

ALBUQUERQUE BERNALILLO COUNTY
WATER UTILITY AUTHORITY MEETING
Thursday, November 16, 2017, 5:05 p.m.

VINCENT E. GRIEGO CHAMBERS
ALBUQUERQUE-BERNALILLO COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER
ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 87102

A P P E A R A N C E S

COUNCILOR KLARISSA PENA, Chair (excused)

COMMISSIONER DEBBIE O'MALLEY, Vice Chair

MAYOR RICHARD J. BERRY, (excused)

COUNCILOR PAT DAVIS, Member

COMMISSIONER MAGGIE HART STEBBINS, Member

COMMISSIONER WAYNE JOHNSON, Member

COUNCILOR TRUDY E. JONES, Member

PABLO RAEL, Trustee (excused)

ROB PERRY, Alternate

BEFORE: KIM KAY SHOLLENBARGER, RPR, CCR #236
Paul Baca Professional Court Reporters
500 4th Street, Northwest, Suite 105
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102

1 CHAIRWOMAN O'MALLEY: Good evening, everyone,
2 and welcome. I call the November 16, 2017 meeting of
3 the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility
4 Authority to order. Let the record show Chair Pena
5 and Trustee Rael are excused.

6 We're going to begin with the invocation and
7 Pledge of Allegiance led by outgoing CEO Rob Perry.

8 (Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance)

9 CHAIRWOMAN O'MALLEY: Thank you. We go next
10 to Item 3, which is the approval of minutes. I move
11 to approve the October 18, 2017 minutes.

12 COUNCILOR JONES: Second.

13 CHAIRWOMAN O'MALLEY: There's a motion and a
14 second. All those in favor say aye.

15 MEMBERS: Aye.

16 CHAIRWOMAN O'MALLEY: All oppose say no. The
17 motion carries.

18 We go next to proclamations and awards. So
19 there's an award here.

20 So this is in recognition of longevity for
21 Member Perry for endurance, longevity, all this sort
22 of thing, for serving on the Albuquerque Bernalillo
23 County Water Utility Authority for seven years
24 representing Mayor Berry. So we have a gift for you.
25 I don't know what it is. You should open it and share

1 it with everyone.

2 (Opening of gift)

3 MR. PERRY: It's very nice.

4 CHAIRWOMAN O'MALLEY: Oh, very nice. It is
5 kind of a watch.

6 MR. PERRY: Oh, that's great. I'll point
7 that out. It's a beautiful plaque with a picture of
8 some guy I've never seen before, and a clock.

9 I want to say thank you so much to the Board
10 and to staff for this. It's a real honor and a treat
11 and it's been great being on this Authority Board. I
12 think you guys serve the interest of your constituents
13 in a amazingly competent, professional and ethical
14 way. And the issues of water are so critically
15 important to a multitude of things for this community
16 and every community and it's just been an honor and a
17 treat and privilege to work with such professionals.
18 And the employees of the Water Utility Authority that
19 are out there are some of the best I've ever worked
20 with.

21 My son actually had the opportunity, he's an
22 engineering student at the University of Louisville,
23 and he had the opportunity to work, and Mark said, "Do
24 you want him to come in and do inside work in the
25 engineering office," and my son said, "No, I want to

1 work out in the field." He had worked on the ground
2 on utility work before and he would tell me stories
3 about these guys and how hard they work. And he never
4 missed a day. He said they went in, start their day
5 at 7, worked until 4, then overtime, the full-time
6 employees, and it was amazing, you know, what they did
7 for our consumers and our public and our citizens and
8 that's what makes it successful, and the management
9 and the folks, and the citizens that are involved, all
10 make it a very, very successful endeavor,
11 organization, something to be proud of.

12 So thank you so much, Madam Chair, all the
13 Board Members, all the employees, and Mark and his
14 staff. Wonderful people.

15 CHAIRWOMAN O'MALLEY: Well, thank you. We
16 wish you well and your family well.

17 (Applause)

18 CHAIRWOMAN O'MALLEY: So I just want to
19 recognize someone who probably doesn't want to be
20 recognized, but so what. Her name is Patti Jenkins.
21 There she is. Hi, Patti. And she's retiring from the
22 Water Authority. She was one of the few employees to
23 start when the Water Authority was created and she
24 will be missed. Thank you for your service.

25 (Applause)

1 CHAIRWOMAN O'MALLEY: Do I have to make a
2 motion to move up Item 10A? Okay, I would like to
3 make a motion to move up Item 10A.

