our  
17 creeks that run into the Pearl. My neighbors  
18 and I on Choctaw Road along Eubanks Creek  
19 experience serious flash flooding that gets  
20 into some of our houses and threatens the  
21 rest of them two to four times a year. Two  
22 to four times a year. Much more common than  
23 the rare Pearl River floods. I share photos  
24 and express these ongoing concerns with the  
25 Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil

1 Works Jamie Pinkham back in March '20. Why  
2 doesn't the current proposal include flash  
3 flooding mitigation along Jackson's Creeks  
4 Town, Lynch, Eubanks and Hanging Moss?

5 That's the first question. Do you want me to  
6 go into the second question or do you --

7 COLONEL KLEIN: Let me start the first  
8 one and that is I can assure you that the  
9 model that we developed and ran in order to  
10 assess all the alternatives includes I know  
11 specifically Town Creek as well as I think  
12 other tributaries. So when we put in any of  
13 the available alternatives we'll be looking  
14 all the way up into the tributaries to assess  
15 flood risks reduction.

16 DR. SCOTT CRAWFORD: All four? Town,  
17 Lynch, Eubanks, and Hanging Moss?

18 COLONEL KLEIN: Yes, sir.

19 DR. SCOTT CRAWFORD: All right. Okay.  
20 Second question: I'm aware that the current  
21 One Lake plan involves very extensive and  
22 invasive dredging excavation of natural  
23 wildlife habitats. I'm also aware that a  
24 less environmentally destructive structure  
25 plan exists offered by a fluvial

1 geomorphologist, basically a hydrologist  
2 specializing in rivers. Dr. Matt Kondolf and  
3 his graduate students at the University of  
4 California-Berkley. That plan involves half  
5 the dredging as the One Lake plan and so it's  
6 less expensive. It is also less  
7 environmentally impactful while mitigating  
8 any flooding through measures of just levee  
9 set backs and channel restoration. That plan  
10 preserves most of the sensitive wildlife  
11 habitats while adding helpful downtown parks  
12 and green spaces that we all want. It seems  
13 to me to be a cheaper and less  
14 environmentally destructive plan, which could  
15 potentially reallocate the savings towards  
16 creek side and flood mediation. Has the Army  
17 Corps of Engineers considered this  
18 alternative.?

19 MR. DAVIS: Thank you for your comments  
20 there. Yes, sir, we received that plan. We  
21 are still looking at it. To answer your  
22 question we are going to consider that to see  
23 if it's something that can be justified and  
24 maybe pieces of that can be added to whatever  
25 the final array might be. Yes, sir, to

1 answer your question, that will be looked at  
2 by us.

3 MR. SHAW: May I also mention, either  
4 side if you see the study area maps that  
5 shows that 100 year flood elevation, which  
6 includes the tributaries as well. So you can  
7 see that was modeled.

8 Sir.

9 MR. RONNIE CRUDUP: My name is Ronnie  
10 Crudup, the pastor of the Fellowship  
11 International Church and also senior pastor  
12 of New Horizon Church International in  
13 Jackson, Mississippi. I'm also the chairman  
14 of the Downtown Jackson Partners and I live  
15 in south Jackson, which is the lowest income  
16 census track, one of the lowest in Jackson,  
17 Mississippi.

18 In 1979 and also '83 I pastored actually  
19 inside Jackson and our church got seven feet  
20 of water in it. My personal family's house,  
21 once again had water up to the roof of it and  
22 that house was destroyed. That community  
23 that we own property in still gets flooded  
24 all the time, and so I am absolutely for  
25 flood control and better flood control than

1           we have right now. And so there has to be a  
2           better solution.

3           But I'm also here today to say to you,  
4           I'm for a tremendous opportunity that I think  
5           that lies before us here in Jackson,  
6           Mississippi, and that is I support the One  
7           Lake Project because I think it becomes an  
8           opportunity for particular communities in the  
9           southern part of this city to have the  
10          opportunity to help out of all the years of  
11          degradation and blight and pain and suffering  
12          to see something much better happen for them  
13          in this city. And I actually believe that  
14          what in the past has been a problem can be  
15          one of the greatest opportunities that ever  
16          happened in the city. And as I look at what  
17          happened, once again, with the reservoir area  
18          up north, I believe that can happen again in  
19          the southern part of the city. Once again,  
20          for communities along -- that will now have  
21          that kind of shoreline.

22          And so I support the One Lake Project  
23          because I think it gives that kind of  
24          opportunity for tremendous improvement in the  
25          City of Jackson and certainly to see African

1 American business folks as well get their  
2 rightful share, once again, of the contracts  
3 that will come out of that and people will be  
4 put to work. Thank you.

5 MR. SEAN MILLER: Good afternoon. My  
6 name is Sean Miller. I live at 585 Ridge  
7 River Road, part of the River Road  
8 subdivision. It's something I just came here  
9 and wanted to share and kind of stress the  
10 impact that we have with flooding. One of  
11 the things that I would like to see it is  
12 what plan can we implement the fastest. I  
13 live there. I've been there with Ms. Betty  
14 and being displaced twice in the past two  
15 years is no fun. Being to the situation  
16 where you have to remodel your house, even  
17 for me and some of my colleagues in that  
18 housing area, well, not colleagues, some of  
19 my neighbors, Alice Venables and Casey  
20 Smalls. When the impact flood had happened  
21 during COVID, I think a lot of people missed  
22 the aspect happened with COVID, so not having  
23 no resource and being in an environment it  
24 almost feels like a refugee. That's how it  
25 would feel. And what happened to me, it

1           helped thrive or bring about situations with  
2           community involvement. After I unpacked my  
3           house and got it moved, we were helping  
4           neighbors, elderly. It was a couple that  
5           even had COVID at the time and they were so  
6           afraid for me to move them because they  
7           didn't want to infect somebody else so we had  
8           to move them. I, myself, went and got a  
9           neighbor and helped pack her stuff to get it  
10          loaded into my truck and my trailer. And  
11          it's an impact again.

12                 So the main solution I want to see is  
13          moving to something different as I live  
14          there. We live there in a sensitive ticking  
15          time bomb. It can flood any day. And me  
16          living there understands that any day it  
17          could flood, so I don't care to see a process  
18          that could take five years. I want to see  
19          one that we can put together fastest for  
20          somebody that lives there, lives in that  
21          community and who lives there on a daily  
22          basis.

23                 As Ms. Betty said, she lives down there  
24          in that part. It's something that -- it's  
25          something that nobody should have to deal



1 with. I moved there in 2018 and I never had  
2 an idea that I had to be displaced twice  
3 since 2018. And, you know, me, I was in  
4 school and working at the same same time and  
5 got kids and it was just hard. We had a  
6 neighbor that couldn't afford a hotel room.  
7 And as Betty said, we had to invite them to  
8 our hotel and eventually we got an apartment.  
9 And it was just -- it was just an experience  
10 I don't want to go through again, and I feel  
11 like we shouldn't have to go through again.  
12 And it's something that -- here's what I care  
13 about, what decision can we get to fastest to  
14 fix the problem. Thank you.

15 MR. SHAW: Sir.

16 MR. PAT SULLIVAN: Hi, I'm Pat Sullivan,  
17 and I'm the mayor of the City of Richland and  
18 I am downstream of the project. This project  
19 is not going to help with flooding in the  
20 City of Richland, and I'm here to support  
21 this project. And the reasons why are very,  
22 very selfish. My childhood home flooded six  
23 times because of the backwater of the Pearl  
24 River. I -- since then I've inherited that  
25 home and I'm the proud owner of a vacant

1 house.

