

# In Re: USACE Pearl River Flood Risk Management

Transcript of 6:00 Meeting

July 10, 2024

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Transcript of 6:00 Meeting 7/10/2024

TRANSCRIPT OF THE HEARING OF  
USACE PEARL RIVER FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT  
PROJECT MEETING  
JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI  
DATE: JULY 10, 2024, AT 6:00 P.M.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Vicksburg District  
Public Meeting for the Pearl River Flood Risk  
Management Project

Held at the Mississippi Trade Mart at  
1200 Mississippi Street,  
Jackson, Mississippi  
Beginning at 6:00 p.m.

REPORTED BY:

ELLA J. HARDWICK, CVR-M, CCR #1749

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APPEARANCES:

Members of the Army Corps of Engineers:

- Mr. Thomas R. Shaw
- Ms. Robyn Colosimo
- Colonel Christopher Klein
- Mr. Brandon Davis
- Mr. Keith Turner

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1                   MR. SHAW: Good afternoon, everybody.  
2                   My name is Tom Shaw. I want to welcome  
3                   you to our second public meeting for the  
4                   Draft Environmental Impact Statement for  
5                   the Pearl River Flood Reduction Project.  
6                   I want to thank you all for taking time  
7                   out of your days to attend. And so, we  
8                   will go ahead and get started.

9                   This is the second of four public  
10                  meetings that we're hosting. We had a  
11                  virtual public meeting back on the 27th of  
12                  June, and if you will, this is a follow on  
13                  to that.

14                 At this time, I would like to make  
15                 welcome to our panel over to my left, to  
16                 your right, and Brandon Davis is another  
17                 one of our briefers. He is right back  
18                 here behind the screen a little bit.

19                 But so, with us today, we have Robyn  
20                 Colosimo. She's the Deputy Assistant  
21                 Secretary for the Army for project  
22                 planning and for policy reviews. We have  
23                 Mr. Eric Bush. Mr. Bush is Director of  
24                 Planning and Policy at headquarters,  
25                 United States Army Corps of Engineers, or

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1 we call it USACE.

2 We have Colonel Jeremiah Gipson, the  
3 incoming Vicksburg District Commander. I  
4 mentioned Brandon Davis. And on the end  
5 over there, we have Keith Turner, and he  
6 is representing the Rankin-Hinds Pearl  
7 River Flood Control and Drainage District.

8 And so, let's do a couple of little  
9 quick things here. As you came in, we  
10 would ask that, if you would, to please  
11 sign the attendee list so that we can have  
12 a record of you being here. Everything  
13 that we're doing here is to satisfy our  
14 NEPA requirements.

15 And so, one of the things that we will  
16 do is, the briefing itself, the  
17 PowerPoint, the testimony that's given,  
18 the Q and A session will all become part  
19 of the public record.

20 And so, the other thing that you will  
21 notice behind you as you came in, there  
22 are several study boards, if you will,  
23 that describe various features of the  
24 project and what we have looked into,  
25 investigated, and are trying to bring to

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1 everyone's attention.

2 So, at this time, I will ask that --  
3 there'll be a slide that comes up in just  
4 a minute, and you'll see there's actually  
5 a QR code. So if you have a smartphone,  
6 you can click on the QR code, which will  
7 actually take you to the project website.

8 The project website has all of the  
9 information that we're making public, such  
10 as our press releases, posting of the  
11 Environmental Impact -- the Draft  
12 Environmental Impact Statement itself,  
13 different things like that, so that you  
14 can stay abreast on what's going on with  
15 the project itself.

16 And so, at this time, we're going to  
17 go to our -- if you will, it's a little  
18 opening statement by our -- those of you  
19 that attended the May 2023, we had, like,  
20 a scoping meeting. Colonel Christopher  
21 Klein was our Commander at the time. He  
22 has since received another mission, and  
23 Colonel Gipson is our new Commander, and  
24 this is a message from the two of them.  
25 So if you would, please play it.

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1 (TRANSCRIPTION OF VIDEO.)

2 COL. KLEIN: On the 2nd of June in  
3 2024, the Vicksburg District published a  
4 Draft Environmental Impact Study, a  
5 pivotal step in our journey towards  
6 mitigating the flood risks plaguing the  
7 Pearl River Basin.

8 Publishing the Pearl River Basin DEIS  
9 forms a significant milestone in our  
10 collaborative efforts with the community  
11 and local leaders to deliver a flood risk  
12 management strategy tailored to the unique  
13 needs of the City of Jackson and its  
14 surrounding areas.

15 We're committed to providing a  
16 solution that manages flood risk and, at  
17 the same time, enables a wide range of  
18 additional benefits. It was an honor to  
19 lead the team through the publication of  
20 this important document.

21 My time in the Vicksburg District,  
22 however, has come to an end, as the Army's  
23 transitioned me to another role in a  
24 district serving our war fighters, allies,  
25 and partners in the Middle East. The good

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1 news, though, is that the Army chose a  
2 very capable leader to continue the good  
3 work in the District. I'd like to  
4 introduce Colonel Jeremiah Gipson.

5 Colonel Gipson most recently served as  
6 Deputy of the Mississippi Valley Division  
7 in Vicksburg and has been following the  
8 development of this plan for months.  
9 Colonel Gipson Jeremiah, welcome.

10 COL. JEREMIAH: Thank you, Chris  
11 Klein, and for your dedication and  
12 leadership. To our partners, I assure you  
13 that the mission entrusted to us will  
14 continue with the same vigor and result.  
15 Together, we will navigate the  
16 complexities of the Pearl River Basin with  
17 diligence and foresight.

18 For decades, flooding along the Pearl  
19 River has disrupted lives and livelihoods.  
20 Various proposals have been presented, yet  
21 none garnered definitive support. In July  
22 2022, the Rankin-Hinds Pearl River Flood  
23 and Drainage Control District presented a  
24 locally-preferred plan to the Assistant  
25 Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, the



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1 Honorable Michael Connor. This set the  
2 stage for the Corps' involvement.

3 Secretary Connor tasked us with  
4 bridging data gaps, identifying the  
5 National Economic Development Plan, and  
6 evaluating the merits of that plan.  
7 Through extensive public engagement, we've  
8 gained valuable insights ranging from the  
9 need for recreational areas, concerns  
10 about water quality, and existing concerns  
11 in the lower Pearl River.

12 As we move forward, your engagement is  
13 critical. We invite you to attend our  
14 scheduled public meetings or submit your  
15 thoughts via email or mail. Your voices  
16 will shape the future of flood risk  
17 management in our region.

18 In closing, I urge each of you to  
19 participate. Together, we can forge a  
20 resilient future for those who are  
21 affected by the Pearl River Basin and  
22 those who rely on its many benefits.

23 Thank you.

24 (END OF VIDEO.)

25 MR. SHAW: Okay. And so, I mentioned

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1 a QR code. There's the information that  
2 describes the public meetings that will be  
3 ongoing. The QR code will take you  
4 actually directly to the project website.  
5 So this is the second -- this is the last  
6 meeting that we're having in Jackson.  
7 Tomorrow, we start out at 11:00 in  
8 Slidell, Louisiana, and then over to  
9 Monticello at 6:00 p.m. Let's go to the  
10 slide deck, please. Okay. Next slide.

11 And so, if you would, today's  
12 presentation will be made up kind of three  
13 parts. The first part will be the  
14 presentation itself, the second part will  
15 have an open mic for questions and  
16 answers, and then the third part when we  
17 dismiss from there is our subject matter  
18 experts will be back at the study boards  
19 if you have some detailed questions that  
20 you would like to ask.

21 But, as we begin, I would like to  
22 point out a couple things on the rules of  
23 engagement. When it comes time for the  
24 open mic, first, we would ask that you  
25 please wait to be recognized so that we

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1 can all get a turn to speak, so to speak.  
2 If you could, please limit your statements  
3 to about three minutes, and please don't  
4 interrupt.

5 And then, lastly, your comments can be  
6 generated basically three ways: You can  
7 submit comments by the email address  
8 there; you can submit comments by the U.S.  
9 Postal Service; and then, of course, we  
10 have comment cards that you can fill out  
11 in the back. Okay.

12 Next slide, please. Okay.

13 Ms. Colosimo.

14 MS. COLOSIMO: Hi, everyone. As it's  
15 been said, my name is Robyn Colosimo, and  
16 I'm the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the  
17 Army for Project Planning and Review in  
18 the Assistant Secretary of the Army for  
19 Civil Works office. Very long statement.

20 What you've heard here today is the  
21 Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil  
22 Works, Mr. Michael Connor, who oversees  
23 the Civil Works Program the Corps of  
24 Engineers carries out, was tasked in law  
25 with an ability to implement -- develop

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1 and implement a solution that resolves  
2 longstanding challenges in the flooding  
3 arena.

4 So I'm here on his behalf to help  
5 guide this process, with my partner, Eric  
6 Bush in Corps of Engineers, as well as  
7 Rankin-Hinds and you, most importantly, as  
8 the public. I want to thank all of you  
9 for taking the time today and at other  
10 times, hopefully in the past as well as  
11 the future, to help inform and guide this  
12 process with your knowledge on the ground.

13 Our main goal really is to hear from  
14 you, from our other partners, and  
15 understand what you see and how our  
16 analyses help reflect that or need to be  
17 adjusted and help formulate solutions.

18 Overarchingly, the work reflected in  
19 the draft EIS that was released was guided  
20 by direction from my boss. It seeks to  
21 resolve that decades of repetitive  
22 flooding, but most importantly, it also  
23 looks to leverage the bipartisan  
24 infrastructure law monies that were set  
25 aside to implement a project. It's a huge

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1 deal, these monies. It's a huge  
2 opportunity for Jackson.

3 That work that you've seen encompasses  
4 new modeling. It builds upon prior  
5 studies by the Corps and Rankin-Hinds and  
6 others. And it outlines alternatives that  
7 can be implemented within current  
8 authorities. That's really the challenge  
9 here, is how do we outline and craft a  
10 solution that can be implemented within  
11 existing authorities.

12 It's imperative that you know that  
13 it's important that we dovetail this work,  
14 whatever that work looks like, with all  
15 the other things that are going on in  
16 Jackson, most notably the water and sewage  
17 work. That work is absolutely vital. We  
18 recognize that. And everything we do here  
19 ultimately will help build a better and  
20 newer Jackson by investing together.

21 We look forward to today's input.  
22 Thank you for your time.

23 MR. SHAW: Okay. The next thing that  
24 we have up is we mentioned the meeting  
25 schedule, and so, there are multiple ways

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1           that you can do the public input. We just  
2           ask -- that's the important thing. We do  
3           want to hear your opinions, your views,  
4           and your questions to help craft ways  
5           forward. Okay. Mr. Eric Bush will talk  
6           about our review process.

7           MR. BUSH: Thank you, Tom. Good  
8           evening, everybody. Thank you all for  
9           coming out and taking your time to share  
10          your views and comments and also to learn  
11          more about the alternatives that have been  
12          developed for this project. My name is  
13          Eric Bush. I'm the Chief of Planning at  
14          Corps Headquarters in Washington, DC, and  
15          my job is to provide technical and policy  
16          advice to the Chief of Engineers,  
17          Lieutenant General Scott Spellmon. Also  
18          to Ms. Colosimo and Mr. Conner in the  
19          Secretary's office.

20          As has been stated by Tom, we are in a  
21          decisionmaking process, in a very public  
22          phase of that decisionmaking process. And  
23          so, this is one of several opportunities  
24          to provide comments. And Tom will go over  
25          again, I think, the different ways to

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1 provide your comments into the Corps of  
2 Engineers and Army Civil Works.

3 But what I want to say about that is,  
4 this is the most -- to me, this is the  
5 most important step in our process, where  
6 we put out a draft plan, a draft set of  
7 alternatives, and solicit your feedback on  
8 that. So that process is currently  
9 underway, that public process.

10 It continues -- the public comment  
11 process continues through August 6th. And  
12 what I want to add here is that all of  
13 your comments will be considered and  
14 documented in the final Environmental  
15 Impact Statement, including additional  
16 work or analysis we undertake in response  
17 to comments we receive this evening. So  
18 if you could go to the next slide, please,  
19 Tom. Thank you.

20 You all know this project is about  
21 flood protection, and we use words like  
22 "flood damage reduction" and "flood risk  
23 management," but this is really about, in  
24 part, human misery, right? Associated  
25 with flooding incidents. And so, that's

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1           what we're seeking to ameliorate here and  
2           to alleviate is human suffering associated  
3           with flooding and environmental impacts  
4           associated with flooding events.

5           Through our process, we evaluate a  
6           range of alternatives, and you're going to  
7           see those tonight, in order to identify  
8           the best plan. And some of those  
9           evaluations that we undertake will be  
10          explained here by Brandon later in the  
11          presentation.

12          I also think it's important to  
13          highlight that we do this in partnership  
14          with a local partner, and that's the  
15          Rankin-Hinds Flood Control District,  
16          represented tonight by Mr. Turner to my  
17          left. And they've already done, as you  
18          all know, much better than me, a great  
19          deal of work developing plans for flood  
20          risk reduction, flood damage reduction  
21          here in Greater Jackson, Mississippi.

22          I think it's worth pointing out that  
23          this project is already authorized by  
24          Congress. That's an important decision  
25          point that has already been reached in our



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1 project implementation process.

2 And I also want to point out that the  
3 Administration and Congress have already  
4 set aside federal funds to initiate design  
5 and construction after the required  
6 evaluations are completed and a decision  
7 has been made about which alternative to  
8 implement.

9 So, as Tom pointed out, per direction  
10 we received from Mr. Conner himself, we  
11 are preparing a draft -- we have prepared  
12 a Draft Environmental Impact Statement.  
13 So we're going to talk about what's in  
14 that tonight. That's to inform you, also  
15 agencies who have a role in implementing  
16 the project, and also Mr. Connor and his  
17 staff.

18 And so, I'll wrap up by saying again  
19 that we are in the middle of our 60-day  
20 public comment period, which concludes the  
21 6th of August. 6th of August. And we're  
22 happy to hear your comments and take  
23 questions later. So I'll turn the  
24 presentation over now to Mr. Turner with  
25 Rankin-Hinds. Thank you.

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1                   MR. SHAW: We're going to slightly  
2 interrupt. We are fortunate that Mayor  
3 Lumumba with the City of Jackson is here  
4 with us. Sir, I know you have  
5 restrictions on your time. If you'd like  
6 to make a statement, sir, please come to  
7 the mic, if you would, or come up front.  
8 Yes, sir. Either place.

9                   MAYOR LUMUMBA: I can face people  
10 this way. Good evening. First and  
11 foremost, make sure I don't stand too  
12 close to any of the speakers. Feedback.

13                   First, I would like to thank all of  
14 our guests for being here to deal with  
15 this issue. I ask that you give them a  
16 round of applause. Appreciate it.

17                   It is important and it is reassuring  
18 that we have people showing up to address  
19 the issues that we are seeing in our  
20 community. I think that we have to  
21 reflect on the thing that brings us here  
22 today is not only '79, '83, but 2020 and  
23 2022.

24                   I will share with you that my  
25 perspective at the beginning of hearing

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1           about the One Lake project was a  
2           perspective of, you know, I didn't think  
3           that people were so motivated by dealing  
4           with flood mitigation that some of that  
5           motivation was based on economic benefits.  
6           Right? Or economic development.

7                     And my perspective was that I need to  
8           be assured that there is no downstream  
9           impact. And if there is no downstream  
10          impact, then we want to make sure Jackson  
11          gets its fair share of that process.

12                    Having now dealt with the floods of  
13          2020 and 2022, having now not only met  
14          Congressman Thompson, Senator Wicker,  
15          Supervisor Graham on Westbrook Road in  
16          2020 and in 2022 where I was faced with  
17          residents, faced with residents who were  
18          being displaced out of their homes and  
19          demanding that we find a solution to this,  
20          I think that now brings us to a place  
21          where doing nothing is not an option.  
22          Right?

23                    Not doing anything is no longer an  
24          option because what has been proven is,  
25          for whatever reason, whatever fits your

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1 profile as to why we're receiving more  
2 rain on an annual basis, the facts are  
3 that we're receiving more rain on an  
4 annual basis, and our infrastructure, as  
5 it is situated today, is ill-prepared to  
6 protect people. Right?

