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**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
MOBILE DISTRICT**

TRANSCRIPT

of the

SCOPING MEETING

for the

**PROPOSED PORT OF GULFPORT EXPANSION PROJECT,
HARRISON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI**

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY PERMIT
APPLICATION SAM-2009-1768-DMY**

 Taken at the
Fleming Education Center Auditorium
University of Southern Mississippi
730 East Beach Boulevard
Long Beach, Mississippi
March 31, 2011
6:30 p.m.

REPORTED BY:

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A P P E A R A N C E S

FOR THE U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS:

Damon M. Young, P.G.

MODERATOR:

Carolann S. Cole

FOR THE MISSISSIPPI STATE PORT AUTHORITY:

Joe Conn

FOR ATKINS NORTH AMERICA, INC.:

Angela Bulger

PROVIDING COMMENTS:

Reilly Morse

Linda St. Martin

Terese P. Collins

Howard Page

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- - -

O P E N I N G R E M A R K S

1
2 MR. YOUNG: On behalf of the
3 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and from our
4 local district, welcome to this evening's
5 public scoping meeting for the Port of
6 Gulfport expansion project.

7 My name's Damon Young. I am the
8 project manager for the EIS and the
9 Department of Army Application.

10 The Corps is supported by PBS & J,
11 soon to become Atkins North America, who is
12 the third party contractor supporting the
13 Corps in this process.

14 Due to the number of persons who
15 have expressed an interest in this process,
16 I ask that we follow certain ground rules.
17 Those ground rules will be detailed shortly.

18 It is the policy of the Corps to
19 conduct our regulatory program in an
20 atmosphere of public understanding, trust,
21 and mutual cooperation and in a manner
22 responsive to the public interest. Please
23 be aware that the Corps is neither a
24 proponent nor an opponent of any project.
25 Our role is to manage the process and ensure

1 our regulatory provisions are met.

2 I would ask that you please focus
3 your comments and discussions to those
4 issues involving the proposed project. The
5 transcript, written statements, and other
6 data submitted in connection with this
7 meeting will be made a part of the
8 administrative record for the EIS process.

06:31:25p

9 I would now like to call upon
10 Ms. Carol Cole, who is our meeting
11 moderator.

06:31:35p

12 Ms. Carol?

13 - - -

14 **R E M A R K S B Y M S. C O L E**

15 MS. COLE: Good evening and thank you so
16 much for coming. This is just a really nice
17 crowd. I appreciate everybody, most of you,
18 anyway, agreeing to take a name tag so I
19 know who I'm shaking hands with. So I think
20 we're off to a good start.

06:31:47p

06:32:03p

21 I am officially calling the public
22 scoping meeting for the environmental impact
23 statement for the proposed Port of Gulfport
24 expansion project to order. And we are
25 convening at 6:35 p.m.

06:32:23p

1 Before we get started, I'd like to
2 just follow up a little bit on what Skip
3 just said. We want to be sure that you guys
4 under -- oh, "you guys." I'm sorry. I've
5 lived in Idaho for 20 years, and I stopped
6 saying "y'all" -- but, y'all, we want to be
7 sure y'all understand why we're here
8 tonight.

06:32:40p

9 Number one, this is an information-
10 gathering process. We want to be sure that
11 you folks have the information you need
12 about the environmental impact statement
13 process and this particular project so that
14 you can give good feedback to the Army Corps
15 of Engineers, who is the federal agency that
16 is doing the environmental study.

06:32:54p

17 And we also want to be sure you
18 understand how you can participate in the
19 process. And we want to be sure that we're
20 starting to understand your issues and
21 concerns. So those are the two main reasons
22 we're here tonight.

06:33:26p

23 A few notes on logistics: If you
24 need the restrooms, they're just to the
25 right in the atrium area where you came in.

06:33:38p

1 Also I wanted to note that you got
2 information packets tonight, and there are
3 some presentations also that appeared out in
4 the lobby. If you would like to see those
5 again, they're posted on the project Web
6 site. And the project Web site is mentioned
7 in your handout. But, basically, it's
8 portofgulfporteis.com. And you can go there
9 and anything that you missed here tonight,
10 you can get that.

06:33:58p

06:34:15p

11 We do have a few ground rules, as
12 we always do at a large meeting like this.
13 First of all, we ask that you respect the
14 people who are speaking while they're
15 speaking and, you know, limit your -- limit
16 disturbances or interruptions. This is a
17 very nice bunch of people so I'm very
18 encouraged about that.