2 Another thing, I was 13 years old when  
3 the flood happened in '79. As a young man we  
4 were out there sandbagging having a great  
5 time. We were out there in boats, you know,  
6 could fish out the front door, it was great.  
7 Kids were loving it. That's not what we  
8 really need. Since then I've gotten into  
9 politics and I'm the Mayor and I'm  
10 responsible here for the City of Richland.  
11 We got a plan for water going both ways in  
12 Richland. Either their backed up and come  
13 off the Pearl River or they come down from  
14 throughout Rankin County into the City of  
15 Richland.

16 And as far as economic development is  
17 concerned, we plan around that. I built my  
18 house on the hill, my new house, but one of  
19 the main things that really got me now is in  
20 '79 I wasn't worried about a family. I'm now  
21 married and have two children. In '79 we  
22 were cut off completely from all hospitals,  
23 everything, could not get into one if we  
24 wanted to. That is something that it's, you  
25 know, I have young married daughters. My

1 daughter is young and about to start a family  
2 and I can't imagine waiting around and not  
3 doing something while we have opportunity to  
4 do it to provide a quality of life, to give  
5 her opportunity to not be afraid that there  
6 would have been a flood to be able to get to  
7 a hospital when they're raising their family.  
8 I really think that -- this young lady here  
9 says, we need to do more, we need to do  
10 something. We've got to address this issue  
11 and, you know, we always say, Houston, we  
12 have a problem; Vicksburg and Washington, we  
13 have a problem. Thank you.

14 MR. SHAW: Ma'am.

15 MS. MARTHA WATTS: Good afternoon. I'm  
16 Mayor Martha Watts, Mayor of Monticello.  
17 We're about 60 miles -- 60 road miles south  
18 of Jackson. I hate for you all that flood.  
19 I have sympathized with you. We had the '79  
20 flood down in Monticello also. We were  
21 displaced. I was displaced in '19 or '20. I  
22 had to actually -- the first two days I had  
23 to hike about a mile from the back of my  
24 house to a road. And then when the current  
25 went down I took a boat to get to work and

1 had a car on the other side.

2 I am 100 percent against this project,  
3 and I'll tell you the reason why. We are  
4 south of Jackson. The Pearl is our river,  
5 it's everyone's river. It's not one groups  
6 river. It's Mississippi's river from Neshoba  
7 County all the way down to the Gulf of  
8 Mexico, it belongs to everyone. No one can  
9 take over this river. That is just not  
10 right. This Savannah Street Sewage Lagoon is  
11 going to be south on our side of the dam  
12 you're going to put in. We're receiving  
13 billions of gallons of raw sewage every year  
14 from the City of Jackson. That's not going  
15 to be corrected. I mean, it hasn't been in  
16 what, 14, 15 years since they were issued the  
17 reprieve by EPA. Nothing has been done. We  
18 have no reason to believe that anything will  
19 be done. We'll still be receiving that raw  
20 sewage.

21 Since the building of Ross Barnett  
22 Reservoir we experience flooding because of  
23 that also. It has widened -- this One Lake  
24 Project has nothing to do with that, but it  
25 is related. The flooding caused by Ross

1           Barnett, we know within two and a half days  
2           of what Ross Barnett has done, whether  
3           they've shut the gates or whether they've  
4           opened them. In two and half days we know  
5           exactly what they did and what has happened  
6           because it happens that fast. We have lost  
7           thousands and thousands of acres of land  
8           south of Jackson, Mississippi because of the  
9           sudden fall of the river. We're -- now we're  
10          in peril of losing recreational opportunities  
11          and suffering economic losses with this  
12          highly destructive impediment what's known as  
13          One Lake with its new dam billion gallons of  
14          raw sewage and flooding for going on 13 years  
15          will have a solution? Wildlife and wildlife  
16          habitat will be in peril from several  
17          aspects.

18                 And most frightening to me is the eight  
19          known toxic waste sites that are going to be  
20          disturbed. On our last trip to DC Mr. Clyde  
21          Waters spoke to that. He's got an  
22          environmental company that he's been in for  
23          50 years, has been in several offices in  
24          several states. And his business is to clean  
25          up and manage toxic waste sites. You don't

1 clean them up. There is no way that toxins  
2 are not going to come down to us, they  
3 already are.

4 This project is not what our  
5 recreational users want or ones that fish for  
6 a living. We actually have people that fish  
7 for a living. This is not what the 90 plus  
8 permitted users south of Jackson can stand.  
9 Our town has a permit. Georgia Pacific mill  
10 that supports our town has a permit.  
11 Others -- 90 something or 100 south of  
12 Jackson permitted users, all of those permits  
13 are going to change. When you have a local  
14 water flow their permits are going to change.  
15 Is it going to put us out of business. Is GP  
16 going to stay in Monticello? I don't know.  
17 But the fact is we -- with the widening banks  
18 caused by Ross Barnett rising and falling,  
19 the river is wider, the water is shallower.  
20 If the water is too shallow GP can not cool  
21 from it. If it's too shallow it's got a  
22 higher temperature and they can not use it.  
23 Their estimations -- they took the EIS and  
24 set their hydrologist on it and it will cost  
25 them millions of dollars every year to be

1           able to use the water from the Pearl. Are  
2           they going to stay there? I don't know.

3                   A 15-foot dam even with a gate in low  
4           water times will not release the accurate  
5           amount of water downstream to have a viable  
6           river. The proposed new lake is being dealt  
7           for economic development not for the good of  
8           the river or the vast majority. The proposed  
9           site had to respond to whatever flow the  
10          reservoir is sending their way, when the  
11          reservoir dumps their water then One Lake is  
12          going to dump theirs. When the reservoir  
13          holds back to keep theirs at the level  
14          they're required to keep it at, well, then,  
15          you know, One Lake is going to hold theirs  
16          back. And we're not going to get the water  
17          downstream and heaven help Louisiana, heaven  
18          help Bogalusa, Louisiana with the IP mill.  
19          You know, all of us are in peril downstream.

20                   The state of Mississippi has invested  
21          millions and millions of dollars into our  
22          seafood industry. The nutrients coming into  
23          the Gulf from the Pearl is vital to the  
24          seafood industry. It's astounding to me that  
25          our state is willing to throw away all of

1 their effort and all of their funding of our  
2 11 billion seafood industry that employs over  
3 6,000 workers. This lake is an economic  
4 development project, not a flood control  
5 project. We want a flood control project.

6 As I say, I know the problems that  
7 they're suffering here on these three major  
8 creeks in south Jackson. There has to be  
9 another way to do it without destroying  
10 downstream.

11 MR. SHAW: Sir.

12 MR. GRAY DAY: Good afternoon. I am  
13 Gray Day, and I pastor here in south Jackson.  
14 I live in south Jackson. I am an advocate  
15 for Mississippi as a whole and I'm an  
16 advocate for Jackson and south Jackson. What  
17 I've seen in the past few years we have a  
18 number of challenges here in the City of  
19 Jackson. And what I think is that we have an  
20 opportunity with this project to write a new  
21 narrative for our city.

22 In the church that I pastor I also have  
23 preschools and after schools and academies  
24 and I'm excited about this project because  
25 for one, if you don't experience flooding



1           like we do in Jackson on a regular basis, you  
2           can not understand our plight. We experience  
3           flood on a regular basis in Jackson and this  
4           project is a way to minimize that flood.  
5           Like I said, they may be facing many  
6           challenges here in our city lately with  
7           garbage, with blight, with crime, and I see  
8           this project as a way to bring an economic  
9           empowerment to our city. I see this project  
10          as a way that could help our educational  
11          system with the children that are here in  
12          Jackson. An opportunity to assess the  
13          environment and better understand the  
14          environment. I believe that this plan is a  
15          game changer for Jackson. I believe that it  
16          can address the flooding. It can make a  
17          future way for our water to be possible  
18          because you all know we do have a challenge  
19          with water in our city. It can also be an  
20          incredible educational opportunity for future  
21          generations of Jacksonians who can get  
22          connected to their environment in a way that  
23          now is not possible. I want our young  
24          children to understand that the environment  
25          is their friend and how to save our

1 environment. So I believe that this project  
2 will help us in a way economically as well  
3 as -- I heard the Colonel say, can bring  
4 quality as well as quantity benefits to our  
5 community. God bless you.