7 So that's why I think that we have to  
8 do something. And so, now we go forth  
9 with what the options are on the table.  
10 And I want to be clear that not only some  
11 of the people that I see here, but the  
12 members of the Rankin-Hinds Levee Board,  
13 we've gone to Washington several times in  
14 order to seek solutions for this. Right?

15 You not only have a bipartisan group,  
16 you have a group that stretches from all  
17 of the cities within -- or all of the  
18 elected officials within the Greater  
19 Jackson area. And we've had deep  
20 discussions with the Corps. We've had  
21 deep discussions with a number of agencies  
22 trying to figure out what is the best  
23 solution. And the attorney for the Board  
24 and their team has been working alongside  
25 the Corps in order to identify what is the

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1 best solution.

2 I think that I owe you -- and I'm a  
3 collective genius person. And so, I want  
4 to hear -- unfortunately, I'll be leaving,  
5 but I'll be listening out for the comments  
6 that come from residents.

7 I want to hear what your perspectives  
8 are and move from that, but I want to make  
9 certain that you're armed with all of the  
10 information as you go forward or you  
11 identify what is the best choice.

12 One of the options on the table that I  
13 understand that a number of our community  
14 members have been in support of is option  
15 A, which is a nonstructural solution. And  
16 what that ultimately means is some  
17 residents will ultimately have their home  
18 -- paid to have their homes lifted.  
19 Right? So that they are now taken out of  
20 the flood zone or their homes are  
21 protected from the flooding.

22 And then some residents will be  
23 looking at buyouts because their homes are  
24 too -- lifting them would not be a  
25 sufficient solution. And so, those are

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1 buyouts.

2 So given a greater deal of  
3 understanding of how that process works,  
4 option A actually concerns me. Let me  
5 tell you why option A concerns me. It  
6 concerns me because if you have the  
7 details, it somewhat is presented as a  
8 privileged position. That's not to be  
9 disparaging of anyone who supports that  
10 option. But there are other -- there's  
11 other information that they don't have.  
12 Right? Or that you're not being told.

13 One of those things is that if you own  
14 your home and you're one of the homes that  
15 needs to be lifted, that that is a  
16 reimbursable expenditure that you have to  
17 foot the bill on the front end. And to  
18 lift your home, that -- you know, in some  
19 regards, that can cost up to \$200,000 that  
20 you have to have available to you in order  
21 to lift your home up, which will later be  
22 reimbursed to you once you do. That's for  
23 those individuals that own their homes.

24 The other piece of information that I  
25 have is that our planning and development

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1 department did the research, and what we  
2 found out, which is unfortunate, is that  
3 the majority of our residents in Jackson  
4 today are renters, not owners. And  
5 there's a good number of people who live  
6 on Westbrook Road who live in that area  
7 who don't actually own their homes.

8 And so, if they are provided the  
9 answer of a buyout, then it doesn't  
10 support them. What it ultimately supports  
11 is the person who owns that home. Right?  
12 Who may or may not live in the area, who  
13 reaps the benefit of the buyout. And then  
14 I have to be concerned for those people  
15 who are renters who are now moved from one  
16 state of misery to the next, where you're  
17 being displaced right now because of  
18 flooding, and you can ultimately -- if you  
19 fall in that category that I mentioned,  
20 you could ultimately be displaced because  
21 you don't own your home. And maybe you've  
22 lived there for 20, 30 years, and now you  
23 have to figure out where you're going.

24 So I'm not objectionable to people who  
25 are looking at the least-environmentally

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1           invasive solution. I don't fault you  
2           there, and, you know, given the absence of  
3           other circumstances, I might be aligned.  
4           But I think we need to answer people's  
5           questions, given that information. What  
6           happens if I don't have \$200,000 to lift  
7           my home? What happens if I'm a renter and  
8           I lived in this community and my children  
9           were raised in this community and this is  
10          the neighborhood that I made my -- I  
11          raised my family in and I don't get the  
12          benefit of what a buyout looks like  
13          because I am a renter? Right?

14                 And when we talk about kind of the  
15          more progressive lens of being  
16          environmentally-resilient and  
17          environmental justice, that's not  
18          environmental justice. You can't simply  
19          talk about not interfering with the  
20          environment and not tell people the  
21          impacts to them and their pocketbooks and  
22          how it will affect them because  
23          environmental justice is not only looking  
24          at the environment; it's looking at the  
25          economic impacts and how it impacts



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1 people, how people and the environment  
2 coincide together.

3 And so, I thought that that was an  
4 important thing to add to the discussion.  
5 I will also tell you why now Alternative D  
6 is one that I've been looking at, not only  
7 because it avoids the issues that I just  
8 spoke about, but also we have another  
9 issue that was mentioned in the  
10 introduction, and that is dealing with the  
11 water insecurity that we have in the City  
12 of Jackson.

13 The reason that we have water  
14 insecurity in the City of Jackson is not  
15 only because we have 50 percent loss in  
16 our pipes. Right? But in addition to  
17 that, we have an inefficient water  
18 treatment facility.

19 We have the only water treatment  
20 facility in the country that depends on a  
21 combination of both conventional methods  
22 of treating water and membrane methods of  
23 treating water. And that has proven not  
24 to be the most effective way of treating  
25 water. We all know this.

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1                   And so, Congressman Thompson was able  
2                   to get a BRIC grant, which is a  
3                   multi-million dollar grant, in order to do  
4                   the engineering assessment for a new water  
5                   treatment facility. The problem with  
6                   where our water treatment facility is  
7                   currently housed is that there is not  
8                   enough space where JH -- not Fewell --  
9                   O.B. Curtis is presently, or J.H. Fewell,  
10                  right, in order to create a new water  
11                  treatment facility.

12                  And so, one of the places that was  
13                  being observed for a new water treatment  
14                  facility is where the police -- the  
15                  Jackson Police Department shooting range  
16                  is, which has access and connection to the  
17                  river. But in order to use that as a  
18                  new -- a place for a new water treatment  
19                  facility, there would have to be a  
20                  consistent flow of water that they -- an  
21                  intake valve could take the water from in  
22                  order to produce -- in order to have the  
23                  water come in to be treated.

24                  You know, I'm just trying to introduce  
25                  into the conversation some elements of the

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1 discussion that have not been included in  
2 the conversation thus far. I'm not here  
3 to be objectionable or speak negatively of  
4 someone who agrees with option A. Right?  
5 But I am saying that if we're going to  
6 talk about option A, we got to talk about  
7 the other elements that go along with  
8 option A: You needing to foot the bill on  
9 the front end; people who don't own their  
10 homes and will be displaced; the  
11 erosion -- the further erosion of a tax  
12 space. In either one of those scenarios,  
13 if people simply move out of those homes,  
14 where do they go?

15 So I just wanted to include that in  
16 the conversation. Unfortunately, I'm  
17 double-booked today. I'm going to sit  
18 around as long as I can, but I will have  
19 to leave before the conclusion of this  
20 community meeting. Thank you.

21 MR. SHAW: Thank you, sir. All  
22 right. So next on the agenda would be  
23 Keith Turner.

24 MR. TURNER: Thank you, Tom. So  
25 we're going to give a little history.

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1 Many of you in this room probably are very  
2 familiar with the past floods, as the  
3 Mayor mentioned. But Jackson has been  
4 flooding from the origination when it was  
5 first placed here because the Pearl River  
6 is a very -- is a very flooding, flashy  
7 river. Can y'all hear me okay? All  
8 right. How about this? I'll hold this  
9 one. Is this better?

10 Okay. So Jackson has had flooding  
11 from the origination when it was first  
12 placed in this area. And finally in  
13 the -- through the '50s and '60s, they had  
14 enough of it, and they convinced the Corps  
15 of Engineers to come in and construct the  
16 levees after the '61 flood. So we -- in  
17 the mid-'60s, we had the levees  
18 constructed, which are still there, pump  
19 stations, and the river was channelized.

20 Many of you may not be aware of that,  
21 but most of that river as it passes right  
22 by the downtown sections from Lakeland  
23 south is a channelized river. It's been  
24 straightened, and it's not the natural  
25 river course.

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1           So even with that construction of the  
2           levees in the '60s, as the Mayor  
3           mentioned, the 1979 flood was a flood of  
4           record. It was the worst flood we've had  
5           thus far. This is a photograph of 1979,  
6           and you can see at the top here, the  
7           levees have been overtopped. This is  
8           Herrin-Gear Chevrolet under water. And  
9           the room you're in right now -- the room  
10          you're in right now would be under water.  
11          You'd have many feet of water in this room  
12          as we sit today.

13           Then, again, in '83, you had another  
14          event. It wasn't quite as bad, but almost  
15          as bad. And I forgot to mention, you  
16          can't tell from this photograph in '79,  
17          I-55 was under water, just north of here  
18          at Fortification, and Lakeland Drive was  
19          under water. Significant paralyzation of  
20          our community.

21           Again, in '83, we had almost as bad a  
22          flood, and then, of course, we mentioned  
23          2020. 2020 needs to be noted, also. At  
24          the time, the Ross Barnett Reservoir,  
25          which is not a flood control structure,

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1           was extremely low at its water level.  
2           They had lowered it down abnormally low to  
3           try to kill off an invasive plant species  
4           at the time. Fortunately, that was  
5           happening at the same time because it gave  
6           them flood storage capacity.

7                     And so, the flood of 2020, although it  
8           was the third flood of record, almost as  
9           bad as '83 and '79, it would have been  
10          much, much worse if it wasn't for that  
11          fact that the Ross Barnett was lowered  
12          down.

13                    So, as I mentioned, in 1960s, the  
14          levees were constructed, the flood of '79;  
15          and since '79, the community leaders in  
16          Jackson have been trying to find a  
17          solution. They have tried all different  
18          alternatives. Some of you may recall the  
19          term "Shoccoe dry dam," which is a dam  
20          that was proposed north of the Ross  
21          Barnett Reservoir. That was shot down  
22          because of the community. Folks up there  
23          did not want to get their property flooded  
24          during -- at the time, it was a  
25          60,000-acre dry dam structure.

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1                   And then, of course, they looked at  
2                   levees again. Levees from South Jackson  
3                   all the way up to the reservoir were  
4                   considered in the '90s, and that was shot  
5                   down by folks south of Jackson because  
6                   they were concerned about the impacts that  
7                   the levees would cause south.

8                   At one point, the groups that were  
9                   involved kind of passed the baton over to  
10                  Rankin-Hinds Flood Control District, and  
11                  we picked up and started trying to find a  
12                  solution as well.

13                  In the 2027 report, which was the  
14                  Lefleur's lakes plan, was really not a  
15                  feasible concept for various reasons,  
16                  although it performed very well. There  
17                  was other obstacles. That in 2012,  
18                  Rankin-Hinds entered into an agreement  
19                  with the Corps to prepare our own  
20                  Environmental Impact Statement and look at  
21                  all the different alternatives under a  
22                  feasibility study.

23                  That was completed finally in 2018 as  
24                  a draft. Some of you may have been to  
25                  those meetings we held in the Jackson

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1 area, down on the coast, and so forth.  
2 Ultimately, a final version of that was  
3 modified and submitted to the Corps in  
4 2022. And that brings us to this current  
5 effort where the Corps has been involved,  
6 taking our study and conducting their own  
7 analysis and engineering work, as well as  
8 environmental efforts.

9 One of the things that has come up in  
10 this meeting this afternoon and the prior  
11 meetings during last year was folks are  
12 concerned about the tributary flooding.  
13 Tributary flooding is obviously a concern  
14 in Jackson. We have some very flashy  
15 creeks, and that meaning that a little bit  
16 of rain event can create a quick flood, a  
17 flash flood in a neighborhood unrelated to  
18 Pearl River flooding. And that's  
19 something that folks need to understand;  
20 it's unrelated to that.

21 And there is a fair amount of money  
22 being spent right now. As you can see,  
23 Hinds County has six projects spending \$8  
24 million. Those are various projects  
25 within the tributaries in the Jackson



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1 area, different sections that they're  
2 cleaning out, widening, whatever  
3 structures that they need to improve.

4 Rankin County has numerous projects,  
5 almost \$70 million worth of work. And all  
6 of these tributaries we're talking about  
7 here drain into the Jackson area of the  
8 Pearl River. Madison County has some, and  
9 that, of course, drains down, but not all  
10 of Madison County comes down this far.  
11 But you can see that the one shown here  
12 does drain into the Pearl.

13 And then the City of Jackson is also  
14 in an effort that the Mayor is working on  
15 to bring additional millions of dollars  
16 together to conduct their own tributary  
17 work over the next several years. And  
18 we'll have more of that information in the  
19 coming weeks on exactly what specific  
20 projects will be associated with that  
21 work.

22 So the goal, of course, is to get  
23 benefits for the community. WRDA, which  
24 is the Water Resources Development Act of  
25 2007, 3104, is what's given us our

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1 authority to do all this work. As I  
2 mentioned, that allows the Flood Control  
3 District to proceed, and it also enables  
4 the Corps to do their work.

5 The problems we deal with, of course,  
6 is that the flooding of Jackson really  
7 occurs from the rainfall that's north of  
8 the reservoir. It comes into the  
9 reservoir, the reservoir has to then open  
10 up, and it's limited on what it can do as  
11 flood control, as I mentioned.

12 And if you look on a map, you'll see  
13 that we have a wide floodplain north of  
14 downtown Jackson. It pinches in tight,  
15 and then it widens back up again, and that  
16 pinched-in part is what's causing our  
17 flooding. It doesn't have the ability to  
18 flow through the area.

19 So we had to look at a lot of  
20 different alternatives. We actually went  
21 back. When we conducted our preliminary  
22 work, we looked at over 60 different  
23 alternatives.

24 But the other problem we have, of  
25 course, is that this flooding threatens

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1           our infrastructure. As I mentioned  
2           already, the '79 flood put I-55 and  
3           Lakeland Drive under water. It surrounded  
4           the hospitals in Flowood. It flooded out  
5           the wastewater treatment plant on Savannah  
6           Street, which, as you can imagine, raw  
7           sewage was flowing into the Pearl River  
8           back then for over nine months, going down  
9           to the south. And, of course, the  
10          transportation, as I've already mentioned.

11                 The other important part as part of  
12           this study to look at is we have a lot of  
13           environmental justice communities that are  
14           impacted first. The ones in north and  
15           south of downtown, those are the ones that  
16           flood first.

17                 In 2020 and 2022, those folks are the  
18           ones that took on water first, and those  
19           are, you know, low income, minority  
20           neighborhoods that don't have the ability  
21           to just pack up and move away easily. So  
22           those folks have to be part of the  
23           equation as we go through this process.  
24           I'm going to turn this over back to the  
25           Corps.

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1 MR. SHAW: All right. I may do a  
2 better job having y'all hear me if I hold  
3 the mic instead of having it on the stand.

4 So, as we mentioned earlier,  
5 Section 3104 is the driving force, if you  
6 will, for us. And what we were tasked by  
7 Mr. Connor, by the Assistant Secretary of  
8 the Army, that he was authorized to  
9 construct the National Economic  
10 Development Plan, the Locally-Preferred  
11 Plan, the LPP, or some combination  
12 thereof.

13 The reason I mentioned the "some  
14 combination thereof," that's what we  
15 commonly call the CTO, the combination  
16 thereof. So you'll hear that term  
17 throughout the evening.

18 As was mentioned earlier, we have been  
19 working in very close collaboration with  
20 the Rankin-Hinds team looking at not only  
21 their Locally-Preferred Plan, Alternate C,  
22 but looking and investigating those areas  
23 where we could possibly gain some  
24 reductions in impacts that are associated  
25 with the project. And so, that led us to

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1 look at certain things.

2 And so, we mentioned the NED plan. We  
3 were to compare the level of flood risk  
4 protection of the various alternates and  
5 then assess the environmental  
6 acceptability and the technical  
7 constructability or feasibility.

8 Okay. This is kind of important in  
9 that it talks about a project study area,  
10 and we've really got three geometric  
11 shapes, if you will, three shapes on here  
12 that represent three different things.

13 There is a yellow circle that runs in  
14 this area that we commonly call the study  
15 area, and that was what was defined in the  
16 authorization, which includes Rankin and  
17 Hinds Counties, the municipalities of  
18 Jackson, Flowood, Pearl, and Richland, and  
19 it includes the tributaries that --  
20 several of the tributaries mentioned;  
21 Caney, Eubanks, Hanging Moss, Hog Lynch,  
22 Prairie Branch, Purple, Richland, and Town  
23 Creek.