06:34:28p

19 And then respect the time limits
20 during the comments session. I'll mention
21 really briefly that we have so far 10
22 speakers who were here on time and signed
23 up. Now, if there's anybody else who wants
24 to sign up, feel free to just step to the
25 back of the room. And a lady named Heather

06:34:43p

06:34:57p

1 will be there, and you can still add your
2 name to the list.

3 But we're giving -- because we
4 have 10 speakers, we're -- originally, we
5 were just going to allow two minutes, but 06:35:10p
6 we're giving people five minutes. And if we
7 have any extra time at the end, latecomers
8 will be able to comment; or if you still
9 have something to say, come back and say
10 something else. Does that make sense? 06:35:23p

11 All right.

12 I think -- oops. Sorry.

13 Now I'm going to introduce Joe Conn
14 from the Mississippi State Port Authority.
15 And he has a video to show us as well as a 06:35:40p
16 presentation about the project.

17 Thanks.

18 - - -

19 **REMARKS BY MR. CONN**

20 MR. CONN: Thank you. Thank everyone 06:35:48p
21 for coming. We really appreciate your
22 attendance here tonight.

23 I'm going to start immediately with
24 the video and then give you a short
25 presentation. So let me just start with 06:35:58p

1 that.

2

- - -

3

(VIDEO PRESENTATION)

4

MR. CONN: All right. Again, let me
5 thank you for attending.

06:40:17p

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What I'd like to very briefly do
tonight is just bring you up to date of what
we've been doing in the last few years, sort
of describe to you the difference in the
restoration and expansion projects of the
port. And that's -- that's really just to
give you an update of both of those
activities.

06:40:28p

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First off, the objectives which
were just discussed in the film are the same
objectives that we've always had for the
port. We want to protect the port of
Gulfport from a storm surge such as happened
in Katrina. And by stopping the containers
and the equipment from being damaged on the
port, it will also help protect the city of
Gulfport around the port.

06:40:41p

23

24

25

We're going to do this by building
a semi-automated modern container-handling
facility on the west pier. In doing this,

06:40:52p

06:41:04p

1 we're doing it in such a way, we're building
2 it in restoration for the next seven years.
3 It will accommodate for 10 to 15 years in
4 the future. The EIS that we're presenting
5 tonight will go 20 to 30 years in the
6 future.

06:41:21p

7 But the concepts that we are
8 building upon will enable the port to be
9 expanded on out 50 to 100 years with the
10 infrastructure, the transportation
11 corridors, the utility corridors, those type
12 things in place so that in the future when
13 the port needs to be expanded, it can be
14 without disrupting the city of Gulfport
15 around it.

06:41:32p

16 We want to do this in a way to
17 create jobs. Jobs in the maritime industry
18 are good-paying jobs; usually, with a high
19 school education the people will have a very
20 good income.

06:41:56p

21 This meeting tonight, the meetings
22 we had this afternoon; working with
23 regulating agencies; getting you, the
24 public's, comments into what we're doing; we
25 want to be a part of the community who want

06:42:06p

1 to do this project in a way that meets the
2 needs of both the port and the city of
3 Gulfport and the Gulf Coast region.

4 Just very quickly -- we mentioned
5 TEUs so many times in these presentations -- 06:42:21p
6 the TEU is a 20-foot equivalent unit. When
7 you see a container on the back of a truck
8 going up and down the highway, most of those
9 are twice that long and count -- they're 40
10 feet long and count as 2 TEUs. 06:42:37p

11 But we use that term. That's just
12 the industry standard in the maritime
13 industry, and I just wanted to bring that
14 very quickly and define it.

15 The rest of the numbers on this 06:42:45p
16 chart were covered in the video.

17 This is where we are today. We
18 made a considerable amount of progress. I'm
19 not sure whether I'll be able to show this
20 to you. 06:42:59p

21 Some of the things that you don't
22 see on the slide are the Copa foundations,
23 which were in the north harbor area over
24 this entire area. They were removed end of
25 last summer. 06:43:10p

1 The 60-acre fill, which you see
2 right here, has been completed. That last
3 of that fill was completed this last Sunday.
4 The 60-acre fill was the first two phases of
5 the 84-acre fill project.