6 MR. SHAW: Sir.

7 MR. PETE PERRY: Thank you, sir. I'm  
8 Pete Perry. I live here in Jackson. I  
9 wasn't planning to come up here and speak  
10 today until my friend, and I mean literally,  
11 my friend Representative Curry got up here  
12 and started this conversation. Being the  
13 good politician she is, she was speaking for  
14 everybody saying nobody wants this, nobody --  
15 well, I live here in Jackson and I will speak  
16 differently saying, yes, a lot of people want  
17 this. I live in Jackson. I moved here in  
18 1981. I moved here from Neshoba County,  
19 Mississippi where the Pearl River starts. I  
20 spent a good bit of 1979 and 1980 down here  
21 in Jackson. I was in commercial/industrial  
22 construction business. And after coming down  
23 here on Monday and helping friends move their  
24 friends over on and a couple of others get  
25 their furniture out of the houses because it

1 was flooded, we had crews that came down here  
2 and helped a dozen or so friends rebuild  
3 their houses all through '79 and '80. So I  
4 saw it up close and personal then.

5 I moved here in '81 for other reasons,  
6 but during that time I have heard studies,  
7 I've been to hearings. I've known these  
8 politicians. I've heard the proposals. I've  
9 looked at all these things. I'm probably the  
10 only person in this room that went to the  
11 hearing on Shoccoe Dam in my hometown area  
12 with the dry dam proposal back in the early  
13 '80s and listened to all of them since then.

14 Right now I live in Jackson and I  
15 live -- I can walk to the Pearl River. I'm  
16 not going to get flooded, I'm up high. But I  
17 can walk from my house just a mile and be at  
18 the Pearl River. I've been familiar with it  
19 all my life. I canoed it back in the '60s  
20 before they built the Ross Barnett Reservoir.  
21 But I'm not a wealthy Jacksonian. I'm not a  
22 rich developer. I'm none of those things  
23 that were said earlier for the old people  
24 said that wanted it. I'm somebody that's  
25 sitting here and in '79 and in '83 and again

1 in 2020 and '22 helped friends move their  
2 stuff out of their houses that had heck of  
3 floods and watched and seen what it's done in  
4 all those areas. I'm saying it's time to  
5 quit the studies. It's time to get something  
6 done. I appreciate where you are and the  
7 timeframe you discussed earlier that it's  
8 moving forward and the funding is there. I  
9 support the One Lake Plan. I support getting  
10 something done, and One Lake Plan is the best  
11 plan I've seen over the Two Lake and  
12 expanding Two Lake plus a lake or expanding a  
13 levee, all of those have been gone through  
14 over the years. I just want to see something  
15 done. And I'm glad to see the Secretary and  
16 everybody else moving that way. Thank you.

17 MR. SHAW: Sir.

18 MR. JOHN HORN: Thank you. And to  
19 Colonel Gray and your team members, we  
20 appreciate your presence here, your mission  
21 to find out what the right decision needs to  
22 be to go forward and solve this problem.  
23 We're talking about a problem that is more  
24 than 40 years old without a solution. We've  
25 been waiting for a solution for flood control

1 and in this community for almost a half  
2 century. And we don't have it yet, but have  
3 something within our sights and it's the One  
4 Lake Project. So as a State Senator I'm John  
5 Horn. I'm a 31 year veteran of the State  
6 Senate and I've been waiting for a solution  
7 for several decades now. I will say that in  
8 the large part of my career as a legislator I  
9 focused on economic development and I have a  
10 number of years and served as chairman of  
11 that committee for several as well as for  
12 several years in the field. And I will say  
13 that my focus has been particularly on  
14 development in and around the metro area. A  
15 lot of the development working with  
16 minorities, small business contractors as  
17 well as a general economic side of things in  
18 the metro area.

19 Prior to my election I was fortunate  
20 enough to have included as my jobs running  
21 the Governor's office for federal-state  
22 programs serving as the director for the  
23 State of Mississippi. And so my introduction  
24 to this project factors in and forms from  
25 those experiences that I had in this case as

1 a policy maker and how we manage flood  
2 control. But also as an economic developer,  
3 we need to look at how we leverage this  
4 project in addition to dealing with the  
5 solution of flood control and other problems  
6 that brings -- to be able to do and create  
7 jobs and create economies around what this  
8 opportunity presents. I also looked at a  
9 federal-state program initially and seeing  
10 what the challenges are to even get a project  
11 that combines resources of the federal  
12 government as well as state and local  
13 government. And as a tourism developer, I  
14 have been involved in recreational  
15 development and creating destinations in  
16 Mississippi that we can attract businesses  
17 and tourists to.

18 So I say that in conclusion, of this  
19 project, probably addresses three major  
20 problems that we got in Jackson. One is  
21 fresh water and waste water insecurity right  
22 now. And somebody mentioned that we've  
23 got -- down river we've got issues with raw  
24 sewage and whatnot, that's not going to be  
25 addressed by this project. This project --

1 that's going to be addressed through a  
2 completion of the consent decree that a  
3 federal judge currently has under his  
4 authority giving responsibility to a 3rd  
5 party administrator who's been already  
6 assigned to deal with our  
7 fresh-water/drinking water problem. He's  
8 going to get that waste water issue, and I  
9 think the raw sewage issue is going to be  
10 addressed in that regard. This has nothing  
11 to do with that issue that's downstream. One  
12 Lake has nothing to do with that. But I  
13 think that the locally proposed flood control  
14 plan, we've got -- it's option C if I  
15 remember correctly, solves all three of these  
16 challenges that we've got. We've got  
17 problems with fresh water, waste water  
18 insecurity, got a problem with flooding and  
19 we have the issue of economic development.  
20 The plan provides protection for minority  
21 groups that haven't been protected in  
22 decades. I'm talking about communities that  
23 we call (inaudible), which is down in the  
24 south part of downtown Jackson, not to  
25 mention homes that get flooded over in

1 northeast Jackson, as well as the homes that  
2 are flooded down in south Jackson, but it  
3 also makes possibility for us to create a  
4 water treatment facility for south Jackson  
5 that's had a lot of issues with regard to  
6 safe delivery of water to that part of town.  
7 It makes possible for us to construct a water  
8 treatment facility, if needed, and to  
9 reconnect Jackson residents to an urban water  
10 front. The Jackson economy needs this shot  
11 in the arm. And I'm not saying that this is  
12 all about economic development because it's  
13 not. At the heart of it, it's about flood  
14 control. It's about making this environment  
15 safe for our residents and resolving issues  
16 with flooding now and in the future. But it  
17 also has an economic development benefit and  
18 it has to include Jackson and this area of  
19 our state, but Jackson will never be a great  
20 city, will never be a great city until we  
21 develop our waterfront potential. And I  
22 think that's a part of our obligation to make  
23 sure that this city is great and is  
24 prosperous, that it's as productive as it  
25 possibly can be while keeping its citizens as



1 safe as possible. Every other city that has  
2 embraced urban waterfront development has  
3 seen an explosion of economic development.  
4 And I'm talking about cities like  
5 Chattanooga, San Antonio, Tulsa, Oklahoma  
6 City, Little Rock. Jackson suffered from  
7 years of disinvestment and population  
8 problems, and this project gives us a real  
9 shot at reversing those trends and different  
10 opportunities for small business owners to  
11 start creating wealth, for medium size  
12 businesses to start building larger projects  
13 and longer range projects to compete with the  
14 rest of the world. Doing this has had a  
15 100 percent success rate in making for  
16 positive economic impact.