4 COUNCILOR JONES: Second.

5 CHAIRWOMAN O'MALLEY: There's a motion and a
6 second to move up Item 10A. All those in favor say
7 aye.

8 MR. PERRY: Aye.

9 COUNCILOR DAVIS: Aye.

10 COMMISSIONER HART STEBBINS: Aye.

11 CHAIRWOMAN O'MALLEY: Aye.

12 COUNCILOR JONES: Aye.

13 CHAIRWOMAN O'MALLEY: All those oppose say
14 no. Motion carries. This is on the water report.
15 Welcome.

16 MR. SHEAN: Good evening, Madam Chair,
17 Members of the Board.

18 Tonight we're having Intera Incorporated, our
19 environmental contractor, to provide you with a recent
20 review they did of one of the Air Force's documents
21 related to the work, the corrective action, occurring
22 on bulk fields facility spill that you have been aware
23 of for a few years now.

24 But briefly, before we go over our comments,
25 just sort of a status report from staff's perception.

1 The Air Force has made much progress as far as some
2 interim measures of going since 2014, particularly
3 when the Air Force and the Engineering Center got
4 involved.

5 Staff, myself and Intera still committed to
6 working with the Air Force and the key stakeholders
7 and all the technical gurus that have been a part of
8 this to keep this project moving and going forward.

9 The report that they're going to be going
10 over, their comments on, it was submitted sometime in
11 January. Prior to its submittal it was mentioned by
12 the Air Force that they recognize that the data that
13 they were presenting had some gaps, and they were
14 going to have more information provided within the
15 next two years so they could move on to the next phase
16 of work. Our work with Intera was intended to inform
17 the decisions and the data gaps that they would be
18 collecting.

19 It's been said that maybe we've a strict
20 critic of this site. However, we would just like to
21 state, we're not looking for perfection by the Air
22 Force, but we're certainly looking for a robust
23 application of the data and the science that's
24 available to them.

25 With that said, let me introduce Eileen

1 Marcillo of Intera.

2 CHAIRWOMAN O'MALLEY: Thank you. Welcome.

3 MS. MARCILLO: Good evening, Madam Chair and
4 fellow Board Members. Like Rick said, we performed a
5 review of the RCRA facility investigation report, the
6 RFI report, submitted by the Air Force. And through
7 our review we found four key findings that we feel are
8 really important to be addressed in these addendums
9 that the Air Force are going to be submitting as part
10 of their report. So I just want to walk you through
11 the four key findings that we identified.

12 The first key finding is that there is
13 insufficient soil data to estimate vadose zone source
14 mass. So what that is, the vadose zone is the
15 unsaturated region in the subsurface that extends from
16 the ground surface to about 450 feet below ground
17 surface, where the water table is. And so really the
18 data that they currently have is not -- we need more
19 data so that we can understand where the mass is
20 located both laterally and vertically within that
21 vadose zone. We also need to understand, well, how is
22 that mass being transferred from that unsaturated zone
23 to the aquifer that's most at risk. That's what we
24 call mass flux. So that was our first key finding.

25 Our second key finding is similar, is that

1 there's insufficient data and there's an inaccurate
2 description of the fuels, that's light nonaqueous
3 phase liquids, or LNAPLs. The fuels near and in the
4 saturated zone. So the saturated zone is the aquifer
5 that serves the public.

6 Our third key finding is that the analysis
7 presented misrepresents groundwater contaminant
8 trends.

9 And our fourth key finding is that there's an
10 incomplete groundwater plume delineation.

11 So the following slides kind of provide more
12 detail for each of these key findings that we found.

13 So the first one that we found that needs to
14 be addressed is that the mass within the vadose zone.
15 So how much fuel is actually in the vadose zone. To
16 be able to implement corrective measures you really
17 need to know how much fuel and where it's located to
18 implement an effective corrective measure and reduce
19 risk to the aquifer. So really, how much mass is in
20 the vadose zone. And then, once again, how much of
21 that mass is moving down. You know, talked a lot
22 about mass, but what about the composition of the
23 fuels. Is EDB in the fuel that remains in the vadose
24 zone? I mean, EDB is a particular concern to the
25 Water Authority because that's what's impacting the

1 aquifer. So really, it has inaccurate data about the
2 LNAPL above the water table that potentially is going
3 to act as a source too as the water level rises and
4 encounters that mass in that vadose zone. But, you
5 know, we feel as though this data gap can be resolved
6 by the proposed coring plan that the Air Force is
7 being submitted.