06:43:27p

6 Moving on to this slide shows you
7 the restoration project of what we're
8 already permitted to do. The port received
9 a permit for 84 acres of land in 1998, long
10 prior to Hurricane Katrina. Sixty acres of
11 that was already under construction prior to
12 Katrina, and part of that was destroyed.
13 That was then started again and completed
14 last Sunday.

06:43:45p

15 The remaining 24 acres of that 84
16 acres required a trigger. The Port met that
17 trigger by upgrading the rail lines. We
18 brought this permit to the regulating
19 agencies. DMR reviewed it and brought it
20 before their board, reaffirmed it. The
21 Corps of Engineers reaffirmed that permit in
22 December of this year [sic].

06:43:58p

06:44:14p

23 Additionally, we have a CLOMAR,
24 which is a conditional letter of map
25 revision, allowing us to raise our existing

06:44:27p

1 footprint to 25 feet above sea level. That
2 was granted by FEMA.

3 Doing both of those things on this
4 existing footprint will then allow us to
5 relocate our current tenants -- Dole, 06:44:39p
6 Chiquita, and Crowley -- into permanent
7 facilities. They've been in trailers, very
8 temporary, basic facilities ever since
9 Hurricane Katrina. They will be in the
10 first three berths there on the water. 06:44:53p
11 We'll have enough space to bring a fourth
12 tenant, which will then increase our
13 capacity by 500 TEUs.

14 The first three tenants that I
15 mentioned do approximately 200,000 TEUs a 06:45:06p
16 year. We will provide them with enough
17 space capable with a more efficient
18 arrangement to increase their throughput by
19 anywhere from 50 to 100 percent.

20 So we're hoping their business will 06:45:21p
21 grow to 400,000 TEUs, the half a million
22 from the new tenant, and the port will be
23 capable of handling roughly 1 million TEUs
24 per year.

25 The arrangement that you see here, 06:45:33p

1 we'll also be adding rail-mounted gantry
2 cranes along the water which are more
3 efficient. The center part of the wharf
4 will be for the containers. The large red
5 building is the transient warehouse
6 facility. Along in that area, we'll have
7 entry-exit facilities for the tenants as
8 well as maintenance facilities, then the
9 road and rail are along the western edge of
10 the western pier.

06:45:46p

06:46:00p

11 And this shows you an artist's
12 concept of that. I'd also like to add that
13 along the extreme western edge, we're going
14 to have open to the public -- there'll be a
15 biking-walking trail along the western edge.
16 There'll also be water catchment basins, or
17 ponds, along that area. And we plan to
18 provide two or three fishing piers. And you
19 might have seen those in the film.

06:46:14p

20 The security fencing, then, will be
21 between the catchment basins and the walking
22 area and the port itself. So that little
23 area will be open. We've seen this done in
24 California and other areas, where there are
25 very nice public parks. On the weekends

06:46:28p

06:46:39p

1 when the port's closed, they can be quite
2 popular with the public.

3 So to just summarize in the
4 restoration project, we're doing the fill
5 material; we're doing permanent facilities
6 for our existing tenants with room for an
7 additional tenant; we will be upgrading our
8 road, rail, and utilities on to the port;
9 and we'll be bringing rail-mounted gantry
10 cranes -- more efficient equipment -- on to
11 the port.

06:46:50p

06:47:06p

12 These things, I've already
13 described to you the permit process which
14 we've completed. We're also required to do
15 an environmental assessment and submit that
16 to HUD. We have done that. We've had two
17 public comment periods on that environmental
18 assessment. It has gone to HUD now for
19 their review. They have received comments
20 which they are reviewing, and we're awaiting
21 upon a decision from HUD.

06:47:15p

06:47:27p

22 Bringing you, then, to the EIS
23 permit application for the expansion of the
24 port of the future, the real reason
25 everyone's here tonight, what you see here

06:47:41p

1 is the figure, the vision which we saw for
2 the port one year ago in March of last
3 year. This is a figure out of the permit
4 application which the Port submitted to the
5 Corps of Engineers.

06:47:54p

6 At that time, we envisioned
7 increasing the port to almost 1,000 acres.
8 As you see, there was an east and west pier
9 expansion. On the east pier, it would allow
10 for transportation corridors, both road and
11 rail, to reach both piers. That required
12 filling in the north harbor area and moving
13 the entire port more to the south.