17 MR. SHAW: Sir, can I ask that you  
18 close.

19 MR. JOHN HORN: I will say this, I  
20 really didn't to be the coat tail that got  
21 pulled today, but I am.

22 As we say, the rising tide lifts all  
23 boats, and I can tell you that a rising -- an  
24 attempting deepening of the channel in this  
25 case will function of this project is also

1 going to lift our boats. We need the flood  
2 control. We need the water security. And  
3 also we need economic development. Thank  
4 you.

5 MR. ASHBY FOOTE: Thank you. My name is  
6 Ashby Foote. I'm the councilman for Ward 1  
7 in Jackson and also the current president of  
8 City Council for the City of Jackson. I  
9 appreciate y'all being here today to  
10 represent this program. This is through the  
11 different voices. The Ward 1 is right at the  
12 point where we suffer flooding two different  
13 ways. We get it when the Pearl River rises  
14 up above 31.5 feet or so it starts to  
15 inundate a number of --

16 MR. SHAW: Sir, we're not hearing you.

17 MR. ASHBY FOOTE: Oh, I'm sorry. Excuse  
18 me. So when the Pearl River rises above 31.5  
19 feet or so we get the rising water that comes  
20 into a lot of our communities along the Pearl  
21 River, which is the east boundary of Ward 1.  
22 And then when we have heavy rainfall across  
23 Hinds and Madison County we suffer flash  
24 floods, urban flash floods that have gotten  
25 worse and worse over past 30 years as more

1 hard surfaces have been built up in the  
2 Madison County area whether it through roads  
3 or rooftops, whatever. So while the creek  
4 flooding that Dr. Crawford talked about is  
5 the same sort of thing, in addition to the  
6 creeks he mentioned there's also Purple  
7 Creek, and White Oak Creek that suffer a lot  
8 of the flash floods, particularly White Oak  
9 Creek is probably the poster child for  
10 erosion and serious issues that inundate the  
11 back yards of the people that live along side  
12 White Oak Creek, but you're not here to solve  
13 the flash flood issue at this point, but it  
14 is something -- we get flooded different ways  
15 and I really appreciate the fact that y'all  
16 are here with this plan to try to address the  
17 flooding that comes from the higher water of  
18 the Pearl River and I'm a big supporter of  
19 that. I think it will benefit Ward 1  
20 significantly.

21 A lot of the communities that have seen  
22 their home values depreciate because the  
23 water rises up in their yards or maybe their  
24 houses every four or five years, if you can  
25 get control of that that will really see

1           increased home values in those communities,  
2           be a big plus and it will help the morale of  
3           a lot of the folks that live in that area.

4                     And lastly, I'd like to thank y'all.  
5           Last August we had high water that got to  
6           about 35 feet or so in -- over in Jackson.  
7           And on short notice from the MEMA, the Corps  
8           of Engineers supplied -- brought over a  
9           sandbag machine that you had there, came over  
10          to the First United parking lot and in about  
11          six hours produced about -- and along with  
12          the help of the county supervisors  
13          maintenance department and public works  
14          department, produced about eight tons of  
15          sandbags which was very beneficial for the  
16          citizens that were seeing water getting close  
17          to their houses. So I really appreciate the  
18          Corps efforts in that as well. Thank you so  
19          much.

20                    MR. SHAW: Ma'am.

21                    MS. CHRISTY SIMMS: Thank you. My name  
22                    is Christy Simms. I'm the Executive Director  
23                    of Internal Affairs at the University of  
24                    Mississippi Medical Center. I noticed -- am  
25                    I doing something wrong. I noticed on your

1 slides that you are seeking input on the  
2 water systems and also on economic  
3 development and I want to focus on that  
4 today.

5 The University of Mississippi Medical  
6 Center is located just down the street here  
7 in the heart of Jackson and is Mississippi's  
8 only academic medical center and serves as  
9 the state's primary safety net hospital. We  
10 are home to seven health sciences schools and  
11 we have an enrollment of over 3,000 students  
12 across all of our programs. Each year we  
13 graduate nearly 1,000 students that are ready  
14 to enter the work force. We have the only  
15 children's hospital in the state, the only  
16 level 1 trauma center, the only level 4  
17 neonatal intensive care unit, the only organ  
18 transplant program, and any specialty  
19 services that are only available here in  
20 Jackson. We serve over 350,000 patients  
21 across the state every year. And that  
22 accounts for -- I'm sorry, 5.2 million  
23 individuals each year. We have more than  
24 10,000 employees here on our Jackson campus  
25 and we're the largest employer in the City of

1 Jackson and the second largest employer in  
2 the state of Mississippi after the ship  
3 builders down on the gulf coast.

4 We bring in more than 100 million  
5 dollars of external research funding and that  
6 brings in researchers into Mississippi from  
7 outside of the state. So all together we  
8 have a 1.8 billion dollar annual budget that  
9 is quite a significant contributor to the  
10 City of Jackson both directly and indirectly.

11 I say all that to say that we bring a  
12 lot to the city. We care a lot about the  
13 future of the city and we want to continue to  
14 grow in all of our missions and want to grow  
15 with Jackson hand in hand. So as we think  
16 about our future growth one of the things  
17 that's very important is the reliability and  
18 consistency of city services and utilities  
19 including water, sewer, flood control, and  
20 while it's true that we have our own domestic  
21 well water systems on the main campus as most  
22 large hospital systems do, we are relying on  
23 the city for water for all of our numerous  
24 off campus clinics including the Jackson  
25 Medical Mall to ensure our people are

1 healthy.

2 In many cases our water supply system is  
3 disrupted in the City of Jackson, we have to  
4 completely suspend patient care until the  
5 water can be restored to the sites, which is  
6 disruptive for patients, but in some cases it  
7 can actually be dangerous, you know, in the  
8 case of dialysis for example.

9 Another key to the growth of UMC is  
10 being able to attract and retain health care  
11 professionals, educators, and researchers in  
12 Jackson. And we think we can do that best by  
13 capturing those that are already here in  
14 Jackson. You know, like I said, we have so  
15 many students that are graduating from our  
16 programs but there are several higher  
17 education institutions here in Jackson that  
18 are educating highly trained capable young  
19 people who seek to live in a vibrant city  
20 where they can live and work and raise their  
21 families. And so we believe investing in our  
22 city's critical water infrastructure will  
23 signal to the next generation that there's a  
24 foundation here on which to build a career  
25 and to build a future.

1           It will also help counter the national  
2 narrative that Jackson is the city that's  
3 plagued by insurmountable and ongoing water  
4 problems, which is a message that works  
5 against all of our collective efforts to  
6 attract students, faculty, and researchers to  
7 our city.

8           And then finally from a health  
9 perspective, benefits of reliable clean water  
10 can not be overstated. Mississippi suffers  
11 from a myriad of health challenges. Many  
12 chronic diseases that are exacerbated by lack  
13 of health care access, exercise, and healthy  
14 food. Of course, having healthy clean water  
15 in communities that are safe from flooding  
16 and exposure to sewage is critical. By  
17 investing in the quality of life for  
18 Jacksonians, a better health of our  
19 communities and ultimately a healthier state.  
20 Thank you for the opportunity.

21           MR. SHAW: All right.

22           MR. TOM TROXLER: Yes. Thank y'all for  
23 being here. My name is Tom Troxler. I'm the  
24 executive director of Rankin First, also on  
25 the Executive Committee for the Greater



1 Jackson Partnership and Greater Jackson Life.

2 I'll be quick.

3 Obviously, the floods have been  
4 mentioned. They previously had a traumatic  
5 effect on Rankin County, especially the flow  
6 of the Pearl in Richland areas as the mayor  
7 of Richland said. But it created hundreds of  
8 millions of dollars of loss and we certainly  
9 support any type of flood control project,  
10 this particular project here today to stop  
11 the flooding.