24 The large oval that is right there, it  
25 constitutes our project area. That's the

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1 area where the focus is, in trying to  
2 obtain some flood benefits, if you will.  
3 And that basically occurs from just south  
4 of Byram all the way up to the reservoir.

5 And then, so the last area is, if you  
6 will, that green rectangle that kind of  
7 does this. That is what we call the  
8 project influence area, and that's the  
9 area we were tasked to also look and see  
10 if there were any downstream impacts.

11 And so, that, it comes about because  
12 of any changes in hydrology, if you will,  
13 in how the water flows. Okay. And so,  
14 one of the things that we talk about are  
15 alternatives. The Rankin-Hinds team put  
16 together three alternatives.

17 Alternate A was the original  
18 nonstructural plan, Alternate B was the  
19 levee's plan from the 2007 Corps report,  
20 and then Alternate C is the  
21 Locally-Preferred plan that we mentioned  
22 earlier. I would note that Alternates A  
23 and B were removed from further  
24 consideration.

25 One of the reasons we did so is

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1           because Alternative A1 was crafted. It's  
2           a modified nonstructural plan. We'll talk  
3           about that shortly. And then we mentioned  
4           the combination thereof. We generated two  
5           combination thereof plans. Alternate D,  
6           which looks to be the likely National  
7           Economic Development Plan, and then --  
8           which includes a new weir, and then  
9           Alternate E is that combination thereof  
10          without the weir.

11                 And so, we talked about Alternate A1,  
12          which is the modified nonstructural plan,  
13          if you will. So it's evaluated at the  
14          25-year flood event. And of that, once  
15          that area is determined, any structures  
16          that fall within that, if they're  
17          residential, then one of the choices is to  
18          raise them to the 100-year event.

19                 If it's nonresidential, floodproofing  
20          is an option there. And On the study  
21          boards, there's different types of  
22          floodproofing so you can get an idea of  
23          what that would constitute. And then  
24          there's a possibility of voluntary  
25          property acquisition. One caveat there is

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1           that any properties that would be acquired  
2           would then basically become green space.  
3           That's one of the requirements.

4           And so, Alternate A1 identified 143  
5           structures that would be impacted; and of  
6           those 81 were residential, with the 62  
7           being nonresidential.

8           Okay. And I did want to mention one  
9           last thing. With respect to the modeling  
10          that's done for what we call H&H,  
11          hydrology and hydraulic modeling, that the  
12          water that comes down the tribs is in the  
13          models. We did consider it. It is in  
14          there. And so, that study area does  
15          include the tribs.

16          Alternate C was the Locally-Preferred  
17          Plan. That's the plan that was in the  
18          draft EIS submitted by the Rankin-Hinds  
19          folks and includes the items that you can  
20          see there. One of the things that was  
21          done is a gain in the efficiency of moving  
22          water, and that's done by excavation and  
23          basically cleaning that hydraulic  
24          conveyance, in other words, how it moves  
25          water. And that was done through some



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1 excavation of the overbank areas.

2 It also included demolition of the  
3 existing weir and levee around the  
4 Fewell -- excuse me, around the Savannah  
5 Street water treatment plant. So that was  
6 an upgrade of a nonfederal levee, and then  
7 there was some interior drainage  
8 requirements that had to be met because of  
9 the permanent pool that would be there  
10 because of Alternate C.

11 Okay. So the CTO, the combination  
12 thereof, Alternate D, includes the weir;  
13 and then Alternate E is without a weir.  
14 So that's basically what it looks like  
15 there. The location of the weir is just  
16 downstream of I-20, I believe. I will  
17 show that in just a minute.

18 Okay. So one of the features that  
19 comes with that Alternate D is this  
20 addition of a levee around the Canton Club  
21 area. We had some pretty good suggestions  
22 from one of the earlier meetings is that  
23 we do need to look further into what other  
24 EJ communities may have a need for a levee  
25 as well. So that's something I'm sure

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1 we'll take back and will feed the process.

2 An important thing that the CTO does  
3 is, because we move that weir upstream a  
4 significant amount is that we actually  
5 reduce the amount of excavation that  
6 actually has to be undertaken. So that  
7 saves money. It reduces mitigation costs  
8 because it reduces the impacts there.

9 And the other thing is that there's an  
10 avoidance, if you will, of known HCRW  
11 areas, which is a good thing. And so, the  
12 constructed weir would also be 2 feet  
13 lower than that that was shown in the  
14 Locally-Preferred Plan. So that would be  
15 at elevation 256.

16 And it would include a low-flow gate  
17 as well as a fish ladder for environmental  
18 purposes, and it would include several  
19 features of that A1 structural --  
20 nonstructural plan.

21 Okay. As I mentioned, Alternate E is  
22 basically the same. It just does not  
23 include that new weir.

24 So an important thing from the graph  
25 that's over here on the right-hand side of

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1 the page, it's describing water surface  
2 elevations. And what you're seeing is  
3 this is the upstream area, and you go  
4 downstream to the left.

5 And one of the key features here is  
6 that this is flood damage reduction of  
7 about 5 feet between -- this is fairly  
8 close to the Ross Barnett Dam, and you  
9 come downstream, and right there is our  
10 weir right there.

11 And just down below that, there's a  
12 crossover line where we were talking about  
13 of avoiding an HTR -- a known HCRW site.  
14 There's a Gallatin Street landfill there.  
15 And so, this area is all flood damage  
16 benefits, if you will. And we do go over,  
17 and there's a slight bit of inducement  
18 that occurs downstream. But that's  
19 totally resolved about 5 miles north of  
20 Monticello.

21 And it's a max of 6 inches from the  
22 100-year event as compared to the  
23 no-project or no-action scenario. I would  
24 mention here that we recognize that some  
25 sedimentation modeling needs to be done,

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1 and that will happen in subsequent phases.

2 And so, everything is pretty much  
3 resolved down close to Byram here. Okay.  
4 Now it's Brandon's turn to do the  
5 mitigation.

6 MR. DAVIS: Thank you, Tom. I speak  
7 pretty loudly, so I think I can put this  
8 back on here. See if that'll hold.

9 Well, good afternoon. I'm Brandon  
10 Davis. I'm your planning lead for the  
11 Vicksburg District and very honored to be  
12 here tonight with you guys. A great  
13 crowd. There's a lot of places you could  
14 be. So taking time out of your schedule  
15 to be with us, we really appreciate that.

16 A couple of things I want to set on  
17 the table before we get started is that I  
18 don't have the answers to everything. I'm  
19 just going to be upfront and honest with  
20 you on that. But I do have an outstanding  
21 group of subject matter experts in the  
22 back of the room that have boards that can  
23 answer your questions.

24 So I strongly encourage you tonight,  
25 before you leave, if you have a question

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1           about a technical side of -- technical  
2           side of this, talk with someone. I'm  
3           going to be standing off to the side. My  
4           Chief's around here. We'll be glad to  
5           talk with you to answer any questions that  
6           you have.

7           One of the great things -- and these  
8           next few slides will be talking about the  
9           National Environmental Policy Act. Going  
10          forward, you're going to hear me calling  
11          that NEPA.

12          One of the great things about NEPA is  
13          what it requires us to do as a federal  
14          agency is that we have to be open and  
15          transparent with you on what we are doing.  
16          If we're spending federal dollars, we have  
17          to write environmental documents, and we  
18          have to have an opportunity for the public  
19          to comment and understand what's going on.  
20          That's what we're doing here tonight.  
21          That's what we're doing with this CIS.

22          A couple things I want to lay out  
23          about the CIS. Again, I'm open just to  
24          set the table for that. A lot of people  
25          are concerned that the tributaries and

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1           those areas hadn't been included in that  
2           document. Well, the reason they're not is  
3           because that work is already being taken  
4           care of by another group, NRCS. I believe  
5           it's NRCS. If I said that wrong, Keith,  
6           we'll get that corrected.

7                     But I do know there is involvement.  
8           Keith talked about the money that's being  
9           spent. I also know that these groups are  
10          going through the regulatory process at  
11          the Vicksburg District to get the permits  
12          required to start working on that.

13                    So just want to set the table to let  
14          you know that hasn't been forgotten, and  
15          we have -- had not, from our scoping  
16          meetings, we haven't ignored anyone. So  
17          that might be a lot of concerns that you  
18          may have, but that's not in the document.  
19          So just want to set the table on that  
20          again.

21                    But one of the great things about this  
22          is that we are able to go over in the CIS  
23          and share with you our understandings of  
24          the impacts and also the benefits of the  
25          various resources and discussion and

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1 discuss the mitigation plan.

2 Too many times on the EIS's we talk  
3 about all -- just the bad stuff. There's  
4 a lot of benefits with these various  
5 projects that we can talk about as well.  
6 You know, if we got to talk about  
7 mitigation, we can talk about mitigation.

8 Now, obviously, the preferred method  
9 is to avoid and minimize, but there are  
10 cases where we have to mitigate. And when  
11 we do that, we go through the proper steps  
12 to do that.

13 What I want you to notice on this  
14 slide here, on this first slide, is that  
15 you see this table here, you have  
16 Alternative C, Alternative CTO, the D and  
17 E. Right now, we're just going to talk  
18 about the first two here, and it's the  
19 acres impacted.

20 And you're not going to notice the A1,  
21 the nonstructural, because we don't expect  
22 to have any impacts to the environment for  
23 that alternative. So you're not going to  
24 see that in this discussion here.

25 What I want you to notice is on

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1           Alternative C, if you look at the various  
2           types of habitats here, you have open  
3           water, bottomland hardwood. You see the  
4           impacts that you have. You see an  
5           Alternative C.

6                     Just for example, let's look at the  
7           open water one here, 200 acres with  
8           Alternative C. If you look at the  
9           combined thereof, the CTO that we're going  
10          to talk a lot about tonight, you see  
11          how -- you see the reductions there, and  
12          you see how that goes throughout the  
13          various habitat types.

14                    Also, you're going to see over here  
15          what we call an AAHU. That is -- I'm  
16          going to make sure that I have my notes  
17          that I don't -- because I always mess that  
18          up. That is an average annual habitat  
19          unit. And what that represents is the  
20          function and the values of a particular  
21          habitat.

22                    So, for example, the habitat of open  
23          water is going to be different than what  
24          the habitat of swamper forested uplands  
25          would be. Where we mitigate for these



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1 lost functions, this is not a one 1-to-1  
2 as far as acres-to-acres. There's more  
3 value to maybe a bottomland hardwood or a  
4 Tupelo swamp than what you would see with  
5 open water. So that's something I wanted  
6 to point out to you.

7 Our terrestrial impacts, they were  
8 determined by running a certified habitat  
9 evaluation process model. Some of you may  
10 know that as HEP, H-E-P. This was  
11 completed by our nonfederal sponsor,  
12 Rankin-Hinds, and their contractor did a  
13 great job on that, and that was presented  
14 in the EIS.

15 Something I want to point out to you  
16 guys is that we are currently wrapping up  
17 the mitigation plan, and we would have  
18 that completed prior to construction  
19 activities. The reason being is there's  
20 still some uncertainty on what alternative  
21 would be selected.

22 So you can't wrap up and sign any type  
23 of record of decision without knowing  
24 where are we going and is there going to  
25 be any additional analysis that we need to

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1 do on that. So just wanted to set the  
2 table on that if you had any questions.

3 All right. Got it right. Next slide  
4 is the threatened and endangered species.  
5 So in this table here, there are eight  
6 species of concern in the study era.  
7 Again, it should be noted that the  
8 nonstructural A1, you're not going to see  
9 that up there. We're not expecting any  
10 type of impacts to our -- any listed  
11 species here.

12 Our team did a great job of  
13 collaborating with U.S. Fish and Wildlife  
14 when they were coming up with  
15 determinations. The determinations are  
16 what you're going to see here, the LAA and  
17 the NLAA. We'll talk about that just in a  
18 second. But I want you to know, this just  
19 wasn't something we as lead agencies  
20 decided, hey, this is the determination.  
21 We were in close collaboration with our  
22 other federal partners on that. Also  
23 working with our other stakeholders to  
24 come up with those determinations.

25 The LAA is likely to adversely affect

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1 but not likely to jeopardize and continua  
2 the existence of. So what does that mean?  
3 Temporary impact. We're not going to --  
4 there could be some effects on the front  
5 end, but we expect after a temporary  
6 impacts we get back to more of a natural  
7 state.

8 And then NLAA is not likely to  
9 adversely affect. So an example on that,  
10 the tricolored bat, we weren't expecting  
11 that to be affected by any of the  
12 alternatives that you have up there. And  
13 also the northern long-eared bat, we're  
14 not expecting to be impacting any type of  
15 habitat that would be involved with them.

16 Now, for some reason, if we go out and  
17 we do our surveys and we find that they  
18 are roosting in there, you can wait and  
19 mitigate for that by harvesting at various  
20 times when they are not roosting in those  
21 trees. So there are methods to working  
22 past that if they were to -- if that was  
23 to become a problem.

24 What I want you to notice on the  
25 Alternative C and D, the CTO with weir,

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1           they have the same impacts. Okay? And  
2           the reason being is that there is the  
3           likeliness or the possibility of  
4           eliminating some riverine habitat and some  
5           of the channelization that would be done  
6           with that.

7                     But one thing we need to do, we need  
8           to do a velocity analysis. We did one for  
9           Alternative C. But we need to do a  
10          velocity analysis on the CTO to understand  
11          the impacts of the riverine system.

12                    And that's very important for, like,  
13          the Gulf sturgeon, the ringed sawback  
14          turtle, you know, the Pearl mat turtle,  
15          because we need to understand a better  
16          understanding of what's going on with that  
17          riverine system from a temporary basis.

18                    Alternative E, the CTO without weir,  
19          you do see some slightly different impacts  
20          to that river channel, but you would still  
21          see some. For example, if we look over  
22          here, the ring sawback turtle, you know,  
23          we're still showing some of the LAA,  
24          likely to adversely impact.

25                    Even though we don't have a weir

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1           there, there's going to be some work to  
2           the bank and the turtles like using the  
3           bank. So there could be some temporary  
4           effects to those turtles, but we expect it  
5           to return back to a normal habitat at some  
6           point.

7           Our team did a great job with  
8           preparing a biological assessment. Again,  
9           we've been working very closely with Fish  
10          and Wildlife on this effort. That's been  
11          submitted to Fish and Wildlife with the  
12          determinations that we have that's already  
13          been submitted to them. And we're  
14          continuing to do consultation. And all  
15          the consultations are anticipated to be  
16          completed by the release of the final EIS.

17          So cultural resources. Cultural  
18          resources is very broad. There's a very  
19          wide array of what the definition of that  
20          is. But all of our alternatives have the  
21          potential to affect cultural resources  
22          because it's everything. You know, there  
23          could be something buried under the ground  
24          here that we don't know about, and, you  
25          know, we're -- the highways, when they're

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1 building highways, they find something and  
2 various things like that.

3 So cultural resources could be from  
4 Native American artifacts, historical  
5 artifacts, or -- not dinosaurs. Not with  
6 dinosaurs. I know we're on a volcano  
7 right here, if y'all didn't know that.  
8 But there's a lot of various cultural  
9 resources that could be affected by this.

10 But we're doing a great job, and our  
11 team is, of currently negotiating a  
12 programmatic agreement with the State  
13 Historic Preservation Office, tribal  
14 nations, and also other stakeholders.

15 So what is a -- what is a PA? And  
16 what it is, it's a plan that lays out what  
17 we're going to do to address any impacts  
18 once we know what the alternative is going  
19 to be. Like I said, our team is having  
20 regular consultation meetings. They  
21 actually had one this morning. They're  
22 working really close to an agreement, and  
23 we're expected to have that PA signed and  
24 ready to -- a plan of action by the time  
25 the record of decision has been signed on

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1 this EIS -- draft EIS. Excuse me.

2 Tribal resources. That is another  
3 requirement under NEPA where we are -- we  
4 have to be involved. It's a policy with  
5 the federal government that consults with  
6 all federally-recognized tribal nations  
7 and governments. Currently, there are no  
8 tribal lands or rights that are -- that  
9 have been identified in this area, but  
10 we're continuing to have consultation with  
11 some tribes because there is potential to  
12 identify some protected tribal resources.  
13 So we continue to work with tribal nations  
14 in that area.