8 So that second key finding that we found was
9 fuels in the aquifer, so that saturated zone. Once
10 again, it's all about location and mass and the
11 aquifer is critical to evaluating that long term
12 contaminant source. As long as that mass is there
13 it's going to be a continuing problem for the aquifer.
14 It's going to continue to dissolve and impact the
15 potable water. So the RFI doesn't really have a
16 discussion about, you know, well, what's happening as
17 the water level rises. It's going to be encountering
18 that mass that's in the vadose zone. It needs to
19 include, you know, discussions that, well, we're
20 potentially seeing a much thicker aquifer, or a plume,
21 contaminant plume, vertically, because it's
22 encountering that new mass as it's coming up. And
23 also, it doesn't use all the available data, the
24 concentration data, to identify, well, where is this
25 mass located in the saturated zone. You know,

1 previously, about 2009, you could go out, you could
2 take measurements in wells and you could actually get
3 direct measurements of fuel within these monitoring
4 wells. Well, now that we've seen the water level
5 rising it's down the screens, it's redistributed the
6 LNAPL. Well, there's other metrics that you can use,
7 more indirect lines of evidence, to determine whether
8 or not where the mass is.

9 What we've done here is we've looked at
10 groundwater concentrations and so we know fuels and a
11 mixture of a bunch of different chemicals. How each
12 of these chemicals dissolves into the groundwater, you
13 can call effective solubilities. You can take a look
14 at groundwater concentrations that have been -- at
15 each monitoring well and compare it to effective
16 solubilities of, let's say, benzene or total petroleum
17 hydrocarbons. So if your groundwater concentration
18 exceeds that effective solubility that's an indicator
19 that, hey, there's mass there, there's fuel there,
20 that's still an issue. Just because it's not in the
21 well doesn't mean it's gone and doesn't need to be
22 treated.

23 So here's an image. We took data from 2015
24 for the four quarters of sampling and looked at
25 groundwater concentration. So each of these dots and

1 yellow squares corresponds to groundwater
2 concentration that exceeded the effective solubility.
3 So there was a known LNAPL in there, but it exceeded
4 the effective solubility. Line of evidence that there
5 is fuel in or near this monitoring well. And what's
6 interesting is, if you were to look at, you know, the
7 LNAPL footprint from historical reports, it's exactly
8 similar to the footprint of where these wells are
9 located.

10 So our third finding was that it
11 overestimates degradation rates. So the analysis of
12 concentration trends really says that all these
13 concentration decreases are because of degradation.
14 It doesn't, you know, take into account other
15 explanations of why we could be seeing decreasing
16 trends. These other explanations could include, you
17 know, SVE that has occurred at the site. Physically,
18 our soil RCRA extraction site, so remediation that has
19 occurred. The drowning of the well screens. LNAPL
20 being redistributed. Other things. Yes, we
21 acknowledge that degradation is occurring, but we need
22 to, you know, acknowledge that there are other
23 explanations that we are seeing decreasing trends. So
24 really it's overestimating the degradation rates.

25 The fourth finding was that there's an

1 incomplete ground -- delineation of the groundwater
2 plume. So the first one is with the shallow
3 monitoring well network. As we've seen the water
4 levels rise about 85 percent of the shallow wells now
5 have their screens submerged. And so we're not
6 effectively monitoring groundwater concentrations in
7 the shallow aquifer, which is really important.
8 Because now our shallow aquifer wells are really
9 monitoring what could be termed as the intermediate.
10 So it's really important that additional wells be
11 installed, you know, so that we can monitor the
12 shallow aquifer. And the Air Force has acknowledged
13 that, yes, this is a data gap and that they have
14 agreed to install new shallow monitoring wells.

15 To go on with delineation is that inadequate
16 vertical definition of the northernmost part of the
17 plume. So on the right here is -- and from the recent
18 report is the EDB plume. And this red box is where we
19 took a cross-section, a slice, and that's the picture
20 on the left-hand side. And the picture on the
21 left-hand side, the north is on the right and the
22 south is on the left. So each of these vertical lines
23 is significant of a well. And it might be hard to
24 see, but the blue boxes are where the well screens
25 are. And then behind that, actually, you have yellow

1 coloring, is coarser grain sediments, sands. And then
2 the gray is the finer grain sediments, silts and
3 clays. And so, the two deep wells that had consistent
4 detects of EDB, the most northern two deep wells, are
5 the ones on the left. And so, we have questions
6 about, well, you know, the monitoring wells that you
7 have north of these two wells are not screened in the
8 proper place. So we could be missing, you know, that
9 deep EDB plume, that northern extent of that deep EDB
10 plume. So it's really important that a monitoring
11 well is installed so that it's intercepting, you know,
12 the depth of this coarse grain could be driving the
13 EDB.