12 From the economic development  
13 standpoint, we get questions all the time now  
14 because of the flooding and the international  
15 and national press that covers the flooding  
16 and water issues in Jackson, so we're very  
17 supportive of a strong Jackson, a resilient  
18 economic led by a vibrant Jackson because it  
19 hurts the whole metro area. And I know Jeff  
20 behind me will speak to this, but what  
21 happens in Jackson affects the whole area  
22 because if you're in Chicago or you're in  
23 London and you have a prospect and trying to  
24 bring industry to Mississippi, all you see is  
25 the negative news. They don't know Rankin

1 County. They don't know Madison County.  
2 They don't even know Hinds County. But they  
3 know Jackson because that's what we're  
4 reporting on. So we support any project that  
5 creates a stronger Jackson and creates a  
6 project like this.

7 And one last thing that hasn't been  
8 brought up today is a water feature such as  
9 this, on an economic development standpoint,  
10 will very much help the brain drain that we  
11 experience right now in our area. It will  
12 bring the quality of life, the type of things  
13 that young people that are graduating from  
14 college, it will bring some of the wildlife  
15 that they're interested in, the lakes and the  
16 items and all those things, it will help  
17 create an area that young people will want to  
18 live and it will help stop some of the brain  
19 drain from our local universities as well as  
20 our own children and grandchildren when they  
21 graduate wanting to stay in the Jackson area.  
22 Thank you very much.

23 MR. SHAW: Sir.

24 MR. ANDY HIGGINS: Good afternoon. My  
25 name is Andy Higgins, and I want to talk to

1           you from a couple of perspectives that I  
2           observed on this project and how it affects  
3           people down south and south of town here. As  
4           a young child I can remember in 1979 going  
5           and wading in the water and unloading and  
6           moving furniture at my grandfather's house in  
7           the Rockport community in Covich County that  
8           flooded. And so I'm very sympathetic to  
9           those of you that experience floodings --  
10          that has experienced flooding since '79 and,  
11          you know, I am concerned about it. But as a  
12          farmer I've -- years ago in the '90s I rented  
13          land in Lawrence County and along the banks  
14          of the river and year after year after year I  
15          saw the effects of -- at that time I believe  
16          it was mismanagement of the river and how it  
17          eroded the banks of the river. I continue to  
18          see that today. I also own land in Jefferson  
19          Davis County and have two miles of a  
20          tributary, Silver Creek, that flows to the  
21          Pearl River south of Monticello. And I know  
22          whatever I do on that creek, it affects those  
23          above me and below me. If I worked on it,  
24          widened it, those effects are going to flow  
25          downstream and also have effects upstream as

1           this project will that we're talking about  
2           today.

3           In my day job I'm Executive Director of  
4           the Mississippi Cattleman's Association, and  
5           I represent members from one end of the state  
6           to the other. And the only problems I hear  
7           anything dealing with the Pearl River are  
8           those that live below Jackson below the Ross  
9           Barnett Reservoir. And it's primarily with  
10          erosion. I can cite one of them in Lawrence  
11          County that's lost approximately 40 acres of  
12          land as a result of erosion along the banks.  
13          Just this past week, we see in the news of a  
14          graveyard with a coffin exposed along the  
15          banks of the river due to erosion along the  
16          banks.

17          Recently I had a misguided step and I  
18          entered politics and I'm the Senator elect  
19          unopposed in District 35, which covers  
20          Copiah, Simpson, Lawrence, and Jefferson  
21          Davis Counties, so I have a large portion of  
22          the Pearl River along its banks. And when I  
23          talk to people in that district, bank erosion  
24          is the primary concern that I hear on the  
25          Pearl River and it's a valid concern. And so

1 I'll sum up my comments real quickly in that  
2 we look back and can see a big change from  
3 the time that the Ross Barnett Reservoir put  
4 in to the river down below it and I believe  
5 those people were convinced that another man  
6 made structure will do anything but make more  
7 problems for us. Thank you.

8 MR. JEFF RENT: Good afternoon. My name  
9 is Jeff Rent, and I'm the president and CEO  
10 of the Greater Jackson Chamber Partnership.  
11 We're probably the city's oldest and largest  
12 chamber of commerce. We cover Hinds, Rankin,  
13 and Madison Counties. We have approximately  
14 1,400 members, and half of them are in the  
15 City of Jackson.

16 My other part of my job is also to  
17 industrial improvement and economic  
18 development under the umbrella of Greater  
19 Jackson Alliance. We go out and conduct  
20 traditional economic development and  
21 industrial recruitment activities all over  
22 the country. And as Mr. Troxler said before  
23 me, when we leave the area that we're  
24 identified solely through the name Jackson  
25 and the headlines have been devastating

1           lately to some of our prospects with the  
2           water issues, repetitive flooding, repetitive  
3           loss, and how that acts as a barrier to  
4           recruiting companies besides the drinking  
5           water issues, with repetitive flooding and  
6           repetitive loss, you're talking about how it  
7           affects your work force and your potential  
8           work force. You would have a work force that  
9           is unsure if they're going to be able to get  
10          to work due to being cut off due to flooding,  
11          or they're going to be displaced. You may  
12          have a business that gets cut off. Well,  
13          then you don't have customers who are able to  
14          access that business.

15                 And so the effect compounds itself and  
16          companies decide to locate elsewhere. And  
17          we -- that's what they need, more economic  
18          development. We want good jobs. We want  
19          better jobs and we work hard every day to try  
20          to make that happen here in the City of  
21          Jackson and Hinds County and Rankin and  
22          Madison Counties. So what happens in Jackson  
23          affects the entire region.

24                 Also, we have a river, an amazing river  
25          that has also public access right now. So

1 the quality of life component can not be  
2 understated. Quality of place and quality of  
3 life drives economic development projects  
4 more so than any of my more than a decade  
5 experience has ever seen. Right now is one  
6 of the first questions they ask: what are  
7 people going to do when they're not in the  
8 office, when they're not at work. And it's a  
9 boom for us.

10 This is truly a transformative project  
11 and so I'm here today just to voice my  
12 support for the One Lake solution. Thank  
13 you.

14 MR. DON UNDERWOOD: I'm Don Underwood.  
15 I am currently the republican Alderman at  
16 Large for the City of Brookhaven. Brookhaven  
17 is 20 miles from the Pearl River on Highway  
18 84. Way back in the '80s and early '90s I  
19 was the representative for District 92 that  
20 Becky now represents and I know about Shoccoe  
21 because one of the -- and there were probably  
22 many votes that I'd like to go back and  
23 revisit, I voted against Shoccoe because the  
24 folks of Neshoba County and Choctaw and all  
25 said, oh, don't put this on us. And Shoccoe

1           might would have helped this situation, but  
2           it was the Corps' third plan and everybody  
3           said, well, why haven't you done anything.  
4           It was Shoccoe and the state rejected it.  
5           There was the levees, the state rejected it.  
6           It's a history of the state rejecting what  
7           the Corps wanted to do.

8                        But then after that I became Executive  
9           Director of the Mississippi Soil and Water  
10          Conservation Commission. And in that  
11          position I literally wrote the Mississippi  
12          Watershed and Rehabilitation Act word for  
13          word. And I see some of the senatorial  
14          reporter staff back there and some of them  
15          remember when we did this. I worked with the  
16          staff of Senator Cochran to develop a six  
17          state pilot project to invest federal funds  
18          into watershed repair and rehabilitation of  
19          federally constructed flood control shortage.  
20          That program has now become part of the Farm  
21          Bill over the last decade. It's available in  
22          all 50 states. And those of you from the  
23          Corps, some of you have been around long  
24          enough to remember that we have worked on the  
25          projects.