15 So environmental justice, Mr. Mayor,  
16 when he was here, he took a lot of my  
17 thunder that I was going to talk about on  
18 environmental justice, but a very good  
19 overview of that. So trying to explain  
20 what environmental justice is for folks  
21 that may not know, and really what it is,  
22 it means the just -- just treatment and  
23 meaningful involvement of all people,  
24 regardless of income, race, origin, and  
25 disability.

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1           Really want to make sure everyone's  
2           involved. We don't want to go out here  
3           and what you would think is, okay, this is  
4           cheap land that we could acquire easily  
5           and push someone out of the way. That's  
6           not the way we want to operate and the way  
7           we want to handle the problems that we are  
8           trying to solve here with the flood  
9           control issue. We want to make sure  
10          everyone's involved and has a voice.

11          And that is the one thing that the  
12          Obama administration started, and then, of  
13          course, the Biden administration has been  
14          very good at pushing this environmental  
15          justice because it's a very important  
16          issue.

17          For the no-action in the 100-year  
18          floodplain, there were less than 800  
19          structures in the EJ area of concern. You  
20          can see it was 773, that number there. In  
21          the nonstructural plan, Alternative A,  
22          there were 143 structures in the EJ area  
23          of concern.

24          Now, one thing that I do want to point  
25          out that some people may say -- it's kind



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1 of a -- maybe an elephant in the room --  
2 look down at this bullet right here;  
3 structure inducement, flooding inducement.  
4 I want to be really clear about that, and  
5 I probably should have structured this  
6 sentence a little bit differently.

7 You're seeing down there for  
8 Alternative C, 83, and then for the CTO,  
9 52. That's not 52 new structures that's  
10 going to have inducements on it. That's  
11 52 structures that are already getting wet  
12 somehow, some way.

13 Now, Tommy talked about it a little  
14 bit earlier. In the CTO alternative,  
15 there's going to be nonstructural measures  
16 that we would have to look at for this  
17 issue if the CTO was selected. And that's  
18 one thing, anytime that -- you know, and  
19 there could be some errors in the model,  
20 and tightening up the models that we'd  
21 need to do.

22 And so, anytime that we saw any type  
23 of inducements, we would have to go  
24 through nonstructural measures to make  
25 sure we're taking care of what we need to

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1 take care of. But I wanted to point that  
2 out. That's not 52 new structures.  
3 That's 52 structures that are already  
4 getting wet right now.

5 And something very important is, like  
6 I said, we want to make sure that we are  
7 working closely with our community on  
8 this. So we're having more outreach, EJ  
9 outreach meetings, two or three I believe  
10 that are planned over the next couple of  
11 months. We want to connect with you guys  
12 and connect with the communities to make  
13 sure that you have the opportunity to ask  
14 the questions about this project.

15 All right. Next slide is  
16 recreation -- not quite yet, Tom. I'm  
17 almost done.

18 So the next slide on recreation, talk  
19 about recreation. So obviously, for the  
20 no-action, you see that there's no  
21 benefits on the water base or the  
22 shoreline, and there's no impacts to  
23 Lefleur State Park. Same with A1, the  
24 nonstructural plan, you don't see any type  
25 of a benefit for A1 for the nonstructural.

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1           But you do see benefits, obviously,  
2           for C, which was the lake project or the  
3           river widening project, and then the CTO,  
4           which you have with and without weir. But  
5           the CTO, you see there are some benefits  
6           there.

7           About \$5 million a year in  
8           recreational benefits is what's been  
9           estimated, and the analysis that we've  
10          done -- we'll talk about that here  
11          momentarily with -- when we get into our  
12          economics. But, you know, you do see some  
13          impacts that are going to be Lefleur State  
14          Park. And I know that's an area of  
15          concern for a lot of people. That's a  
16          beautiful location. I actually had a  
17          chance to take Mr. Bush and Ms. Colosimo  
18          out there today to show them around. It's  
19          a beautiful area.

20          Some of the areas that currently --  
21          that we would see if alternative CTO was  
22          selected, some of the areas where there  
23          are impacts or areas that are currently  
24          flooding -- and I know I'm trying to sound  
25          caustic when I say that, but these are

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1 areas that really aren't accessible. And  
2 what we would try to do, if there was any  
3 damages from a CTO, we'd have to have some  
4 type of mitigation in play. What does  
5 that look like? It could be additional  
6 walkways, paths, something that we would  
7 have to do to try to mitigate for that  
8 land that was lost because of the project.

9 And like I said, any -- the key  
10 takeaway from here is that any potential  
11 impacts identified in Lefleur, we'd have  
12 to coordinate with the State Park Service  
13 to make sure that we're doing what we need  
14 to do. The goal, obviously, we want to  
15 avoid and minimize that, but we will  
16 mitigate if we have to if that alternative  
17 was selected.

18 So the economics -- and this is one I  
19 wanted to go over with you guys, not in  
20 too much detail. I know I've been up here  
21 a while. So the economics, I want to make  
22 it really clear and kind of lay the table  
23 on this one. We were directed by the  
24 ASA's office and our guidance, we were to  
25 analyze an array of alternatives and

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1 determine an NED plan. We'll talk a  
2 little bit about what that is.

3 But we're not here tonight to make a  
4 decision. I'm not here to tell you that  
5 this is the preferred alternative, this is  
6 NED. I'm here to show what was determined  
7 for Secretary Connor to look at to  
8 determine what he wants to do. We feel  
9 like with the information that we have, is  
10 it perfect? No. There's more that can be  
11 added to it, and it will be as we get it.

12 But the information that we do have,  
13 we feel really good about it. We're  
14 vertically aligned with our team and  
15 stakeholders on that, and we'll continue  
16 to add to it as more comes in. But we  
17 feel really good about where we are. We  
18 want to help the Secretary make an  
19 informed decision with the information  
20 that he has.

21 So what is an NED plan? I think Tom  
22 had talked about that for a second.  
23 National Economic Development. Okay?  
24 Well, that's just another buzzword as  
25 well. But what it is, is that we're

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1 looking for a project that provides the  
2 most net benefits. Okay?

3 And then we're also looking at what we  
4 call a BC ratio. Some of you have heard  
5 that, a benefit-to-cost ratio that is  
6 above unity or one. So how do I get this  
7 benefit-to-cost ratio, and what do these  
8 numbers up here mean?

9 Well, the first thing I want to point  
10 out on these numbers you see up here:  
11 Let's look at Alternative D, for example,  
12 CTO with weir. Project first cost ranges  
13 from 487 million to 655 million. That's a  
14 range. Why do we have that?

15 Well, there's risk involved in the  
16 numbers that we have because there's some  
17 uncertainty on some of the -- on what  
18 maybe some of the features are. The Corps  
19 of Engineers, we do risk-informed  
20 decisionmaking, and we take the  
21 information that's readily available, and  
22 we try to make a decision and move  
23 forward. And if we have to mitigate for  
24 risk or revisit that, that's what we do.

25 It's kind of what we're doing here.

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1 One of the things we're doing right now is  
2 that this information is in agency  
3 technical review. Our reviewer is from  
4 The Cost Center of Expertise out of Walla  
5 Walla, so a very qualified individual  
6 that -- I've worked with this guy numerous  
7 times. He does a great job, and he's very  
8 particular in the cost analysis.

9 So we do have checks and balances  
10 making sure that these costs are within  
11 the -- reasonable. So what this slide  
12 gives you, it also talks about the  
13 benefit-to-cost ratio and the net  
14 benefits. So I just want to go really  
15 quickly over what a benefit-to-cost ratio  
16 is.

17 So I'm going to have my benefits as  
18 derived from my economic models. My  
19 economists are going to figure that out.  
20 I'm going to have my costs provided to me  
21 by my engineers. I'm going to divide that  
22 number, my benefits by my costs, and we'll  
23 come up with a number.

24 So the example here, you see 1.4. So  
25 what does that really mean? So for every

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1           \$1 that's invested by the federal  
2           government, in theory, you're getting back  
3           \$1.40 to the community. And so, you can  
4           see how that goes down through here, and I  
5           have a table that I'm going to show you.

6                     And it's a lot of numbers on this  
7           table, but I think the big takeaway is, is  
8           that we were asked to identify the NED  
9           plan. There are multiple NED plans that  
10          are identified here based on the  
11          information that we have.

12                    If we're looking at net benefits, you  
13          look at 8.2 on the net benefits because  
14          you want the one that has the most net  
15          benefits and also the BCR above unity.  
16          Right now I'm looking at that, there's two  
17          or three on there that could be selected  
18          from, and it all depends on what the cost  
19          ends up being for this alternative.

20                    So I really wanted to stress that,  
21          that this is not a meeting telling you,  
22          hey, we have something picked. This is a  
23          meeting to tell you, based on the  
24          information we have, we have multiple  
25          alternatives for the Secretary's office to



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1 look at to make his informed decision.

2 So the last thing is hazardous, toxic,  
3 and radiological waste. This is something  
4 that's very important. Rankin-Hinds has  
5 done a fantastic job of doing analysis on  
6 that. There's still more analysis that  
7 needs to be done.

8 Really, once we know what the  
9 alternative is going to be, we'll get with  
10 them to make sure that we have an area  
11 that is free of HCRW (Health-Care Risk  
12 Waste) concerns. As Corps of Engineers,  
13 with our regulations, we can't start  
14 construction on a site if we're going to  
15 be impacting some type of HCRW site.

16 So that's the information that I have.  
17 Like I said, we have our subject matter  
18 experts in the back of the room. Really  
19 glad that you're here. I'm going to be  
20 standing around. I really want to hear  
21 from you. I don't want you leaving here  
22 tonight without, if you have some key  
23 concern, because I'm going to be open and  
24 transparent with you. But thank you for  
25 your time.

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1                   MR. SHAW: All right. Thank you,  
2                   Brandon. So what's next? Here's what our  
3                   timeline actually looks like. So we  
4                   released -- the draft EIS was released on  
5                   the 7th of June. It's out for public  
6                   review. That public review will  
7                   terminate, if you will, on the 6th of  
8                   August.

9                   The time period after that will be --  
10                  we've already started looking into the  
11                  public comments, but we will be addressing  
12                  those public comments in the  
13                  August-to-September timeframe with a  
14                  notice of availability of a final EIS, if  
15                  everything goes as planned, in October.  
16                  That's our schedule.

17                  And then in December would be the  
18                  submission of the final EIS to Mr. Connor,  
19                  and then, you know, it's in his hands  
20                  then. If he chooses to make a  
21                  determination and a record of decision, it  
22                  will be available and ready to go.

23                  So that concludes the first part of  
24                  our -- that concludes the presentation  
25                  part, if you will. Next we're going to

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1           move into the question period. And so,  
2           what I would ask -- if you recall when we  
3           first came in, there's a microphone up  
4           here.

5                     If you would like to ask a question, I  
6           would just ask, please allow me to  
7           recognize you. Try to hold your question  
8           to within about three minutes.

9                     I mentioned earlier a couple of things  
10          are going to happen. The recording of  
11          this public meeting, the transcripts, the  
12          questions that come in, the responses, all  
13          of this will be put out on our project  
14          website. It will all be available for  
15          everybody to see.

16                    It won't happen immediately. Some  
17          things will come earlier, such as the  
18          video will go up fairly quick. The  
19          transcript will come probably within a  
20          week or so, and then hopefully within a  
21          week, we will be able to have comments,  
22          responses to the questions.

23                    So at this time, we are programmed for  
24          basically two hours, which means we've got  
25          about another hour left. If you want to

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1 ask some detailed, technical-type  
2 questions, please remember we have our  
3 study boards with our subject matter  
4 experts in the back. And with that, I'll  
5 open it up to questions.

6 Please come to the mic, and I would  
7 ask, please, if you would just say who you  
8 are and then pose your question there.

9 MS. WALKER: Hello. Good afternoon.  
10 My name is Theo Walker. I live on Deer  
11 Trail --

12 MR. SHAW: Ma'am, could you get a  
13 little closer? Sorry.

14 MS. WALKER: Hello. My name is Theo  
15 Walker. I live in the Canton Club  
16 community, and I was just needing some  
17 clarification. Did you all say that the  
18 voluntary buyouts was off the table, or it  
19 was no longer up for reconsideration?  
20 Someone said that. No? Okay. It's still  
21 on the table?

22 SPEAKER: Any thoughts you have, we  
23 are open to.

24 MS. WALKER: Okay. Okay. Well, let  
25 me --

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1                   MR. SHAW: Any thoughts that she has  
2                   with respect to the voluntary buyouts, we  
3                   want to hear it.

4                   MS. WALKER: Okay. So, yes. I live  
5                   on Deer Trail. I'm interested in the  
6                   voluntary buyout. Every time it rains  
7                   hard, the street floods, my backyard  
8                   floods. And I heard the Mayor and the  
9                   information that he shared today.  
10                  However, I'm still in favor of that  
11                  option.

12                  I own my home over there. I have a  
13                  mortgage. I've been paying for it for a  
14                  while. I don't think I should be  
15                  penalized because some people maybe in the  
16                  neighborhood, you know, rent or whatever.  
17                  That doesn't concern me.

18                  And usually when you rent, you're  
19                  paying more than somebody with a mortgage  
20                  anyway. So I'm pretty sure those folks  
21                  will be able to go and find places to live  
22                  elsewhere.

23                  Flood insurance is astronomical, you  
24                  know, and you have to pay for it up front  
25                  in the beginning of the year. I am not

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1 interested in dealing with that any longer  
2 than I have to.

3 I can't get comfortable in my own  
4 home. I might have said it at a previous  
5 meeting, but I will keep reiterating it.  
6 I can't get comfortable in my own home if  
7 it keeps flooding and keep having to be  
8 uprooting and keep having to lose stuff  
9 that you don't necessarily have insurance  
10 to cover because of the flood insurance  
11 costs.

12 What else do I want to say? That's  
13 pretty much it. I just wanted to get  
14 clarification to see if the voluntary  
15 buyouts was on the table because that's  
16 what I'm in favor of. Thank you.

17 MR. SHAW: Yes, ma'am. Thank you.  
18 Next, please.

19 MS. WILKERSON: Good evening,  
20 everyone. My name is Doris Wilkerson --

21 MR. SHAW: Could you get just a  
22 little closer? I'm so sorry.

23 MS. WILKERSON: Good evening,  
24 everyone. Is that better? My name is  
25 Doris Wilkerson, and my husband and I, we

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1 live in South Jackson. And we're like, in  
2 my opinion, I'm not an expert, but we're  
3 right in the middle of the flood zone.

4 So my question and concern is, this  
5 project that you all are talking about, is  
6 it an economic thing for, I guess, the  
7 city, state, or whatever? Is this like an  
8 economic thing just so somebody else can  
9 get enriched as a result of us as  
10 homeowners down there?

11 And number 2 is, how would this plan  
12 help the flooding in our area? Because we  
13 live right there in the flood near a  
14 creek, and there's been instances where we  
15 actually had to, you know, move, or my  
16 husband and I sit -- you know, getting  
17 turns trying to see how far the water  
18 level is.

19 And so, I'm trying to see how would  
20 this project, if it will help us and  
21 alleviate some of the flooding problems  
22 that we're having, or is it just not going  
23 to help us?

24 MR. SHAW: Yes, ma'am. If you don't  
25 mind, what creek are you speaking of?

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1 MS. WILKERSON: Caney Creek, I  
2 believe. It's a -- I know Caney Creek is  
3 there, and then it's also -- we're like  
4 close to down and not too further, Pearl  
5 River is there, and there's also another  
6 little creek that runs directly beside our  
7 property. I don't know the name of the  
8 street.

9 But when it rains, it really  
10 overflows, and it really floods really  
11 bad. So our concern is, you know, how is  
12 this project going to help us and the  
13 other residents that live in the area in  
14 which we live in? Got an answer?  
15 Anybody?

16 MR. SHAW: Troy, you want to address  
17 that? Want to just come up here?

18 MR. CONSTANCE: Sorry. There was a  
19 time when I could jump up here, but that  
20 ain't happening tonight. So you have a  
21 couple of questions in there.