06:48:07p

14 In analyzing that -- and also as we
15 further developed that design that is -- it
16 was over \$1 billion project, a lot more
17 money than we had at the current time.

06:48:23p

18 We also received comments from
19 regulating agencies with concern over
20 filling in one part of a federal channel and
21 then using that -- having that become dry
22 land and moving further to the south,
23 comments that we received from the public.

06:48:36p

24 So this, in the course of the last
25 year, we have revised our plan.

06:48:50p

1 What you see there, the areas in
2 gray, are the existing port facilities, or
3 they will be after the restoration.

4 The area that you see in orange is
5 what we are proposing in the EIS permit
6 application.

06:49:04p

7 We're looking to add approximately
8 160 acres to the south beyond our existing
9 footprint on the west pier. This will be
10 adequate space to bring in a new tenant,
11 what we refer to as a "concession."

06:49:17p

12 The concession would be a high-
13 capacity container tenant. We feel that
14 this is a -- this is -- this is enough space
15 using modern equipment to move 3 million
16 TEUs per year. That would bring the entire
17 port capability up to 4 million TEUs. This
18 would be in the future after we've exceeded
19 the capacity on the restored footprint which
20 we now have.

06:49:31p

21 You also see an orange -- in the
22 northern harbor, that will be an additional
23 area. That's where the old Copa was. That
24 area right now is relatively shallow. It
25 hasn't been dredged to deep water. We could

06:49:48p

06:50:00p

1 put a bulkhead and a wharf there. If the
2 demand or the need arose, that would be an
3 ideal location for a cruise ship line.
4 We're looking out into the future.

5 We're also looking at the further
6 development on the east pier. As it said in
7 the video, these piers were for bulk, break
8 bulk, and roll-on/roll-off-type of
9 capability.

06:50:13p

10 The breakwater which you see on the
11 east of the port facility there is strictly
12 a vision of what we plan right now. We know
13 that the currents migrate from east to west,
14 and the basin would probably fill with
15 sediment if we don't have the breakwater
16 there. But the actual design of it, that
17 hasn't been done yet. That's really a
18 concept right now.

06:50:24p

19 In the development of this, going
20 from 200,000 to 1 million TEUs, you can see
21 the number of increased jobs. These
22 estimates are based on studies which have
23 been done on seven other ports around the
24 United States. Two of those ports, the Port
25 of Houston and the Port Everglades are in

06:50:43p

06:50:56p

06:51:12p

1 the Gulf Coast; the others were on the east
2 and west coast.

3 They look at both direct jobs --
4 indirect jobs are jobs that are in other
5 firms that do business in the maritime
6 industry.

06:51:24p

7 The induced jobs are jobs in the
8 community, in restaurants, real estate,
9 people like that where the direct jobs bring
10 money into the community.

06:51:40p

11 So these are estimates that
12 economic studies have been developed. We
13 think they're reasonable. It depends on how
14 fast the TEU quantities increase; it's also
15 dependent to some degree on exactly how the
16 TEUs are moving through the port.

06:51:54p

17 That -- this is just a definition
18 of what I've just given you.

19 That really concludes the -- what I
20 wanted to cover tonight, just describing to
21 you the difference in the restoration and
22 expansion of the port. We're going to be
23 happy to take questions at the end of the
24 presentation.

06:52:07p

25 MS. COLE: Thank you, Joe.

06:52:39p

1 Now I'd like to introduce Angela
2 Bulger from PBS & J/Atkins. And she's going
3 to tell you a little bit about the
4 environmental impact statement process and
5 the National Environmental Policy Act.

06:52:53p

- - -

7 **R E M A R K S B Y M S. B U L G E R**

8 MS. BULGER: Good evening, everyone. My
9 name is Angela Bulger. I am with PBS & J.
10 As of tomorrow, our name will be Atkins. So
11 tonight we're PBS & J slash Atkins.

06:53:05p

12 We are an environmental and
13 engineering consulting firm that has been
14 retained to prepare what is known as a
15 "third party environmental impact
16 statement."

06:53:17p

17 What this means, that we have been
18 contracted by the permit applicant, the
19 Mississippi State Port Authority, but we
20 will work at the direction of the Corps of
21 Engineers as the lead agency to prepare the
22 environmental impact statement, which will
23 be a Corps of Engineers' document.