1           The only reason I get up today is quit  
2 calling this a flood control project. Some  
3 of you people get up and say this is going to  
4 stop flooding. It is not. You build -- I  
5 have overseen dozens of these. You build  
6 flood control structures to either protect  
7 downstream because you control the water or  
8 you build storage capacity above stream. And  
9 if you're going to fill it up and have a lake  
10 front, you are not developing storage  
11 capacity. If y'all want to build an economic  
12 development boondoggle, get after it, but  
13 quit lying to people and calling it a flood  
14 control project.

15           MR. JUAN HERNANDEZ: Thank you all for  
16 having this meeting. My name is Juan  
17 Hernandez, I live in Jackson. I made two of  
18 them yesterday. So as I mentioned yesterday,  
19 my sources come from the 2000 DEIS and the  
20 agency technical review. I understand that  
21 these things tend to be outdated and old,  
22 please forgive, it's the only thing I have.

23           MR. SHAW: Excuse me. Could you speak  
24 up just a little?

25           MR. HERNANDEZ: Absolutely. Yes. So

1 I'll just go from here and I think everyone  
2 probably agrees that there is a dire need for  
3 flood risk mitigation in Jackson Metro.

4 So, for one, I think you started, like,  
5 saying that no option -- no action is an  
6 option. I don't think that's an option for  
7 us. That's something that I think everyone  
8 here agrees on. Something that I think is  
9 also in dire need is for education on what  
10 the current options, particularly the One  
11 Lake offers in terms of flood protections.  
12 Just to name a couple of locations, two of  
13 these have been mentioned out here by the  
14 people. Multiple speakers have mentioned the  
15 need for flood risk mitigation in northeast  
16 Jackson. And at least one person has  
17 described the need for flood risk mitigation  
18 in south Jackson.

19 So what's in these documents that I  
20 mentioned? Document '18 DEIS and your agency  
21 technical review has to say about these  
22 locations. Northeast Jackson, flooding will  
23 continue along other neighborhoods, Canton  
24 Avenue Estates and North Canton Club. North  
25 Canton Club is the one pictured at the

1 beginning of your neighborhood. I am not  
2 certain that any of those speakers who have  
3 come up here and said that they need flood  
4 protection understand that the One Lake  
5 Project will not -- won't reduce the  
6 frequency of flooding nor the heights of  
7 flooding, but flooding will continue in these  
8 neighborhoods.

9 South Jackson, at least one person  
10 mentioned this. Per comment 7058837 and the  
11 DEIS Appendix C, flooding will not change in  
12 south Jackson and will be nearly no  
13 reductions of flooding south of Lynch Creek.

14 Now, to the last gentleman who spoke  
15 about the dam. I agree that there needs to  
16 be more communication about what the  
17 infrastructures components are offering.  
18 Referring to ATR comment 8285727, a new dam  
19 will not offer any increase in capacity or  
20 storage capacity. Flood reductions will be  
21 offered primarily by the relocation of the  
22 levee and very likely by the increase  
23 channelization of the river. This  
24 information has been public -- has been  
25 available for I don't know how many years and

1 people here still speak about this  
2 infrastructure as the dam was providing flood  
3 control. They still talk about south Jackson  
4 and northeast Jackson receiving complete  
5 benefits from this.

6 There is a dire need for education and  
7 it's not been provided by the current  
8 sponsor. And I think that the US Army Corps  
9 of Engineers needs to step up to make sure  
10 that people are educated on what the  
11 alternative actions you offer. Thank you.

12 MR. ANDY GRAIN: Thank you very much.  
13 My name is Andy Grain. I'm with Jackson  
14 Association of Neighborhoods. We work with  
15 neighborhoods all over the city and just  
16 wanted to reiterate Dr. Crawford's point  
17 about creeks.

18 So I understand by looking at the 100  
19 year event, I guess, with a circle around it,  
20 you know, oval that shows that and all the  
21 creeks that are within that. And I know that  
22 you said that the modeling includes the  
23 creeks, I just want to make sure that it's  
24 driven home and that it is part of the Pearl  
25 River watershed, so there's no reason to

1       leave those out of the plan.  And so as we go  
2       forward it's not -- those creeks need to be  
3       cleaned out regularly.  That's a big part of  
4       the flash flooding, the cause of the flash  
5       flooding events, so there could be funding  
6       available for that as well as finding the --  
7       like the biggest problem spots throughout the  
8       city along all those creeks.

9               And then, you know, building a solution  
10       there.  The organization that I work for is  
11       revitalizing the city and we're currently  
12       working in west Jackson along Lynch Street to  
13       use abandoned properties to do flood  
14       mitigation parks and those are going to be --  
15       it's kind of a test project.  It's an area,  
16       it's called "the Bottom", it's a neighborhood  
17       near the bottom of the drainage.  And so  
18       that's along Lynch Street.  And think we  
19       could -- if we widen the scope of the project  
20       to include all those areas it would be very  
21       helpful and I'd be glad to work with you in  
22       identifying the locations of those problems.  
23       And then also maybe thinking of ways to plan  
24       in the future when it comes to maintenance,  
25       so we can always keep those creeks cleaned

1 out. Thank you.

2 MR. SHAW: Sir, you're next.

3 MR. ANTHONY HARKNESS: Hello. My name  
4 is Anthony Harkness, pretty much a lifetime  
5 citizen of Jackson, and I'd just like to say  
6 that let's not get caught up on side issues  
7 on this. One of the things that I heard from  
8 one of my great friends in life in college  
9 and I often tell it, do something less you do  
10 nothing. The problem will continue. As you  
11 point out the things that are problems or  
12 concerns, well, let's put that in the plan.  
13 Let's do something about it. Think about the  
14 Wright Brothers. And I say this oftentimes  
15 because I like to look successful recipes.  
16 The Wright Brothers were told we got to clear  
17 this, we just celebrated being in an  
18 airplane, right. Well, they were told, if  
19 God meant for us to fly we would have wings.  
20 We don't ever think about that. They were  
21 told no, but what they did was every time a  
22 problem was pointed out, they solved that  
23 problem. The first car that was driven, that  
24 was a ridiculous idea. We have horses, why  
25 do we need to build something that doesn't

1           need horses to move for. Well, they kept  
2           figuring out the problem. And the next thing  
3           you know we got interstates that are  
4           overloaded with motor cars.

5                     I'm saying that to say, maybe if you  
6           don't call it flood control, what if we call  
7           it flow improvement, that make it better or  
8           more acceptable? But something does need to  
9           be done. And we can solve these problems.  
10          We have the mind. We have the will. Right  
11          now there's funding available and the talent  
12          is available. We don't have to hurt the  
13          people downstream, but those of us who are up  
14          here in Jackson don't have to continue to  
15          suffer.

16                    MR. THOMAS CLARK: Good afternoon.  
17          Thomas Clark. I'm recently retired pastor of  
18          Ascension Lutheran Church in Jackson where I  
19          served for 34 years. And I am currently a  
20          member of the Hinds County Disaster Recovery  
21          Loan Service coverage committee.

22                    Jackson does need a lot of the  
23          developmental funds for all sorts of areas.  
24          But flood control and the focus should be on  
25          that. It should be, I think, on -- the focus

1           should be on the water coming into Jackson  
2           from the north. I grew up in Winston County.  
3           My family was living outside of Louisville,  
4           the headwaters of the Pearl River. In 1979  
5           when the water -- the flood from 1979,  
6           floodwaters were not so much floodwaters that  
7           came here from Jackson. They were waters  
8           that fell north of Jackson in a watershed  
9           area, and so when those waters arrived in  
10          Jackson that's largely the cause of the 1979  
11          flood.

12                 So it seems if you want to control  
13          flooding in Jackson the focus shouldn't be on  
14          the flooding here, but rather something north  
15          of the city that's ultimately controlling the  
16          water coming in. I know that there have been  
17          other projects in the past that have looked  
18          at that, but to me that just seems to make  
19          sense.