22 So the federal government, when we  
23 look at a project, we look at the damages  
24 that are occurring, and then we look at  
25 methods of reducing those damages. Those



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1 are the benefits.

2 So all of the projects are designed to  
3 be directly beneficial to those that are  
4 flooding. It's not about development in  
5 the future or anything else. So we're  
6 looking at individual houses, businesses,  
7 and things like that, and the difference  
8 when the water goes down. Does that help  
9 with where you are? So --

10 MS. WILKERSON: No.

11 MR. CONSTANCE: Okay. What else you  
12 need to know?

13 MS. WILKERSON: I'm trying to  
14 understand, I guess, the project itself,  
15 because obviously we are very concerned  
16 about the flooding and the damage and  
17 stress, and the -- because it's an  
18 economic problem for us as well, not just  
19 for the city or the state or county or  
20 whoever you are.

21 So my concern is, how or if this  
22 particular project will help us with the  
23 flooding and damage to our property,  
24 because it's also -- the flooding has also  
25 caused damage to our property as well.

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1 MR. CONSTANCE: Understood.

2 MS. WILKERSON: Because of the  
3 erosion and all of the other things that  
4 happens during a flood. So I'm just  
5 trying to understand how is this going to  
6 help us or help me, help me and my husband  
7 and people that live in our community.

8 MR. CONSTANCE: Understood. And the  
9 graph that you saw, you saw the water  
10 levels come down. And it's a slope line,  
11 so a lot of it depends on exactly where  
12 you are. So I would -- I would ask you to  
13 go back. We have a -- a lady that  
14 actually did the modeling can help you.

15 UNIDENTIFIED: Brandon is going to  
16 talk to her.

17 MS. WILKERSON: But also -- okay.  
18 Wait, wait. One other thing I wanted to  
19 ask, and I'm going to go.

20 UNIDENTIFIED: Brandon is going to  
21 come figure out where you are.

22 MR. SHAW: All right. Next. You,  
23 sir.

24 MR. VAUGHN: Hello, I'm William  
25 Ashley Vaughn. I'm in Ridgeland now, but

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1 I'm a native-born Jacksonian, and I lived  
2 here most of my life. This is still my  
3 hometown.

4 So Mayor Lumumba was very eloquent  
5 about people who'd be displaced by the  
6 buyout program. But one thing that's not  
7 clear from anything that's been said is,  
8 if you go with the other plans, which are  
9 basically -- two of them at least are  
10 basically the One Lake plan, how do you do  
11 that without having to displace people  
12 from their homes anyway?

13 And if it's going to be necessary to  
14 do buyouts for that, how many homes would  
15 be bought out or how many elevated?

16 MR. SHAW: Yeah. I hate to ask,  
17 would you repeat? We're having a little  
18 bit of problems hearing now. Sorry.

19 MR. VAUGHN: Well, we heard from you  
20 and from Mayor Lumumba about how many  
21 homes that have to be bought out or  
22 elevated for A1, which does seem to be the  
23 most workable of the projects.

24 But the other two projects, plans, two  
25 out of the four plans, which are basically

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1 the One Lake plan by any other name,  
2 wouldn't it be necessary to move people  
3 and buy people out in order to build a  
4 dam? And if so, how many? And elevate  
5 also.

6 MR. SHAW: So if I understood your  
7 question correctly, when we looked at the  
8 flood levels, there were no homes that  
9 were going to be impacted, if you will, by  
10 the lake portion. There were some homes  
11 that would see some inducement, and I  
12 think those are the ones that would fit  
13 under the nonstructural portion of, like,  
14 the CTO, Alternate D or E.

15 MR. VAUGHN: So you're saying about  
16 the same number as A1 or less or more?

17 MR. SHAW: Yeah. Troy.

18 MR. CONSTANCE: So when we looked at  
19 the lake plan, Alt D, we didn't find any  
20 structures that required removing in order  
21 to create that new channel. There are  
22 some nonstructural components in that plan  
23 because there were some residual damages  
24 that were not being relieved by the lake.  
25 And so, there are some nonstructural plans

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1           there.

2                   And then below the weir, we saw some  
3           potential for some inducements. Although  
4           they're very small, it's like 6 inches,  
5           and that's within the -- within the model  
6           era, but we believe that it was important  
7           to include those in there. In those  
8           areas, we would do nonstructural to bring  
9           them back up out of the floodway. Does  
10          that answer your question?

11                   MR. VAUGHN: Yes. Thank you.

12                   MR. SHAW: Thank you. Ma'am.

13                   MS. YATES: Good evening. I'm  
14          Representative Shanda Yates, and I  
15          represent a portion of northeast Jackson.  
16          I also live in northeast Jackson. And I'm  
17          just here to voice my general support for  
18          doing something.

19                   This has been going on for decades at  
20          this point. Many of my constituents have  
21          had ongoing flooding issues for longer  
22          than their children have been alive,  
23          longer than I have been alive. So the  
24          time to do something is beyond time at  
25          this point.

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1           In looking at the options that have  
2           been presented to us at this point,  
3           Alternative D seems to be the most  
4           reasonable alternative in that it  
5           incorporates most of what needs to be done  
6           to accomplish the end results that are  
7           needed for Jackson.

8           And it also includes building an area  
9           around Canton Club neighborhood in  
10          northeast Jackson that would prevent  
11          additional flooding in that area, which is  
12          in my district. And that would be a huge  
13          additional added benefit, as I see it, for  
14          Alternative D.

15          I did also want to take a moment to  
16          mention that the nonstructural plan that  
17          is listed as Alternative A that would  
18          require houses to be built up, I think,  
19          some 13 feet is honestly impractical. You  
20          have elderly people. You have disabled  
21          people.

22          I don't know logistically how they  
23          would be able to get up 13 additional feet  
24          to their homes on a day-to-day basis, what  
25          that would look like, how that would play

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1 out. Just from a logistical standpoint,  
2 it seems very impractical and like  
3 something that would not play out very  
4 well.

5 So I voice opposition to Alternative A  
6 for that very specific reason and would  
7 like to, again, make my support heard for  
8 my constituents in northeast Jackson,  
9 specifically for Alternative D. Thank  
10 you.

11 MR. SHAW: Thank you. Yes, sir.

12 MR. FERNANDEZ: Hello. My name is  
13 Juan Fernandez. I've been organizing with  
14 several residents from a number of  
15 flood-prone communities over the last few  
16 years to understand this project. I'm  
17 here to ask a question that might not  
18 be -- you guys might not be able to answer  
19 in person, but at least should be in the  
20 final EIS.

21 Before I do that question, though, I  
22 want to follow up on a statement that I  
23 made at the last meeting. I think it's a  
24 shame that the public -- that the only  
25 public officials who are part of this

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1           planning process maybe made an appearance,  
2           but left. The people who we elect to  
3           oversee this project cannot be bothered to  
4           stay around to listen to our comments. It  
5           was the same thing this morning. I think  
6           that's a severe problem, but that's not  
7           what I want to cover here.

8                     I have a question that I think  
9           pertains to a central thing in this  
10          project, national economic development  
11          benefits and flood reduction benefits. In  
12          December of last year, we saw a document,  
13          an internal planning presentation from the  
14          Corps of Engineers, which presented  
15          Alternative 1 that looked a little  
16          different from the current one.

17                    This old Alternative 1 expanded into  
18          West Jackson, deep into West Jackson, up  
19          to Jane Avenue near the zoo, proposing to  
20          elevate and floodproof structures there.  
21          It covered 600 structures overall, had a  
22          cost of about \$200 million and had a  
23          benefit-to-cost ratio, which I believe the  
24          gentlemen somewhere said that for every  
25          dollar we put into it, the public would



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1 receive \$2.70 in benefits. This was an  
2 Alternative 1 that we saw last year.

3 This year, when the DEIS came out, we  
4 saw a different Alternate A1. It only  
5 covered 143 structures for about \$50  
6 million and had a lower benefit-to-cost  
7 ratio of about 2.2. This was -- this  
8 could have been a massive \$150 million  
9 investment to West Jackson for a very  
10 effective plan, and yet it was trimmed  
11 down.

12 And so, I think that the EIS, or maybe  
13 even here, I need to better understand the  
14 legal reasoning for trimming, for  
15 diminishing or destroying a  
16 highly-effective alternative that could  
17 have been the basis for even a broader  
18 alternative for what we have now. So  
19 why was West Jackson removed from A1 if it  
20 was such a good deal?

21 And in addition to that question, I  
22 know that there's talk of how there's  
23 already other programs out there for  
24 creeks. And so, I want to make sure  
25 that -- if you guys do choose that route

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1 to say that somebody else is handling the  
2 problem, we need to be honest about the  
3 differences in prices.

4 This old Alternative A1 committed  
5 upwards of \$150 million, and what I saw up  
6 there on that screen -- and, excuse me,  
7 \$150 million to West Jackson flooding.  
8 What I saw on the screen was all these  
9 creek projects that are going on. They  
10 don't amount to much more than 20. That's  
11 a huge deficit.

12 So in terms of commitment to  
13 environmental justice, that is the one  
14 question I would love to see answered.  
15 Thank you.

16 MR. SHAW: Thank you. Ma'am.

17 MS. HARRISON: Hello. My name is  
18 Audrey Harrison, and I'm a citizen of  
19 Hinds County, and I have lots of  
20 questions. So if I need to go to the back  
21 of the line after I begin, I'll be happy  
22 to do so.

23 Okay. I'm going to start by reading  
24 from a section of the Draft Environmental  
25 Impact Statement, specifically page 8 of

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1 the Executive Summary. "Alternative CTO,  
2 with weir, Alternative D, does not provide  
3 any flood control benefits, and  
4 construction of the weir necessitates  
5 additional pumping needs at existing  
6 levees as well as seepage protection in  
7 the form of berms and slurry walls on  
8 existing levee features upstream of the  
9 weir."

10 So just to reiterate, that statement  
11 reads, "Alternative CTO with weir,  
12 Alternative D, does not provide any flood  
13 control benefits, and construction of the  
14 weir necessitates additional pumping needs  
15 at existing levees as well as seepage  
16 protection in the form of berms and slurry  
17 walls on the existing levee features  
18 upstream of the weir."

19 Okay. So that is a little bit  
20 contradictory to some of the things that  
21 I've seen tonight and read elsewhere. So  
22 maybe that would just be a point of  
23 clarification after I address my other  
24 questions.

25 I would like to know, is Alternative

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1           A1, plus the Canton Club Levee, because I  
2           understand that other alternatives can be  
3           added into a revised CTO, the most  
4           cost-effective and least  
5           environmentally-damaging option, as well  
6           as providing a higher level of flood  
7           mitigation. That's my first question.  
8           And I can repeat that.

9           MR. CONSTANCE: So when we look --  
10          there's two things that you asked there.  
11          The least environmentally-impacted plan,  
12          if you look at it by itself, just the  
13          environmental impact, A1. You pointed out  
14          that.

15          If you look at the human impact, we  
16          can pull into that all the economic  
17          return. We're saying, based on the range  
18          of cost, Brandon pointed out, it could be  
19          any of the structural alternatives. And  
20          so, what we're looking at is that  
21          Alternative D has -- if you get the low  
22          cost, is very high net returns, and that  
23          would indicate that that would be the NED  
24          plan.

25          MS. HARRISON: Okay. I'm sorry, I

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1           just want to pause you right there because  
2           the range for that is, if I remember  
3           correctly from the slide, 1.4 to 1 -- 1.4  
4           to 1.1 as a ratio, compared to 2.2 to 2.1?

5           MR. CONSTANCE: And then when you --  
6           there's other components of  
7           implementability. So there's other  
8           criteria we have to use when we do our  
9           selection.

10           You heard today that there are some  
11           concerns about people participating. So  
12           when we look at the participation rate,  
13           and we look at participation rates from  
14           other projects just like this across the  
15           country, we see that participation rates  
16           sometimes fall down to, like, 50 percent  
17           of the population.

18           So when you're looking at 143  
19           structures, Maybe only half of those  
20           people can actually decide to participate  
21           in that for various reasons, you heard the  
22           representative. So when you look at it  
23           with that, the next question is, how  
24           effective is that plan?

25           So we have damages that are occurring

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1 across a very broad area, and then we're  
2 saying that the participation rate may be  
3 relatively small, so it's less effective.  
4 So when you start looking at those kinds  
5 of considerations, you start leaning  
6 towards the structural plans because those  
7 are more effective across a broader area.

8 MS. HARRISON: It seems like one of  
9 the structural options, which is to  
10 construct a levee around the Canton Club  
11 area, would prevent flooding to over 300  
12 structures. Is that true?

13 MR. CONSTANCE: That's correct.

14 MS. HARRISON: Okay. And that's just  
15 that \$10 million obligation alone?

16 MR. CONSTANCE: Right. And that was  
17 part of Alt D. We added it --

18 MS. HARRISON: Right. But it also  
19 could be done independently in conjunction  
20 with another nonstructural alternative,  
21 correct?

22 MR. CONSTANCE: It could be. It  
23 could be.

24 MS. HARRISON: All right. I can move  
25 on to another question to save time, if

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1           that's okay. Does congressional funding  
2           to the USACE for flood mitigation have to  
3           be used to mitigate flooding?

4           MR. CONSTANCE: Can you -- can you  
5           repeat your question, please?

6           MS. HARRISON: Sure. Does  
7           congressional funding, such as that of the  
8           infrastructure bill to the USACE for flood  
9           mitigation, have to be used to mitigate  
10          flooding?

11          MS. COLOSIMO: So I'm just going to  
12          help out here. So, yes. But why is that?  
13          Because it's consistent with our  
14          authorities and missions. Right? So we  
15          aren't in the recreation business, as an  
16          example. We can only do recreation if  
17          it's an additional feature for flood  
18          mitigation. So, yes, this is a flood risk  
19          management authority, so we are driven by  
20          that.

21          MS. HARRISON: Okay. Thank you.  
22          That just brings me back to the statement  
23          from the Draft Environmental Impact  
24          Statement --

25          MR. CONSTANCE: Yes, ma'am.

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1 MS. HARRISON: -- which was  
2 Alternative D does not provide --

3 MR. CONSTANCE: The first statement  
4 that you made with respect, it almost  
5 sounded like when you were describing --  
6 you said Alt CTO, but it really described  
7 like we might have a typo there, because I  
8 think the description was Alt C, what you  
9 described early on.

10 MS. HARRISON: Well, I don't think so  
11 because of another -- because it also  
12 mentions the weir.

13 MR. CONSTANCE: Okay.

14 MS. HARRISON: It mentions the option  
15 with weir, and then it provides Alt D.  
16 Alternative CTO with weir, Alternative D  
17 in parentheses, which is the descriptor of  
18 that particular -- does not provide any  
19 flood control benefits, and construction  
20 of the weir necessitates additional  
21 pumping, on and on and on.

22 MS. COLOSIMO: I think it's missing  
23 the word "any," "any additional." That  
24 statement's about the weir.

25 MS. HARRISON: Okay. I can go --



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1 MS. COLOSIMO: But we can check.

2 MS. HARRISON: Okay. All right. So  
3 do Alternatives D and E provide flood risk  
4 mitigation?

5 MR. CONSTANCE: Yes. And I think the  
6 point that you're driving is where we say  
7 the difference between D and E, the flood  
8 risk reduction are the same. They're  
9 very, very close to the same.

10 What you gain when you put the weir in  
11 there is additional recreational benefits,  
12 and those come in the form of activities  
13 that would occur around the lake. We have  
14 good analog of that from other projects  
15 that we've done.

16 So when you add that additional  
17 benefit to the flood risk, plus the  
18 recreational benefits, that's how it  
19 becomes higher net benefits than E.

20 MS. HARRISON: Okay. Do  
21 Alternatives D and E increase in any way  
22 downstream flooding?

23 MR. CONSTANCE: What we're seeing in  
24 the downstream flooding is about 6 inches  
25 right at the face of the weir, and it

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1 begins to play out. The model will --

2 MS. HARRISON: Is that 6 inches in  
3 increased flooding?

4 MR. CONSTANCE: Increased, yes, below  
5 the weir. And then the model will  
6 calculate out those differences for some  
7 time, ma'am.