06:53:28p

24 This environmental impact statement
25 is being prepared under the National

06:53:37p

1 Environmental Policy Act of 1969 as
2 amended. The National Environmental Policy
3 Act requires an environmental impact
4 statement for major federal actions that may
5 result in significant impacts.

06:53:48p

6 And I'm sorry. I forgot to start
7 my slide presentation.

8 There.

9 The proposed port expansion is
10 considered a federal action because a
11 federal permit is required from the Corps
12 before the project can be constructed.

06:54:08p

13 I'd like to give you a brief
14 overview of the National Environmental
15 Policy Act process. This flow diagram is
16 one of the posters, or displays, that was in
17 the other room. And as seen for projects of
18 this type, the process is initiated when a
19 permit application is submitted to the Corps
20 of Engineers.

06:54:18p

21 It's then determined whether or not
22 an environmental impact assessment or an
23 environment impact statement needs to be
24 prepared. This is determined based on the
25 potential impacts of the project.

06:54:45p

1 In this case, it was determined
2 that it was appropriate to prepare an
3 environmental impact statement. Preparation
4 of an environmental impact statement
5 involves gathering information from the
6 agencies and public in regards to the type
7 of issues that should be addressed in the
8 document. This is known as the "scoping
9 period," and it's the reason we are here
10 tonight.

06:54:54p

06:55:05p

11 The next step is to prepare a draft
12 environmental impact statement, which will
13 be completed and circulated for review by
14 agencies in the public. Comments concerning
15 the draft environmental impact statement
16 will be incorporated or addressed in the
17 final environmental impact statement. And
18 based on the information in the final
19 environmental impact statement, the Corps
20 will make a decision to permit the project
21 as it stands, permit the project with
22 modification, or deny the application.

06:55:15p

06:55:24p

23 The Corps of Engineers will issue a
24 decision in the form of a record of
25 decision. Thus the process of preparing an

06:55:38p

1 environmental impact statement is one of
2 gathering and presenting information and
3 using that information to determine the
4 impacts of various project alternatives,
5 including the no-action alternative.

06:55:49p

6 This brings us to the content of
7 the environmental impact statement. As you
8 can see here and you noted, again, in one of
9 the displays in the other room, the
10 environmental impact statement will include
11 a description of the purpose and need for
12 the project as well as a description of each
13 alternative considered.

06:56:00p

14 All the alternatives carried
15 through the environmental impact statement
16 are examined in light of impacts and
17 benefits to the human environment.
18 Therefore the environmental impact statement
19 includes not only impacts to the areas that
20 are generally thought of as being nature --
21 such as water quality, air, vegetation,
22 wildlife, and threatened and endangered
23 species -- but also impacts to the area such
24 as energy and mineral resources, traffic,
25 esthetics, and socioeconomics.

06:56:09p

06:56:19p

06:56:32p

1 These topics are included through
2 the description of existing conditions and
3 an evaluation of potential impacts resulting
4 from each alternative, including the
5 no-action alternative. This allows for a
6 comparison of alternatives with the
7 no-action alternative acting as a "without-
8 project" scenario.

06:56:42p

9 As Mr. Conn explained and those of
10 you who saw the displays know, the proposed
11 project, which is the subject of the permit
12 application, is to expand the currently
13 approved Gulfport facilities. Activities
14 associated with the proposed action will
15 result in potential impacts to the human,
16 ecological, and physical environment. Thus
17 special details by means of appendices to
18 the environmental impact statement will be
19 given to certain federal laws such as the
20 Endangered Species Act, the Clean Water Act;
21 the Federal Coastal Zone Management Act; the
22 Clean Air Act; the Magnusen-Stevens
23 Fisheries Act; and the Marine Protection,
24 Research, and Sanctuaries Act.

06:56:55p

06:57:07p

06:57:18p

25 The National Environmental Policy

06:57:30p

1 Act requires that the federal agency in
2 charge -- in this case, the Corps of
3 Engineers -- seeks input from those who may
4 be impacted by the project or those who have
5 concerns about the project, which is why we
6 are here tonight.

06:57:44p

7 The concerns raised here tonight
8 from your verbal comments, those from your
9 written comments, and the past experience of
10 agency personnel involved in the National
11 Environmental Policy Act process, will be
12 addressed in the draft environmental impact
13 statement.