20                 MS. COLOSIMO: Thank you.

21                 MR. SHAW: Sir.

22                 MR. ANDREW WHITEHURST: Hello, my name  
23          is Andrew Whitehurst. I live in Madison,  
24          Mississippi. I was one of your guests last  
25          night and I wanted to bring up something that



1 I talked about in Slidell. The two statutes  
2 that give authority for this delineate the  
3 three legs of the analysis. And that's  
4 whether WRDA 2007 is whether this is  
5 economic, whether this is environmentally  
6 acceptable, and technically feasible.

7 And then the Water Resource Development  
8 Act of 2018 entered language to say this had  
9 to be economically justified. And last night  
10 I talked about the economic effects of  
11 everything downstream. The permits, the  
12 seafood industry, the recreation, and so much  
13 of the discussion today has been economic  
14 development. And let's do something to the  
15 river to make it economically attractive to  
16 keep students here or to -- all these other  
17 things. And the focus has not always been a  
18 discussion on flood control. So after some  
19 of us went to Washington in 2020 to meet with  
20 R.E. James' staff I looked up the three legs  
21 of analysis, and stuck with the economic  
22 part. So I wrote Secretary James a memo and  
23 I looked at the engineering notebook that  
24 governs the location of this project, and I  
25 noted that 10 million-dollars in location

1 benefit analysis comes from building lands  
2 that are now wetlands on the batture side of  
3 the levee, primarily in Rankin County. So  
4 there's an executive order 11988 from the  
5 Carter administration, it's a presumption  
6 against flood plain development. I brought  
7 that up from my memo to R.E. James and I'm  
8 going to send it to whoever on your staff is  
9 the proper person to read it.

10 Again, because I think points are still  
11 valid. There's some factors that you analyze  
12 in figuring out whether a project can or  
13 can't go forward if it does have flood plain  
14 fill-in, Sec 404 Army Corps Flood Plain that  
15 notate against it and one excuse. There's  
16 one, you know, way to get into flood plain.

17 You know, I analyzed this project,  
18 looking at the factors, and I don't see  
19 coming down on flood plain fill-in. I don't  
20 see a way to go against a presumption of EO  
21 11988. So who can I talk to and correspond  
22 with about this in the next weeks or months  
23 about this economics piece.

24 MR. SHAW: Yes, sir. If you will,  
25 there's an e-mail address, if you'll send

1           comments in they will be included in the  
2           record and --

3           MR. ANDREW WHITEHURST: Can I have a  
4           person's name and e-mail please?

5           MR. SHAW: Yes, sir.

6           MR. ANDREW WHITEHURST: Talk to you  
7           after this?

8           MR. SHAW: Absolutely. Craig, can you  
9           go back to the first slide. Slide 2 or 3.

10          MR. ANDREW WHITEHURST: I have it. I  
11          mean, I took a picture of it last night.

12          My first job as a law clerk with LDEQ in  
13          Louisiana was help figure -- help the agency  
14          figure out how it could avoid one of its regs  
15          on -- that was about disposal of radioactive  
16          waste from dentist offices. We had a famous  
17          football player that was a dentist and didn't  
18          want to pay his fees. And so my very first  
19          law clerk job was figuring out how an agency  
20          didn't have to follow its own rules. That's  
21          what agencies sometimes do. I want this  
22          agency to follow its own rules on this  
23          wetland business.

24          MR. SHAW: Yes, sir. If you'll see me  
25          right after I'll get you the info. Anybody

1 else?

2 MS. COLOSIMO: Thank you for coming to  
3 another event. We appreciate it. And, of  
4 course, Andrea and I work every day for the  
5 Assistant Secretary, so just continue to make  
6 sure you resend the same document you send in  
7 there to make sure it gets where it needs to.  
8 Thank you.

9 MR. SHAW: Yes, ma'am.

10 MS. JILL MASTROTOTARO: Good afternoon.  
11 I'm Jill Mastrototaro. I'm the Mississippi  
12 policy director for Audobon Delta. I live  
13 and work in metro Jackson and across the  
14 state. Thanks for having this meeting today.

15 I did want to underscore and appreciate  
16 our dialogue over the last few years with the  
17 Assistant Secretary's office more on Pearl  
18 River issues. I did want to reiterate the  
19 disappointment that I have had with how the  
20 Corps has rolled out this next phase of the  
21 process. Of course, I've shared my concerns  
22 in e-mail to the agency but I did want to  
23 underscore the value of public input and the  
24 importance of giving people adequate notice  
25 so advertising these meetings at least two

1 weeks in advance of when they're going to be  
2 held. These meetings were announced, I  
3 think, in several e-mails that came several  
4 days before the Federal Register notice.  
5 When the meetings are advertised, information  
6 should become available via a variety of  
7 formats and platforms including burned and  
8 social media, direct mailers, utilizing  
9 community organizations, neighborhood base  
10 organizations, newspapers, online platforms,  
11 and there should be -- the information should  
12 allow for at least two weeks review of what's  
13 going to be presented in advance of community  
14 meetings. There should also be a lengthy  
15 comment held so people can digest information  
16 a period of at least 90 days. And given the  
17 seriousness and the many years of study  
18 around the Pearl River, the public deserves  
19 more notice of it being engagement  
20 opportunities, clarity of the process that's  
21 underway, and a solid understanding of how  
22 past and future input is going to and is  
23 expected to shape the final plan, so that  
24 local communities can get the flood  
25 mitigation meanwhile protecting the

1 environment, public health, and downstream  
2 interest.

3 In fact, alternatives appears twice in  
4 which those set forth by the local levee  
5 board in 2018 with the current NFI  
6 recommended plan outfunding what is commonly  
7 known as One Lake, and during the Levee  
8 Board's 2013 planning and 2018 draft EIS  
9 processes, hundreds of environmental, social  
10 justice, Facebook, business and industry  
11 sectors and elected and community leaders  
12 express opposition about One Lake. They  
13 called for neutral based nonstructural  
14 solutions to help the Metro Jackson  
15 community. Solutions that will benefit  
16 wildlife and also respect the downstream  
17 interests and the public health interest of  
18 the community at large.

19 And so we're deeply disturbed that One  
20 Lake remains the top alternative despite the  
21 broad and sustained opposition and the  
22 multitude of environmental public health and  
23 economic concerns that we and many others  
24 have shared at length with the Assistant  
25 Secretary's office and the Corps. And the

1 fact that there are more effective and more  
2 environmentally sustainable, more immediate  
3 flood solutions available today.

4 I did want to recognize the fact that  
5 the last iteration of One Lake will destroy  
6 about 2,500 acres of important habitat flood  
7 plain and wetland habitat that already  
8 protects the local metro community. It's  
9 also for wildlife.

10 We know that there are eight  
11 contaminated sites that will be in the  
12 footprint of that project either directly or  
13 near by. There's no plan to protect public  
14 health at these sites containing heavy metals  
15 and (inaudible) hydrocarbons that will be  
16 suspended in the air, the water, and the  
17 soil. Not just to the detriment of the local  
18 community but downstream interests as well.