8 What we're seeing is that the 6 inches  
9 is within the model era, and that's plus  
10 or minus. Right? So if you have plus or  
11 minus, we take it seriously and say, okay,  
12 we're going to address that induced  
13 damages. What we also see is that it  
14 starts to alleviate itself very, very  
15 quickly.

16 And so, what we saw is that we could  
17 not identify any differences when we got  
18 just north of Monticello.

19 MS. HARRISON: Will those updated  
20 models be provided to the public during  
21 the public comment period?

22 MR. CONSTANCE: I'd have to ask, if  
23 you mind, we step back there, and we'll  
24 talk about what is releasable. Sometimes  
25 it's proprietary stuff, and sometimes

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1           it's --

2           MS. HARRISON: Well, no, no, no. I  
3           was just wondering. You said y'all are  
4           continuing to update the models, so would  
5           the updated models or the results of the  
6           models or summaries of the models be  
7           available to the public?

8           MR. CONSTANCE: Yeah. Every time we  
9           update, we're going to come back out to  
10          the public, and that is a continuous  
11          process that we do all the way through to  
12          construction and beyond.

13          MS. HARRISON: Okay. Thank you. I'm  
14          going to go to the back of the line so  
15          that I don't hog the mic.

16          MR. SHAW: Thank you. Sir.

17          MR. NOONE: Good evening. My name is  
18          David Noone. I'm a second generation  
19          business owner here in Jackson. Been  
20          around since the late '70s. Our business  
21          flooded in the flood of '79 -- our  
22          business flooded in the flood of '79.

23                 We had relocated several years ago  
24                 onto Lakeland. We could have moved out of  
25                 the City of Jackson. We had many people

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1           wanting us to, but we wanted to stay in  
2           Jackson and support Jackson. We moved to  
3           Lakeland, still in the flood zone.

4           And I think this is a long time  
5           coming. We should have probably done this  
6           years and years and years ago, and I just  
7           want to voice my support for Alt D.

8           MR. SHAW: Thank you, sir. Sir.

9           MR. THOMPSON: Good evening once  
10          again. My name is Dion Thompson. I live  
11          in the Canton Club neighborhood. And  
12          we're talking about the possibility of a  
13          levee there for Canton Club, but also  
14          there's Parkway and McCloud. We don't  
15          want to exclude them.

16          And my question is, with the DEIS that  
17          has been dropped on us, can we just have  
18          simplicity out of this so we can just, you  
19          know, stick to this comprehensive plan  
20          that we talked about earlier?

21          And also, how long are we going to  
22          have to wait? I know you say in December  
23          the final draft is going to come out, but  
24          when that draft, when it's released, are  
25          we going to have to wait again for another

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1 year or so?

2 And the reason I'm asking is simply  
3 because as of now, we are still on a  
4 timetable, those of us that live in that  
5 community, because within the last couple  
6 of months, we was threatened to flood at  
7 least three times, you know. And we never  
8 know when potential rains are going to  
9 come. And being in the hurricane season  
10 that we're in now, you know, we don't know  
11 what's going to happen.

12 But we're still like sitting ducks,  
13 and we're just sitting here. And I  
14 suggest that we all do what the young lady  
15 did that just stepped from up here, get a  
16 copy of the environmental statement and  
17 read it for yourself.

18 You may say, well, I can't understand  
19 all this and that that's in there, the  
20 acronyms and all that. But if you read it  
21 and listen to what you just discussed and  
22 get with people that understand the  
23 dynamics of it, it's going to help us.  
24 It's going to help us all to, you know, to  
25 come to some kind of comprehensive plan.

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1           And you say, we all are going to be  
2           invited to the table because, first and  
3           foremost, it starts at our neighborhood.  
4           It starts in our backyard at Canton Club.  
5           When the waters come from the upper river  
6           that comes from the (indiscernible), those  
7           three rivers that verge into the river  
8           bend, that lake is filled with those  
9           waters coming from that upper Pearl River,  
10          and then the reservoir has to release this  
11          water on us.

12           And let's just get rid of the politics  
13          and stop playing politics. Can we do  
14          that? Because this is what has kept us in  
15          abeyance for all these years, just playing  
16          these political games. And at the same  
17          time, our homes are being flooded, our  
18          neighborhoods are just being dislodged,  
19          and we don't need that.

20           When people come home, they want to  
21          come home to a neighborhood. They want to  
22          come home to their families. They want to  
23          come home, if we want to sit out and  
24          lollygag and do whatever we want to do in  
25          our community, that's what we want to be

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1           able to do.

2                       We don't want to have to worry about  
3           the risk of our homes being flooded, and  
4           we don't have to worry about the fact that  
5           we have to move all of our belongings out,  
6           and we never know when we're coming back  
7           or what have you and how long it's going  
8           to take.

9                       So, once again, the simplicity of it  
10          is all we're asking, making something  
11          simple because this flood mitigation and  
12          all this other stuff that's involved in  
13          it, I mean, give us a plain and a natural,  
14          comprehensive plan. And if you do that, I  
15          think we'll be all right. And remove all  
16          the politics.

17                      And I'm just asking the Levee Board to  
18          work with the Army Corps of Engineers and  
19          work together to come up with this plan.  
20          And if you do that, then this thing can be  
21          rectified and can be resolved, and we can  
22          get on with our business. Please do that  
23          for us, if you will.

24                      MR. SHAW: Thank you, sir. Next.

25                      MR. JEROME: Hello. My name is

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1 Patrick Jerome. I said a few things in  
2 the earlier meeting, but I have some  
3 questions for this one. I do want to  
4 point out with what the Mayor said about  
5 these costs for being relocated or having  
6 your home raised are pretty significant;  
7 but being flooded every year is not free.  
8 Neither is flood insurance.

9 But I do have a question about, we've  
10 talked about 2020 and 2022 floods, but  
11 what about 2023? What about low water?  
12 You could walk across the Pearl River most  
13 summers. The Savannah Street water  
14 treatment plant is already under EPA  
15 decrees to not -- to get more water from  
16 the reservoir than it is now. Will  
17 building a weir above it reduce the amount  
18 of water that it gets, and will the  
19 increased evaporation from the lake make  
20 that plant harder to operate?

21 MR. CONSTANCE: Part of that is  
22 pretty highly technical, so I'm going to  
23 point you back to Dana on those questions.

24 MR. JEROME: All right. Why was the  
25 levee plan rejected?



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1 MR. CONSTANCE: It was a  
2 cost-and-benefit analysis that could  
3 demonstrate that we had better options at  
4 the time.

5 MR. JEROME: So more expensive than  
6 the lake. Okay. Another question I've  
7 got is, I did see the endangered species  
8 and threatened species list there. I did  
9 not notice any invertebrates on there. I  
10 know that there's quite a few species of  
11 mussels that are on the river that people  
12 have concerns about. Were they examined,  
13 or should I talk to somebody in the back?

14 MR. CONSTANCE: Again, that's pretty  
15 technical, and you can talk to Tammy.  
16 She's got her hand up right back there,  
17 and she's very thorough.

18 MR. JEROME: The last one is, we've  
19 talked about people being bought out or  
20 the voluntary buyouts for people in the  
21 flood zones now, but people own the lands  
22 along the river. Are they going to be  
23 reimbursed when their property is turned  
24 into a lake?

25 MR. CONSTANCE: If you are using or

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1 if you need land for a project, that  
2 becomes an acquisition component.

3 MR. SHAW: Thank you, sir.

4 MS. WILLIAMS: Good afternoon.

5 MR. CONSTANCE: Hello.

6 MS. WILLIAMS: I am Ramona Williams,  
7 the president of the McCloud Neighborhood  
8 Association. Thank you, gentlemen,  
9 earlier for referring to our neighborhood,  
10 McCloud Neighborhood Association.

11 My question relates to the timeline  
12 that the report will be submitted in  
13 December. And we know that we have a  
14 national presidential election in  
15 November. My question is, this plan, with  
16 all of our energy and efforts being put  
17 into it, where does our plan stand should  
18 there be a change of leadership come  
19 January 1?

20 MS. COLOSIMO: Thank you for that  
21 thoughtful question. So technically the  
22 plan continues to move forward. It's just  
23 a question of who is the Assistant  
24 Secretary of the Army for Civil Works at  
25 that time.

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1           So there could be a change in  
2           administration, and if that happens and my  
3           current boss vacates that position,  
4           there's usually an acting civilian in that  
5           position. The question is whether they  
6           actually have the authority to make a  
7           decision if he does not make one.

8           But, overall, the work still  
9           continues. It's not affected by the  
10          person in the job. It could affect the  
11          timing and who approves it.

12          MS. WILLIAMS: Yes. That's my  
13          concern. We've been dealing with this  
14          issue for a number of years. Will it now  
15          be put again on the back burner, and will  
16          we still have to deal with the flooding of  
17          our homes here in Jackson?

18          MS. COLOSIMO: Yeah. So I  
19          wouldn't -- I completely appreciate your  
20          concern because it's actually my job to  
21          worry about this. And so, that subtlety  
22          is really important. Right? Our goal is  
23          to avoid that situation.

24          I can't pre-position my boss to make a  
25          decision. Right? So the question is, is

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1 he able to sign a record of decision,  
2 which obviously there's a lot of work we  
3 have to get done collaboratively, meaning  
4 all the compliance laws and those things.

5 Can he make a decision based on that,  
6 that positions us to be able to move  
7 forward in some way? That is the ultimate  
8 goal here, and that is my job to make sure  
9 it happens.

10 MS. WILLIAMS: So we do have your  
11 assurance that --

12 MS. COLOSIMO: I have your assurance  
13 that I will do everything I can to advance  
14 in whole or in part that project.

15 MS. WILLIAMS: Okay. We got it on  
16 record, right?

17 MS. COLOSIMO: Okay. You heard "in  
18 whole or in part." I can't control all  
19 the politics that go with that.

20 MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you.

21 MR. SHAW: Thank you, ma'am. Next,  
22 sir.

23 MR. FARR: Hey. I'm David Farr.

24 MR. SHAW: David, could you get --  
25 there you go. Thank you.

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1                   MR. FARR: My name is David Farr.  
2                   I'm a lifelong resident of Jackson, and  
3                   I've been following this project or the  
4                   efforts to control flooding on the Pearl  
5                   since I was 9 years old when my family  
6                   lost our downtown business and many of our  
7                   friends lost their homes in the Easter  
8                   flood.

9                   I really just want to say I'm  
10                  profoundly grateful to the Rankin-Hinds  
11                  Flood Control District, the Corps, all the  
12                  federal agencies that have worked on this  
13                  for as long as they have, our elected  
14                  officials in Washington, and primarily the  
15                  selfless community heroes that have driven  
16                  this effort since 1979 and refused to give  
17                  up on finding a solution for the people of  
18                  Jackson, Mississippi.

19                  After reviewing the DEIS, I'm  
20                  convinced that Alternative D is the best  
21                  way, is the best answer for us. I really  
22                  appreciate the emerging clarity from these  
23                  meetings. You know, it was a little tough  
24                  to suss out some of the hot button issues,  
25                  like the fact that downstream water

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1 quantity is only going to have  
2 negligible -- Alternative D would only  
3 have a negligible impact on downstream  
4 water quantity; the issue with the  
5 nonstructural solutions initially having a  
6 higher cost benefit -- benefit-to-cost  
7 ratio but that being based on 100 percent  
8 participation, so when you bring that into  
9 the realm of reality, it really just falls  
10 off the radar; and this issue of induced  
11 flooding showing up in the model within  
12 the margin of error so that's not --

13 So many of the comments today and this  
14 afternoon and this evening have just been  
15 driven by ideology and just dogmatic  
16 adherence to, you know, some principle in  
17 a field of study. But when you start  
18 looking at the practicalities, it becomes  
19 really clear that we have the opportunity  
20 to address our flooding and get the  
21 recreational benefits of the weir, and  
22 we'll never get this chance again. For a  
23 city like Jackson to get this opportunity,  
24 it's just not something that we can take  
25 lightly.

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1           And so, I just felt like I had to come  
2           and voice my support for Alternative D,  
3           and thank you so much for the work you've  
4           done. I'll work on written comments with  
5           a little more specificity, but thanks  
6           again.

7           MR. SHAW: Sounds good. Thank you.  
8           So I would just make one observation, sir.  
9           You mentioned about the -- any  
10          inducements. That -- the inducements that  
11          identified, these areas are already  
12          getting flooded without project  
13          conditioning. And so, yes, there are  
14          inducements, but they are relatively  
15          small, and they do quickly run out as you  
16          get farther downstream. So thank you.  
17          Ma'am.

18          MS. HARRISON: Hey, I'm Audrey  
19          Harrison, again, a citizen of Hinds  
20          County. Just to clarify, there are no new  
21          inducements of flooding that would come  
22          from Alternative D with weir? Is that  
23          what you just said? It's only existing  
24          flooding areas; there's no new  
25          inducements.

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1 MR. SHAW: I'll let. . .

2 MR. CONSTANCE: So we need to be very  
3 clear on this. So we rely on the computer  
4 models that are generated, and we make our  
5 decisions on that. That model is showing  
6 a 6-inch increase in water surface  
7 elevation just below the weir.

8 We don't ignore that. We say that is  
9 a real problem, and we add the  
10 nonstructural components to address that  
11 to the plan. What we're telling you is  
12 that as we advance and we move through the  
13 project, and we'll continue to do modeling  
14 all the way through it, it may be an  
15 artifact of a model, but we can't say that  
16 now. So we treat it as though it's  
17 absolutely real.

18 In the future, it may be something  
19 different. That's all we're trying to  
20 point out.

21 MS. HARRISON: Right. But that's new  
22 flooding. That's new -- that's  
23 inducements.

24 MR. CONSTANCE: It's an increase in  
25 water. For example, that house may be



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1 flooding; it gets a foot of water in. And  
2 we're saying, well, with this plan, it  
3 might get 18 inches. That's the  
4 inducement, the change in water surface  
5 elevation.

6 MS. HARRISON: Thank you. How do you  
7 plan to mitigate the point source  
8 wastewater discharge and sewage into the  
9 Pearl above the weir in Alternative D?

10 So within the new little lake, or big  
11 lake -- I mean, I think is but -- how is  
12 the point source pollution in terms of  
13 wastewater discharge and sewage that we  
14 know we have a problem with within this  
15 watershed, when that's trapped behind a  
16 weir, how is that going to be mitigated?

17 And then I'll go ahead and answer --  
18 ask my second, and then you can answer  
19 both parts.

20 Will the -- will drinking water be  
21 sourced from above the weir in  
22 Alternative D?

23 MS. COLOSIMO: I'll let you do the  
24 latter part. I think, as far as I know --  
25 first of all, just as a fundamental point,

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1 and then I'm going to have Troy answer  
2 broadly here.

3 In any situation where we have sewage  
4 coming into a river that is beyond our  
5 authority to implement, we're going to  
6 work with the local government and our  
7 federal sister agencies to make sure that  
8 we're trying to uphold government wherever  
9 we can, and that's important here. And  
10 now I'm going to tell Troy to tell me what  
11 he said in the report.

12 MR. CONSTANCE: Well, what we talked  
13 about in the report is that there are a  
14 lot of actions going on right now. EPA is  
15 working with, I think, the City of  
16 Jackson. We are, the Corps of Engineers  
17 has a couple projects that are going on to  
18 address those issues.

19 So if we have something going on,  
20 sometimes we consider it as resolved while  
21 we're going along. If it's not, it is  
22 something that we would note. And as you  
23 said, when you build a project, you have  
24 to consider all those considerations, all  
25 those things that are going on. And as

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1 Robyn said, some of them are not ours to  
2 fix. They --

3 MS. HARRISON: Right. But when we  
4 trap the water -- so now, at present, it  
5 goes downstream and is diluted. Right?  
6 My concern is when it is held as standing  
7 water in the type of temperatures that we  
8 have in central Mississippi that that may  
9 cause some issues with the water chemistry  
10 and with the smell and safety of the water  
11 that's held behind the weir. So I was  
12 just wondering how the inputs to that  
13 would be mitigated.

14 And my second question is, where will  
15 the -- will the drinking water be pulled  
16 from the water behind the weir, or will it  
17 be in a downstream -- downstream of the  
18 weir or where?