06:57:52p

14 Let me emphasize that the
15 environmental impact statement is an
16 information document, not a decision
17 document. The decision document is the
18 Record of Decision to grant or deny the
19 permit, which will be prepared by the Corps
20 based on the information provided in the
21 environmental impact statement. Thus the
22 reason we're here tonight is to gather
23 information from you so your concerns can be
24 addressed in the environmental impact
25 statement.

06:58:01p

06:58:12p

06:58:22p

1 So thank you for your attention
2 tonight. And I'll turn it back over to
3 Carol.

4 - - -

5 **F U R T H E R R E M A R K S B Y M S . C O L E**

06:58:27p

6 MS. COLE: We've now come to the part of
7 our meeting where we will break to take
8 verbal comments from folks who signed up.

9 Heather, have we had any more
10 additions? Okay.

06:58:49p

11 We have 10 speakers, and we're
12 going to give each speaker about five
13 minutes to speak, and that gives us a little
14 bit more time if we have other people who
15 come late in a little bit late. They can
16 get a chance to speak as well.

06:59:05p

17 I don't know if there are any folks
18 here tonight that need translation or
19 interpretation services, but we have both a
20 Spanish translator and a Vietnamese
21 translator here tonight. If you're here and
22 you would like interpretations of written
23 materials or anything, just let us know and
24 we will bring one of those folks to help
25 you.

06:59:18p

06:59:34p

1 Here's how our process will work.
2 I have a list of the folks who signed up to
3 comment, and I will call you to either one
4 of the court reporters. Since we have a
5 relatively small group, I will just time you
6 by myself and then I'll call the next
7 person. If we have any additions through
8 the comment period, Heather will let me know
9 and she'll bring me the additional names.

06:59:54p

10 And I think everybody who has
11 signed up to comment -- right, Heather? --
12 we've gotten all the correct information for
13 the record from them; is that right?

07:00:14p

14 Great. Okay.

15 Now, if you want to state your
16 comment, great. If you want to go back
17 outside and look at the exhibits or talk
18 with any of the staff, you don't have to sit
19 here because the comments -- the court
20 reporters will take comments individually.
21 So feel free to get up and move around, step
22 outside. If you have any questions between
23 now and 8:00 o'clock, you can speak with the
24 Corps representatives or MSPA
25 representatives or whomever.

07:00:30p

07:00:43p

07:01:00p

1 So we have until about 8:00 o'clock
2 to take questions -- yes, ma'am?

3 MS. COLLINS: Do we not have public
4 comments made publicly so we can all benefit
5 from those comments?

07:01:17p

6 MS. COLE: We're giving them
7 individually, and the comments will be
8 available for review.

9 MS. COLLINS: So the answer's no?

10 MS. COLE: The answer is no.

07:01:25p

11 MS. ST. MARTIN: Whose decision was
12 that?

13 MR. YOUNG: Ma'am, that would --

14 MS. ST. MARTIN: Why?

15 MR. YOUNG: -- be the Corps of
16 Engineers. This is an information-gathering
17 meeting; it is not a public hearing. We
18 need to make sure we get as much information
19 as we can in the record, in the transcript,
20 so that we can begin and continue our
21 evaluation process.

07:01:30p

07:01:42p

22 That's the reasoning. We need to
23 get as much information from you as we can,
24 and we need to make sure everyone in here
25 has that opportunity to deliver comments.

07:01:50p

1 And with two court reporters, we can get a
2 lot more information.

3 Yes, ma'am?

4 MS. ST. MARTIN: Now, the meeting that I
5 went to in Bay St. Louis with the Corps not
6 long ago, they had public comments but they
7 let everybody hear. Everybody saw the
8 presentations that they did; everybody heard
9 what they said.

07:02:00p

10 MR. YOUNG: Yes, ma'am. That may have
11 actually been a public hearing. This is a
12 scoping meeting, not a public hearing.

07:02:13p

13 Yes, ma'am?

14 MS. COLLINS: I've attended other
15 scoping meetings, and the comments were made
16 publicly for the benefit of the public to --
17 you know, we learn from each other.

07:02:21p

18 MR. YOUNG: Yes, ma'am. I understand.
19 But this -- we have a lot of concern and a
20 lot of people that need to provide comments,
21 and we want to gather as much information as
22 we can.