19 There's also the issue of flash  
20 flooding. And it was clear from the 2018  
21 draft study that One Lake will do nothing for  
22 the flash flooding concerns that people have  
23 expressed today and they've expressed in the  
24 past of the tributaries that flood through  
25 Jackson and connect to the Pearl River. In

1 fact, One Lake will make that flooding worse  
2 because we'll now have an elevated lake that  
3 will cause water to back up all the time into  
4 those creeks, those lower creeks, and rain  
5 water will actually have more of an impact  
6 every time we have that kind of event. We  
7 also know that the Fewell plant, the drinking  
8 water plant, the one of two that worked  
9 during the recent water crisis that provided  
10 drinking water to 30 percent of the City of  
11 Jackson will have to be temporarily shut down  
12 for three to four years, three to four years  
13 shut down during the construction of the  
14 project because of the turbidity in the  
15 water. And so there's going to have to be a  
16 temporary drinking water supply found for  
17 that segment of the Jackson Community. And,  
18 of course, there's an array of downstream  
19 impacts both environmental and economic that  
20 others have spoken to today and in the past.  
21 And I'll just remind the audience that the  
22 Corps in years past has rejected the One Lake  
23 Project. They rejected any project that was  
24 a lake. And so it's really a time for the  
25 Corps and the other federal agencies that are



1 now reviewing this as an opportunity to  
2 deliver true meaningful flood relief for the  
3 Metro Jackson area, to put all options on the  
4 table, and that would ensure that we have the  
5 environment, the community at large including  
6 our Louisiana neighbors, and public health at  
7 the core.

8 And one last thing I'll just mention is  
9 there was a government accounting office  
10 report done after the 1979 flood fight and  
11 that report found that it was majority human  
12 error, and the fact that the City of Jackson  
13 had built an illegal 66-inch sewer pipe  
14 through the levee that contributed  
15 significantly to the flooding that happened  
16 in downtown Jackson. So for folks that would  
17 like to learn more about Audobon's position  
18 on the issue we're happy to meet with you and  
19 share more. Thank you.

20 MS. COLOSIMO: So a couple of things to  
21 make sure we're clear. First of all, it's  
22 early engagement and that one is on us. We  
23 wanted to make sure it was early engagement,  
24 not engagement in perfect form going on that  
25 Mr. Connor requested. So we knew there was

1 going to be a little short fuse that got into  
2 that. We didn't want things to only go out  
3 in an e-mail. We know there's going to be  
4 more. We haven't figured out what those are.  
5 So it's not perfect, understand you're  
6 probably not fully supportive.

7 Beyond that I would say a couple of  
8 things that I want to be very clear about,  
9 there is no situation including the  
10 recommended project shutting down the water  
11 supply or the water treatment in any way  
12 shape or form. Anything that implicates that  
13 we'd act on that. Certainly not public  
14 consumption, so that is not a consideration.  
15 And in fact, Mr. Klein has specifically said  
16 the investments that are happening at EPA to  
17 help the current situation, the work we're  
18 undertaking under our Section 219 program,  
19 all those things are going to make sure those  
20 investments are protected as they're put in  
21 place. So we need to make sure that we're  
22 not undermining other things going on.  
23 That's always the case.

24 But more importantly, the Corps is arms  
25 length and so is the Secretary's office on

1           what solution. One Lake is not a priority  
2           solution, no action is not a priority  
3           solution, neither is the NED. Right now  
4           we're in a what are the great alternatives  
5           that can address the problem at hand  
6           consistent with direction and that's why  
7           we're here. While we are here today, want to  
8           continue to get that from all of you. This  
9           is the process. Arms length. And this is  
10          the Secretary's office here as a part of that  
11          process to direct arms length (inaudible).

12                 MR. SHAW: Sir.

13                 MR. TAYLOR NICHOLAS: Thanks. I know  
14          we're rolling up on 3:00 so I'll --

15                 MR. SHAW: Turn your microphone on  
16          please.

17                 MR. TAYLOR NICHOLAS: Thanks. I know  
18          we're rolling up on 3:00 so I'll -- is that  
19          better. Sorry about that. So I'll make mine  
20          kind of swift.

21                 My name is Taylor Nicholas. I serve as  
22          the Executive Director of the Great City  
23          Foundation. We're relatively new, started  
24          about a year and a half ago. Out of -- as a  
25          sincere recognition that a lot of us in the

1 city want a strong state. And if we're going  
2 to have a strong healthy state we're going to  
3 have a strong healthy capital city. And so  
4 as we look around us to the quality of life,  
5 right, economic opportunity and  
6 infrastructure. And so I think as we  
7 recognize here, economic heartbeat our entire  
8 state is in Jackson. And we've heard a lot  
9 of first hand accounts about flooding. It's  
10 been a multi-year issue. When I was a kid --  
11 sorry, this mic. When I was a kid in  
12 northwest Rankin County growing up, of  
13 course, with a foot in Rankin and a foot in  
14 Jackson and even still today, I wasn't  
15 allowed to go to the Pearl River, but you  
16 can't access that here. And I think that's a  
17 disadvantage to a lot of our young people  
18 here. Where our river is hidden behind  
19 levees that has contributed but failed  
20 really. And it's attributed to honestly one  
21 of our state's greatest resources being under  
22 valued, under appreciated, and under used.  
23 And so I'm all for, and hear both sides of  
24 the equation here. Clean water not just to  
25 fish, right, swim in it, but at the same time

1 we need a reliable levee structure that's  
2 going to protect our citizens. And so I'm  
3 for the -- and I understand that this has  
4 gone multi year, 15 plus years of review,  
5 thank you all for talking about that so I'll  
6 speak up. That moving the weir from where it  
7 is now south can provide clean reliable  
8 drinking water, we just saw last year that  
9 flooding exacerbated our drinking water. It  
10 does provide the ability for our community to  
11 actually access and engage our river, right.  
12 So I see an opportunity for a restoration and  
13 resiliency project. That to me is huge.

14 I'm going to keep my comments brief I  
15 promise, probably under three minutes.  
16 Forgive my rambling and I'm going to  
17 encourage you all to engage in the final  
18 review process, that we have a once in a  
19 lifetime opportunity to make a generational  
20 impact, right. To boldly move forward with  
21 something that will have up-sized impacts on  
22 our most challenged residents. And it's not  
23 just our choice to do this in my opinion,  
24 it's our duty. I speak on behalf of a lot of  
25 people who live in this area, Rankin, Hinds,

1           our capital city matters. So in times like  
2           this when we have resources, an opportunity  
3           to take action and do good, right, these  
4           times are few and far between. So let's not  
5           waste this opportunity, all right. Let's  
6           embrace the Pearl River, you know. I'd love  
7           to restore it. I'd love to be sure that  
8           Jackson will be resilient. So to that extent  
9           I thank you for your time here, thanks for  
10          everything you guys are doing and I yield the  
11          mic. Thanks.

12                 MR. SHAW: Last opportunities. Any  
13           further feedback? Any closing remarks, Sir,  
14           Ma'am?

15                 COLONEL KLEIN: Ladies and Gentlemen,  
16           again, thanks for coming out this afternoon.  
17           A lot of very good feedback that will work  
18           it's way into the future analysis. Remember,  
19           we're going to do this again at 6:00 so maybe  
20           we'll see some of y'all there.

21  
22                         (Hearing concluded at 3:06 p.m.)

23  
24  
25

## 1 CERTIFICATE OF COURT REPORTER

2 I, Dawn Dillard, Court Reporter and  
3 Notary Public, in and for the State of  
4 Mississippi, hereby certify that the foregoing  
5 contains a true and correct transcript of the  
6 public hearing of USACE Pearl River Flood Risk  
7 Management Project, as taken by me in the  
8 aforementioned matter at the time and place  
9 heretofore stated, as taken by stenotype and later  
10 reduced to typewritten form under my supervision  
11 by means of computer-aided transcription.

12 I further certify that under the  
13 authority vested in me by the State of Mississippi  
14 that the witness was placed under oath by me to  
15 truthfully answer all questions in the matter.

16 I further certify that, to the best of  
17 my knowledge, I am not in the employ of or related  
18 to any party in this matter and have no interest,  
19 monetary or otherwise, in the final outcome of  
20 this matter.

21 Witness my signature and seal this the  
22 4th day of August, 2023.

23

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DAWN DILLARD, #1763  
CCR

24

My Commission Expires:  
25 March 7, 2025