19 MR. CONSTANCE: So I'll -- let Keith,  
20 can you answer the question about the  
21 location of the intake?

22 MR. TURNER: Yeah. So the proposed  
23 intake would be above the weir because you  
24 need to have a standing pool. But let me  
25 point out a few things. You mentioned

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1 point sources above the weir. There are  
2 no actual point sources. There's actually  
3 one intermittent point source at the  
4 wastewater -- I mean, at the drinking  
5 water plant at O.B. Curtis that can  
6 discharge. There are no point sources  
7 within the project area of wastewater.

8 Point source implies a point of  
9 discharge, which would have to be a  
10 treated, permitted discharge, so it  
11 wouldn't be raw sewage anyway. North of  
12 the Ross Barnett Reservoir, you have  
13 multiple point sources that discharge  
14 treated wastewater that flows down into  
15 the reservoir. We drink that water  
16 because it's treated before it's used, but  
17 it's not raw sewage.

18 MS. HARRISON: Oh, I'm sorry. I  
19 probably said that wrong. So the sewage,  
20 like when you're watching the evening news  
21 and people have sewage boiling out of the  
22 manholes in their street that then is  
23 going into a newly dammed river, and then  
24 the drinking water is being pulled from  
25 that, I'm sorry, it would be a non-point

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1 source pollutant.

2 MR. TURNER: Exactly, yes --

3 MS. HARRISON: So how would -- that's  
4 my question.

5 MR. TURNER: And that's a good  
6 question. A non-point source is a  
7 concern, obviously, because you do have  
8 situations like that occurring right now.

9 But as the Corps has already mentioned  
10 and certainly can expand upon, there is  
11 multiple projects underway right now to  
12 address all of that. EPA has a consent  
13 order with the Jackson folks, and they're  
14 having to fix it.

15 Jackson water, the new entity that was  
16 created that took over the sewer, they're  
17 in the process; they've already got  
18 projects underway. They've fixed numerous  
19 bypasses and other raw wastewater that is  
20 discharged in the river right now.

21 By the time anything like this,  
22 whatever project is decided, you're  
23 talking years from now, and their plan is  
24 to have those wastewater non-point source  
25 problems fixed.

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1 MS. HARRISON: So all of the  
2 non-point source pollutants, and sewage  
3 specifically, would be completely fixed  
4 before any construction happened and  
5 before anybody gets their drinking water  
6 from a standing collection of that  
7 wastewater?

8 MR. TURNER: I didn't say that in  
9 sequence. There's a lot of things  
10 associated when the Corps has to pick a  
11 project. The City of Jackson would have  
12 to determine if they wanted to locate a  
13 plant at that location and have a  
14 withdrawal as well.

15 And, of course, I don't know what the  
16 time sequence is of the wastewater  
17 repairs. We know they're underway, and  
18 it's a published schedule we have, and  
19 that's over the next, I think, five to ten  
20 years. So there's a lot of variables that  
21 you're asking for, and there's a lot of  
22 parties. Not all of them are in the room.

23 MS. HARRISON: Yeah. So we're just  
24 not sure when -- what sequence and when  
25 that'll happen. Okay. Thank you.

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1           Do you have plans to relocate the  
2           proposed threatened and endangered mussels  
3           in the area of planned excavation in  
4           Alternatives D and E?

5           I did want to say one more thing.  
6           Jackson and the Pearl River itself,  
7           Jackson was settled because of the Pearl  
8           River; and the Pearl River is named  
9           because of the freshwater pearly mussels  
10          that inhabit this reach of the river.

11          So are those going to be -- are the  
12          threatened and endangered species going to  
13          be removed and relocated?

14          MR. CONSTANCE: The individuals that  
15          actually do the dives and determine, you  
16          know, their existence and then working  
17          with them every day actually work in my  
18          office. So we can get some information  
19          and tell you how that actually occurs in  
20          any project.

21          You can talk to Tammy in the back.  
22          Tammy's got her hand up. She's our -- she  
23          can tell you specifically how we handle  
24          all of the species in the area.

25          MS. HARRISON: Okay. So they are

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1 going to be moved. Right?

2 MR. CONSTANCE: Well, I don't know --  
3 I don't know what the plan is. That's why  
4 I'm going to send you back there and  
5 then --

6 MS. HARRISON: They're gonna be  
7 moved, Tammy? Thank you. All right.  
8 Okay.

9 MR. SHAW: Ma'am, we've got --

10 MS. HARRISON: Okay. I'll get behind  
11 her.

12 MR. CONSTANCE: Before you go,  
13 though, the guy in the purple shirt,  
14 David, he's our HCRW guy. If you've got  
15 any additional questions, he can handle  
16 them.

17 MS. HARRISON: Thank you so much.  
18 I'll catch up with you.

19 MR. SHAW: Yes, ma'am.

20 MS. HILLIGUS: Hello. I'm Jan  
21 Hilligus from West Jackson. We're talking  
22 here about water that too often goes to  
23 places that people don't want it to be.  
24 Right?

25 Often on the same newscasts, we hear



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1           about places in the west and other places  
2           where the water table is going down and  
3           gets to be much too low. Has anyone with  
4           the Vicksburg Corps talked with each other  
5           or with anyone from other Corps areas  
6           about the fact that when people want to  
7           pay for it, they move oil all over the  
8           country, all over the world in pipelines?  
9           And whether it does not make sense to  
10          consider moving water the same way, from  
11          where it is not wanted to where it is  
12          wanted, and making a plan for that?

13                 MS. COLOSIMO: I mean, that's a  
14                 pretty broad ideological discussion. I  
15                 will tell you this issue comes up in DC  
16                 all the time. Right? Is there a  
17                 simplicity of a network of pipes to meet  
18                 these increasing demands.

19                 And in the climate-change world, it's  
20                 actually casually come up in the last few  
21                 years. Again, I don't know of anything  
22                 here specifically. But certainly, you  
23                 know, if there's good ideas out there,  
24                 we're always going to want to make sure  
25                 the broader agencies are considering. I

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1 don't know of anything active in this area  
2 unless you do, Troy? No.

3 MS. HILLIGUS: Does it make sense to  
4 you, or is there something so flawed about  
5 that idea that you won't even think about  
6 it?

7 MS. COLOSIMO: I mean, I'm happy to  
8 talk to you more about it afterwards.  
9 It's not that it's flawed. It's actually  
10 just a lot more complex than it sounds.  
11 It seems easy to put pipelines down. They  
12 all need permits. There's all kinds of  
13 things that go with them. And who takes  
14 it, what's the timing, how do you decide,  
15 those are operational issues that in many  
16 cases, environmental permitting agencies  
17 would have issues with. So it depends on  
18 where you sit on the issue more than it is  
19 about the technical ability to do it.

20 MS. HILLIGUS: Why would you be  
21 opposed to it?

22 MS. COLOSIMO: I'm sorry?

23 MS. HILLIGUS: Why would you -- why  
24 would you position me to oppose it?

25 MS. COLOSIMO: I couldn't tell you.

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1           It depends on where people sit. We're not  
2           opposing it. I'm just telling you it's  
3           not generally a practical option. It's  
4           pretty costly. But let's talk -- let's  
5           talk some more after. I'll talk to you  
6           more about it and see if I can better  
7           understand what I'm missing here.

8           MS. HILLIGUS: It's very simple. I'm  
9           not a scientist. It just makes common  
10          sense to me that when you have the  
11          technology already to send -- to send a  
12          dangerous fossil fuel thousands of miles  
13          away that you could also send water and  
14          solve the problem for everybody.

15          MR. SHAW: Thank you, ma'am. Sir.

16          MR. HENDERSON: Thank you. I think I  
17          may have been the tallest guy this  
18          evening. Good evening. My name is Tim  
19          Henderson. Just a quick question  
20          concerning analysis.

21          There are some challenges currently  
22          with some of the storm water drainage  
23          within the city, and we're seeing it in  
24          creeks. We're seeing it at different  
25          parts. Was there analysis done or how in

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1 depth was the analysis with respect to any  
2 impact, unintended consequences per se, on  
3 Jackson's stormwater drainage. Right? So  
4 just in the modeling that was used, how  
5 deep, how far did it go, how wide?

6 MR. SHAW: My recommendation, if you  
7 would, go back and see Dana Mori. She's  
8 in --

9 MR. HENDERSON: Dana Lorre, raise  
10 your hand.

11 MR. SHAW: Dana Mori. Are you back  
12 there, Dana? I'm not seeing her just this  
13 minute. David, the gentleman in the  
14 purple shirt going right there can help  
15 you with her. There she is.

16 MR. HENDERSON: Thank you.

17 MR. SHAW: There's Dana right in the  
18 back. Thank you, sir. Yes, ma'am.

19 MS. HARRISON: Okay. I just have a  
20 few more. Has there been a design of the  
21 weir for Alternative D released? I didn't  
22 see it in the draft EIS. I apologize if I  
23 missed it. And will that be released  
24 during the public comment period?

25 MR. SHAW: Well, we do not have the

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1 design in the draft. There will be some  
2 basic design features that will be  
3 included in the -- when everything is said  
4 and done. Yes.

5 MS. HARRISON: Okay. Thank you.  
6 Along those lines you mentioned -- or I  
7 think the person who talked about  
8 mitigation mentioned a fish passage  
9 structure. Could you tell a little bit  
10 about what that looks like and what types  
11 of fish can pass?

12 I'm worried about the large-bodied,  
13 bottom-dwelling fish that is threatened,  
14 the gulf sturgeon, and wondering if it'll  
15 be able to pass over that type of  
16 structure.

17 MR. SHAW: Yes. And that is a little  
18 bit of a detailed question, and Tammy  
19 Gilmore in the back back there, Tammy --

20 MS. HARRISON: I'll catch up with  
21 Tammy about a couple of these.

22 MR. SHAW: She will be glad to help  
23 you. That is her -- right up her alley.

24 MS. HARRISON: Okay. I saw that  
25 there was a listing decision for the Pearl

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1 River map turtle. That's a turtle that  
2 only occurs here in the Pearl River. It  
3 occurs in the project area. Now it's  
4 federally listed as threatened.

5 Will that -- will there be another  
6 consultation for -- in response to that  
7 decision, and will that happen before the  
8 deadline of the project?

9 MR. SHAW: Yeah. That's a Tammy  
10 question as well. Now, we're currently in  
11 consultation.

12 MS. HARRISON: Okay. And then, part  
13 of the mitigation rule, the 2008  
14 mitigation rule that's used to mitigate  
15 for any losses to waters of the U.S.,  
16 which was discussed, is that mitigation is  
17 to be in kind, meaning the same type of  
18 mitigation, and the little boxes in the  
19 little table show the different kinds.

20 But also within the watershed, is  
21 there an assurance, or has there been an  
22 investigation to see if there is the  
23 amount of mitigation property available  
24 within the Pearl River watershed for a  
25 project of this size?

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1                   And also, how will those financial  
2                   assurances be made ahead of time? Because  
3                   that cost -- I mean, the costs that were  
4                   listed in the draft EIS are astronomical  
5                   for mitigation. I just would wonder -- I  
6                   would not like, as a citizen, with this  
7                   resource being partly mine and my dollars  
8                   being used to fund it, for this to happen  
9                   or impacts be made, and then money runs  
10                  short or not being insured for the proper  
11                  mitigation.

12                 MR. SHAW: Yes, ma'am. I hate to  
13                 sound like a broken record, but Tammy is  
14                 your person for that. Oh, here we go.  
15                 Troy's got it.

16                 MR. CONSTANCE: So we do believe that  
17                 there is enough land available to create  
18                 mitigation or restore the mitigation  
19                 requirements. Right? In the basin. And  
20                 that's what we're working towards.

21                 Typically, we'll identify two or three  
22                 or four of them and then present those  
23                 because competition drives us to make sure  
24                 that there's availability of that  
25                 throughout.

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1           The question about setting funds  
2           aside, mitigation is a project feature.  
3           It is not different than, say, the weir.  
4           In addition, that law indicates that you  
5           should do mitigation before or concurrent.  
6           So those actions would go together.

7           So when we get authorized for a  
8           project, the cost of mitigation is  
9           included. We've identified local sources.  
10          It's almost always in the basin. If it's  
11          not in the basin, we have to go up almost  
12          mostly to the Secretary to get out of the  
13          basin.

14          So we don't believe that's going to  
15          happen, and we tell you that it will be  
16          part of the plan.

17          MS. HARRISON: Okay. That's good to  
18          know. And then there was mention of  
19          monitoring an adaptive management plan for  
20          the mitigation. Is that going to be  
21          present to the public as well?

22          MR. CONSTANCE: Yes. As part of the  
23          mitigation plan, we develop  
24          pre-monitoring, post-monitoring, and we  
25          monitor to success. And at the point of



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1 success, we turn it over to the sponsor to  
2 maintain in perpetuity.

3 MS. HARRISON: Is there a date of the  
4 release of that plan?

5 MR. CONSTANCE: We hope to have that  
6 plan in the final. We're working towards  
7 that. Hopefully we can get to that, but  
8 we'll keep you up on it, whether it'll be  
9 in the final or subsequently developed.

10 MS. HARRISON: Okay. Thank you. And  
11 my final question is about the PA for the  
12 cultural resources, that agreement. Will  
13 the cultural resource impacts of  
14 Alternatives D and E be released to the  
15 public?

16 MR. CONSTANCE: That's a -- there's  
17 little nuances to what you release to the  
18 public, and I think Jason is here. So  
19 Jason is our -- is our expert in that, and  
20 he can kind of walk you through how a PA  
21 works, what's releasable and what's not.  
22 As you could imagine, some cultural  
23 resources you want to protect from --

24 MS. HARRISON: Yeah. But maybe just  
25 the types and numbers and, you know,

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1           general information. You don't want to  
2           cause any digging or anything.

3           MR. CONSTANCE: Jason can walk you  
4           through the plan.

5           MS. HARRISON: But that mitigation  
6           and the cost for that would be included as  
7           well?

8           MR. CONSTANCE: Absolutely.

9           MS. HARRISON: And that'll be  
10          provided?

11          MR. CONSTANCE: Yes. That'll be  
12          provided by --

13          MS. HARRISON: Because I think they  
14          were provided for Alternative C, but  
15          not -- and for B that was dropped, but  
16          maybe not for D and E.

17          MR. CONSTANCE: We also have Jeremiah  
18          here, too. He's also --

19          MS. HARRISON: I have a lot of people  
20          to catch up with. Thank you so much for  
21          your time.

22          MR. CONSTANCE: You do. But they're  
23          great questions, and thank you.

24          MR. SHAW: Thank you, ma'am. Yes,  
25          ma'am.

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1 MS. HUTCHINSON: Good evening. I am  
2 Kathleen Hutchinson. I can't tell if you  
3 can hear me.

4 MR. SHAW: Ma'am, could you stand a  
5 little closer and maybe repeat your name?

6 MS. HUTCHINSON: Okay. Kathleen  
7 Hutchinson. Can you hear me now?

8 As a property owner along the Pearl  
9 River, I share concerns with other  
10 property owners about the DEIS that has  
11 been released, a document that says very  
12 little about downstream, and I am a  
13 property owner downstream.

14 The Corps states that One Lake is not  
15 feasible in this document, but then  
16 suggests a slightly smaller lake in the  
17 CTO, Alternative D, with the same problems  
18 and issues I think that you would have  
19 found with the One Lake. This, to me,  
20 seems contradictory and also confusing.

21 I am not an engineer. I am not a  
22 hydrologist. I do not understand a lot of  
23 this. So if these questions are dumb, I  
24 apologize in advance. I do not want your  
25 answers. I just -- I'm going to email

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1           these into you, but I do want to say them  
2           out loud to you. Okay?

3           Why consider another lake when the  
4           current reservoir operations are already  
5           causing property loss and damage  
6           downstream while operating under  
7           regulations that are very outdated? We  
8           should -- I don't know why Corps doesn't  
9           ask Congress for authorization to update  
10          these regulations to help those of us  
11          downstream.

12          In the CTO, Alternative D,  
13          construction involved reveals the possible  
14          impact of toxic hazardous waste sites  
15          locally and downstream. If done on the  
16          cheap, toxic waste could leach into the  
17          river during dredging.

18          We've already dealt with tons of  
19          sewage that has come down to us from  
20          Jackson. We certainly do not want to deal  
21          with toxic, radioactive waste coming down  
22          as well.