07:02:31p

23 Now, you can also e-mail, and a lot
24 of this information will be made public on
25 the Web page. We're going to get the

07:02:39p

1 transcripts and put it on the Web site. So
2 you'll be able to read it and gather that
3 information and you can e-mail information
4 or write a letter.

5 MS. COLLINS: How will we know if we
6 don't hear the comments if the comments are
7 actually getting -- remaining in your
8 documentation? We would have no way of
9 knowing that.

10 MR. YOUNG: Ma'am, by law they have to.
11 That's part of the National Environmental
12 Policy Act. We have a certain set of laws,
13 rules, and regulations that govern the
14 specific process. That is one of which.

15 I know a lot of people have
16 comments. I'll be happy to talk to you
17 outside, but we need to go ahead and get
18 moving on these two court reporters being
19 able to --

20 MS. COLLINS: Will you publish the
21 comments?

22 MR. YOUNG: The comments from the public
23 are in the environmental document. Yes,
24 ma'am, they will be.

25 MS. COLLINS: And how do we get that

07:02:49p

07:02:59p

07:03:08p

07:03:18p

07:03:23p

1 information?

2 MR. YOUNG: Number one, we're going to
3 have a Web site. Number two, we're going to
4 let the media know. We also will send out
5 written confirmation that it will be
6 available at such and such time. I know
7 Howard Page is here. We're going to be
8 coordinating with him quite a bit from the
9 Steps Coalition.

07:03:30p

10 Yes, ma'am, make sure you sign up
11 and join the mailing list and we can get
12 that. I know Howard has spoken about that
13 quite a bit as well already at several of
14 the meetings.

07:03:43p

15 But, ladies and gentlemen, we need
16 to go ahead and get started. And, again,
17 we'll be outside to answer any comments you
18 have, questions you have.

07:03:51p

19 MS. COLE: Okay. I'd like to call our
20 first two folks who registered to comment.
21 That would be Reilly Morse and Gerald
22 Miller. One of you could go here and the
23 other to the other court reporter.

07:04:23p

24 Reilly Morse and Gerald Miller, and
25 the next two people who will be called upon

07:04:53p

1 next will be Linda St. Martin and Raleigh
2 Hoke.

3 - - -

4 **COMMENTS BY**

5 **R E I L L Y M O R S E**

07:05:22p

6 MR. MORSE: R-e-i-l-l-y M-o-r-s-e,
7 Mississippi Center For Justice, and I'm
8 submitting these comments in part on behalf
9 of the Steps Coalition and in part on behalf
10 of the North Gulfport Community Land Trust.

07:05:40p

11 So the first comment is that the
12 issue of environmental justice is necessary
13 to cover. It was not listed among the items
14 to be considered in the presentation, and it
15 should have been. In this case, the
16 environmental justice effects concern the
17 disproportionate adverse impact of the port
18 and the connector road and railway upon
19 nonwhite communities in Gulfport.

07:06:23p

20 The air quality, the noise, the
21 disruption of traffic flow, the physical
22 division of several of these communities by
23 the highway, the railway, and this new port
24 connector road fall almost exclusively upon
25 communities that are majority black in west

07:06:41p

07:07:09p

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C L O S I N G R E M A R K S

MS. COLE: It's now 8:00 p.m. and our verbal comment section is over. The project team would like to thank everyone for coming and taking the time to comment.

07:56:21p

Remember, you still have until April 14th to comment on the EIS Web site, by e-mail, by letter, or by fax. The comments form in your packet has those instructions for how to comment.

07:56:37p

Thank you again. Our meeting is adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

- - -

(The hearing concluded at 7:57 p.m.)

C E R T I F I C A T E

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STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
COUNTY OF JEFFERSON DAVIS

I, Mark Offutt, CSR, Freelance Court Reporter and Notary Public for the County of Jefferson Davis, State of Mississippi, do hereby certify:

That the hearing occurred before me at the time and place hereinbefore stated;

That the preceding typewritten pages contain a full, true, and correct copy of my stenotype notes and/or electronic recording of the hearing;

That I am not related to or in anywise associated with any of the parties of this cause of action, or their counsel, and that I am not financially interested in the same.

In WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand, this the 18th day of April, 2011.



Mark Offutt
Mark Offutt, CSR, Notary Public,
State of Mississippi,
County of Jefferson Davis.
My commission expires 08-01-11.