23          Shouldn't flood control start upstream  
24          by moderating input flow, rather than  
25          downstream? The study area in the DEIS

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1 document is too small and ignores both  
2 upstream and downstream impacts.

3 Alternative D doesn't address the  
4 increased water velocity, meaning  
5 downstream areas. My property is about 30  
6 miles down, and I'm expecting this huge  
7 amount of water that's going to be coming  
8 at a great velocity should we have a flood  
9 event.

10 The CTO, Alternative D is intended for  
11 both recreation and flood control, which I  
12 am told are incompatible purposes. I have  
13 an engineer friend who says that  
14 engineering principles suggest that  
15 combining these two functions can  
16 undermine the effectiveness or enjoyment  
17 of either. So why would the DEIS  
18 statement suggest a plan with  
19 contradictory purposes?

20 I want to say that I have great  
21 sympathy for the flooding issues here in  
22 Jackson. The good that can come from all  
23 of this is that we are given an  
24 opportunity to address these issues  
25 correctly. Effective flood relief can

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1 follow Alternative A's plan with home  
2 elevations and floodproofing buildings.

3 We should expand this plan while  
4 seeking congressional approval for what we  
5 really need, which is a comprehensive,  
6 basin-wide study. People have advised me  
7 to avoid taking these things personally,  
8 but it's hard not to when you're  
9 considering the situation.

10 The idea of Jackson land developers  
11 collaborating on a land development  
12 project that threatens to destroy our  
13 generational family property, let me  
14 assure you, is very personal.

15 Did you know that there are over 630  
16 properties along the Pearl River from just  
17 south of Jackson to the  
18 Mississippi-Louisiana state line? Please  
19 don't ignore us. I urge you not to forget  
20 about us downstream.

21 I know that a lot of this is about --  
22 I know that this is really about Jackson,  
23 but the decision that you make may affect  
24 us greatly downstream. Thank you so much  
25 for your time. I really appreciate this

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1 opportunity.

2 MR. SHAW: Thank you, ma'am. Yes,  
3 sir.

4 MR. RICKY: Dennis Ricky. I'm a  
5 resident of Rankin County. Where I live  
6 is not subject to flooding from the Pearl,  
7 but I think those whose properties are  
8 subject to flooding would be very  
9 interested in the answer that you give to  
10 the question I'm about to ask.

11 So let's say the plan goes to -- the  
12 plan is going to go to the Assistant  
13 Secretary of the Army. He or she, whoever  
14 that is, is going to say, yay/nay. Let's  
15 assume they say, yes, we're going to do  
16 the project, and this is the project that  
17 I choose.

18 And so, let's say the cost of the  
19 project is \$500 million, and let's say the  
20 current appropriation does not cover \$500  
21 million, but Congress acts, and you have  
22 the full \$500 million.

23 Based on your experience of other  
24 projects, once full funding and the  
25 decision of the Assistant Secretary of the

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1 Army is made, how long will it be before  
2 the first shovel of dirt is turned to  
3 start construction? An estimate, rough  
4 estimate.

5 MS. COLOSIMO: So it's a really  
6 difficult question to answer. I will say  
7 one thing as an opening matter on this  
8 that a bunch of us have talked about over  
9 the last day in these two sessions is, it  
10 depends upon what we pick and the  
11 sequencing. Right?

12 So let's say there was a plan approved  
13 that had Alternative A in addition to one  
14 of the other alternatives. Alternative A  
15 might be easier to begin the work, right,  
16 because it's got a bit of a simpler  
17 approach; but it's also complicated  
18 because it depends upon each homeowner and  
19 what they want to do and whether they want  
20 to be bought out and elevated.

21 So bottom line is, things that can  
22 happen simpler are the ones that are more  
23 obvious. The ones that require permits  
24 and additional studies take time.

25 So it could be a while, but having



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1 fully appropriated upfront, sometimes  
2 projects take 10, 15, 20 years; but that's  
3 because they're fighting for funding.  
4 Here, what we can advance quickly, we  
5 would be able to start immediately, and  
6 immediately is probably on the low side.  
7 With permits, I'd say in the two-to-five  
8 year range. That's just an educated  
9 guess. It really depends.

10 MR. RICKY: What if he selects the  
11 National Economic Development Plan or the  
12 NED?

13 MS. COLOSIMO: By itself?

14 MR. RICKY: Yeah.

15 MS. COLOSIMO: I mean, it's largely  
16 the same answer because there's work that  
17 has already begun; and because we already  
18 have the money, we would be advancing  
19 quickly. So it's in that two-to-five year  
20 zone of beginning that work. That's with  
21 unknown other things that can come up in  
22 the next few years.

23 MR. RICKY: Thank you.

24 MR. SHAW: Thank you. Yes, sir.

25 MR. CAMPBELL: Good evening. Good

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1 evening, sir. I just have mostly some  
2 comments. No doubt Jackson needs flood  
3 control, flood relief. I'm Monty  
4 Campbell.

5 We live on the Pearl River down south  
6 of here, down around Hopewell,  
7 Mississippi. And Jackson definitely needs  
8 flood relief. We need flood relief as  
9 well. And I just don't believe an  
10 1800-acre lake is going to provide any  
11 significant flood control for Jackson or  
12 for us downstream.

13 When those floodgates were opened up  
14 there on that reservoir and they were  
15 flowing I don't know how many thousand  
16 cubic feet per second, an 1800-acre lake's  
17 going to fill up in nothing flat.  
18 Probably won't last a half a day. So it  
19 just doesn't really make too much sense to  
20 me.

21 And downstream, we need bank  
22 stabilization. And we checked into that,  
23 and the Corps said that they do not have  
24 authorization or funding for any work on  
25 the Pearl River.

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1           The Pearl runs all the way, of course,  
2           to the Gulf of Mexico, about 250 miles of  
3           river. And when you figure that you got  
4           both sides of the river, so that gives us  
5           about 500 miles' worth of frontage. It  
6           seems like we ought to have a little pull,  
7           having that many landowners involved in  
8           what's going on.

9           But, anyway, we need bank  
10          stabilization in the worst kind of way.  
11          We're suffering severe bank erosion from  
12          these heavy rains and flooding that's  
13          going on. Seems like to me we would need  
14          more than an 1800-acre lake that people  
15          are talking about here. Seems like we  
16          might would need a big, huge, dry, lake  
17          that could hold this flood water  
18          temporarily and then let it ease out over  
19          time.

20          But we've had -- since back when the  
21          reservoir was built in '63 or '64, we've  
22          suffered. They'll open up those  
23          floodgates when they feel need be, and the  
24          water will -- they'll drain it down to  
25          where it suits them, and then they'll

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1 close the gates pretty suddenly. They  
2 used to do it worse than they do now. But  
3 they will shut the gates down, the banks  
4 are saturated, and when they close those  
5 gates suddenly, the banks erode. I mean,  
6 they slough off, and the trees slough off  
7 and that sort of thing. So that's the  
8 same thing that's going on now that's been  
9 going on since about '63 or '64, '65,  
10 along in there. About 60 years' worth of  
11 it's been going on.

12 And we live down there and have a lake  
13 that we irrigate out of, and the bank  
14 erosion is about to erode into that lake.  
15 So it's a top concern of ours to try to do  
16 something about bank stabilization.

17 And the other thing that Ms. Kathleen  
18 mentioned, I think, we -- I understand  
19 that the reservoir is working off a 1995  
20 plan, and here we are in 2024. And it  
21 seems like we need an updated plan for the  
22 Corps of Engineers to work with the  
23 reservoir and regulate the gates, do a  
24 better job of that. We would very much  
25 appreciate that.

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1           And before any kind of lake or  
2           anything would be built, it seems  
3           sensible, the only thing would make sense  
4           to me would be to have a basin-wide study  
5           of the whole Pearl River before they jump  
6           the gun and put in some sort of lake.

7           And the one question I'd like somebody  
8           to answer would be, all the development  
9           that's going on in Hinds, Rankin, and  
10          Madison Counties, all the pavement, all  
11          the buildings, and all of that, that  
12          increases the runoff that we're having to  
13          deal with downstream.

14          I'm wondering if there are any laws in  
15          effect that make it mandatory for people  
16          to have retention ponds to hold  
17          significant amounts of water, runoff water  
18          where all this construction is going on,  
19          so it can be let out slowly and not have  
20          quite as much impact on the flooding that  
21          we're seeing. Thank you very much.

22          MR. SHAW: Thank you, sir.

23          MR. CAMPBELL: Does anybody happen to  
24          know that? About the retention ponds,  
25          possibly in Hinds, Rankin, and Madison

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1 Counties where the development is going  
2 on, you know, and we're getting all this  
3 runoff.

4 MR. CONSTANCE: Well, typically those  
5 kinds of measures are managed by the  
6 state, county, or municipalities. They  
7 will pass ordinances restricting  
8 development and methods of managing  
9 runoff.

10 MR. CAMPBELL: Be dictated by the  
11 State?

12 MR. CONSTANCE: Well, it's going to  
13 be one of those, depending on the scale.

14 MR. CAMPBELL: Yes, sir.

15 MR. CONSTANCE: Either state, county,  
16 or the municipality.

17 MR. CAMPBELL: Thank you.

18 MS. SEABROOK: I'm Sarah Seabrook,  
19 and I have kind of the unique perspective  
20 of being born and raised -- being in  
21 Jackson and living through the floods and  
22 being a property owner downtown -- down  
23 river.

24 And I just kind of want to piggyback  
25 off what they say. Kathleen and I

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1           actually own the properties that we have  
2           together. And when y'all sit up here and  
3           say it takes this long for the water to  
4           come down, we sit and we go -- we're very  
5           scientific. We stick a stick in. I can  
6           watch overnight the water go up 3 feet,  
7           and I can watch it drop 3 or 4 feet in  
8           less than 24 hours.

9           Whatever is happening up here is  
10          having huge, huge impacts downstream. We  
11          used to get -- as a child, I got in the  
12          river and caught mussels. We won't even  
13          get in the river anymore. It's  
14          disgusting. It's turned from a beautiful  
15          river into a muddy river.

16          And I hope that when y'all are making  
17          your decisions, because I know this is all  
18          about Jackson, but those of us who have  
19          land downstream, the impact on us is  
20          different, but it should be equally  
21          important.

22          I hate anybody's house to get flooded.  
23          I think that's terrible and horrible and  
24          things in Jackson need to be done and need  
25          to be fixed. But what's happening -- I

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1 mean, my property we have is third  
2 generation. We have pictures of people  
3 swimming in springs right off the river  
4 from the 1800s, and it's getting ruined.

5 And we're very passionate about,  
6 what's happening to us is as important as  
7 people up here, too, and there just aren't  
8 as many of us. But we want our  
9 perspectives to be considered equally  
10 because just because we fix the problems  
11 up here, it's not going to fix them  
12 downstream.

13 So what's happening downstream -- and  
14 I know we're just in that big purple, or  
15 the big box -- we're not in the major  
16 consideration for this, and we need to be.

17 MS. COLOSIMO: Thank you.

18 MR. SHAW: Thank you, ma'am. Yes,  
19 sir.

20 MR. RUPAL: Hello. My name is David  
21 Rupal. I'm a -- I live in Hinds County.  
22 So I have a question. A, I'm opposed to  
23 Alternative D, but I do have a question  
24 about Alternative D.

25 If you put in the weir, is there going



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1 to be any kind of flood control structure  
2 associated with that weir, like some sort  
3 of gate that releases water or any of  
4 that, or is it just going to be a standard  
5 weir?

6 MR. CONSTANCE: So it's an overflow.  
7 Okay. It'll go completely over the top.  
8 Under a flood, it's almost as if it's not  
9 there.

10 The whole concept is to widen the  
11 stream. And then when you widen the  
12 stream, you get better flow through the  
13 city. As Mr. Turner was talking about,  
14 you have some areas that are choked out.  
15 So under a flood, the weir has really no  
16 effect. You heard us saying that. There  
17 will be low-flow gates --

18 MR. RUPAL: So you're saying that  
19 when there's a flood and all that water  
20 gets released from Ross Burnett, you're  
21 not going to see any increased run or,  
22 like, elevation change in whatever that  
23 lake is going to be?

24 MR. CONSTANCE: You'll have some  
25 changes when there's a flood occurring.

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1                   MR. RUPAL: So there's still going to  
2                   be flooding that is going to occur even  
3                   though we put the weir in?

4                   MR. CONSTANCE: No. Okay. Why don't  
5                   we -- I can take this, and we can go to  
6                   the back and work through it.

7                   But, essentially, the way you manage  
8                   water surface elevations in a stream is in  
9                   the cross-sectional area, how big it is,  
10                  and then the roughness of it.

11                  MR. RUPAL: Correct.

12                  MR. CONSTANCE: So you take this  
13                  stream that's rather narrow, full of  
14                  trees, grass, and stuff like that, has a  
15                  very high roughness. And so, when the  
16                  water tries to go through, that friction  
17                  causes the water surface to go up.

18                  So in this case, you widen the stream.  
19                  You get the benefit of a longer  
20                  cross-section, but at the same time, it's  
21                  relatively smooth because you don't have  
22                  all the trees and stuff like that. So  
23                  those two things allow the water to move  
24                  quickly through the system.

25                  Yes. You will get a rise in water

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1 surface elevation, but much less, so  
2 you're 5 feet at the 100-year less than  
3 what you would see under the current  
4 condition.

5 MR. RUPAL: Okay. And that's what  
6 your models showing?

7 MR. CONSTANCE: Pardon me?

8 MR. RUPAL: That's what your models  
9 showing?

10 MR. CONSTANCE: Yes.

11 MR. RUPAL: Okay. Thank you.

12 MR. PYRON: Good evening. I'm Craig  
13 Pyron from Crystal Springs. I'm a  
14 landowner that is south of Jackson in  
15 Covich and Simpson Counties; and we're  
16 losing tremendous amount of land every  
17 year from bank erosion. We're losing  
18 timber, and I'm in the timber business.

19 And Mr. John Siegmund met with us in  
20 Georgetown a year ago, who was over the  
21 reservoir at that time, and said that he  
22 is operating the reservoir on a plan  
23 that's about 30 years old. And to me, I  
24 don't know of a business today that can  
25 operate on a 30-year-old plan. We all

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1 know things have changed.

2 And he mentioned that there was only  
3 two gauges. There's one at the Highway 80  
4 bridge, a river gauge, and one at  
5 Rockport, and they're reading the river  
6 levels at that, those two gauges. We need  
7 more gauges on the Pearl River south of  
8 Jackson so the operators of the Pearl  
9 River will know how much water is there.

10 There's been tremendous development in  
11 Rankin and Hinds County; and with the  
12 buildings, the residences, the asphalt,  
13 and the concrete, the water is not soaking  
14 in like it did 30 years ago. It's coming  
15 down. It's coming through Richland Creek,  
16 and then you got the Strong River, and the  
17 gauges at Jackson and one at Rockport. So  
18 we need some more additional gauges.

19 And to me, I know there's been a lot  
20 of money spent and a lot of research done,  
21 but how could you build a magnitude of a  
22 project like this without a basin-wide  
23 study from the beginning of the Pearl  
24 River to the mouth? How could you do  
25 that? Thank you.

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1                   MR. SHAW: Thank you, sir. Anyone  
2                   else? We still have opportunities with  
3                   our subject matter experts in the back.  
4                   We would just like to tell you thank you  
5                   so much for attending, thank you for your  
6                   questions, your feedback, and we just wish  
7                   you a very safe travel home. And we will  
8                   do this again in the morning in Slidell.  
9                   Thank you all. Good night.

10                   (END OF PROCEEDING.)

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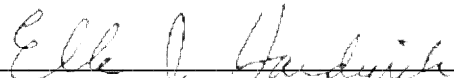
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CERTIFICATE OF COURT REPORTER

I, Ella J. Hardwick, CVR-M, #1749, Court Reporter and Notary Public, in and for the State of Mississippi, hereby certify that the foregoing contains a true and correct transcript, to the best of my ability, as taken by me in the aforementioned matter at the time and place heretofore stated.

I certify that I am not in the employ of or related to any counsel or party in this matter and have no interest, monetary or otherwise, in the final outcome of this matter.

Witness my signature and seal this the 21st day of July, 2024.

  
Ella J. Hardwick, CVR-M #1749

My Commission Expires:  
February 8, 2025