14 So in summary, we feel as though the RFI is
15 not currently adequate for evaluating corrective
16 measures. We feel as though, you know -- we hope that
17 these data gaps can be addressed in the RFI addendums.

18 And so, in summary, it's just, where is the
19 mass located in the vadose zone, as well as the
20 saturated zone. So where is that fuel located? You
21 know, we need the data to estimate migration rates.
22 How is it transferred from the vadose zone into the
23 saturated zone? That's really important for the plume
24 longevity, basically. And then, just to find the
25 shallow and deep groundwater plume. Ultimately it's

1 really important that these are addressed.

2 Additional data needs to be collected so that
3 corrective measures can be implemented and reduce the
4 longevity of the plume.

5 CHAIRWOMAN O'MALLEY: Councilor Davis.

6 COUNCILOR DAVIS: Thank you, Madam Chair.
7 Thanks so much for that. Let me just come back really
8 quickly to do a follow-up question on sort of the
9 second finding related to the RFI. You mentioned a
10 couple of times that there's some other data points
11 that are also out there. My question is, are there
12 other data points that we can reasonably point to that
13 might help us compensate for the drowned screening
14 devices that gives us some data or that the RFI could
15 use in lieu of or do we truly need to recommend that
16 we start over with new wells that can be vertically
17 adjusted according?

18 MS. MARCILLO: I don't think that. I mean, I
19 think it's both. I think a lot of the groundwater
20 data from existing wells can be used to indicate where
21 the mass is. Unfortunately, in the source area -- I
22 mean, all over the plume we don't have shallow
23 monitoring wells and so that really is -- you need to
24 install those.

25 COUNCILOR DAVIS: Sure.

1 MS. MARCILLO: Because you have to monitor
2 those. And so, that's just another part of the
3 dissolve phase. As far as source area and mass in the
4 vadose zone, I mean, I think we calculated, it's like
5 six percent of the vadose zone has been sampled and a
6 lot of those samples were collected at kind of like
7 predetermined depths. And so, it needs to be -- you
8 know, I do feel as though, like, it's important to
9 have some continuous from the ground surface to, you
10 know -- I mean, I can't say a certain depth.

11 COUNCILOR DAVIS: Sure.

12 MR. MARCILLO: But there needs to be some
13 continuous collection of soil core to understand where
14 the mass is.

15 COUNCILOR DAVIS: And, Madam Chair, if I
16 could follow that up really briefly. I realize we're
17 not writing the RFI here, but just making
18 recommendations. But in your professional experience,
19 if the RFI were crafted in order to gather the data
20 that you think is necessary to really give us that
21 picture, how much more work or how much more
22 infrastructure is that going to take? And I think
23 part of the question is from the neighborhood there
24 that we hear from. Obviously they endured a whole lot
25 of the initial wells and it's frustrating now for a

1 lot of folks to hear now that so many, 85 percent or
2 so of some of the monitoring wells, you know, have
3 been drown and essentially those wells are no longer
4 usable. There's some fear that they have to sort of
5 go through all this again, as they just got settled.
6 I mean, what's your professional experience on how
7 much more infrastructure is it going to take to get us
8 to the place where we get the right data the next
9 time? A little or a lot, maybe is what I'm asking.

10 MS. MARCILLO: I mean, it's hard to -- it
11 depends on what you find in the source area, I guess.
12 I mean, it's a really iterate process. It's really
13 hard to put, you know, an end point. Until the data,
14 you know, in the source area, in that vadose zone,
15 starts to be collected. I mean, when you design
16 corrective measures, I mean, your infraparameters, you
17 need to know where it's located and what the mass is
18 and those are two key parameters that there are
19 still -- there's some uncertainty. Sorry.

20 COUNCILOR DAVIS: We have to have the data.
21 We just want to be sure. Thank you.

22 CHAIRWOMAN O'MALLEY: Mr. Perry.

23 MR. PERRY: Madam Chair, I just have a couple
24 of questions. I would also like to express my
25 appreciation for coming down and giving us an update.

1 After hearing all of the presentation, I'm trying to
2 digest this to summary format. I know that you've
3 been doing the pump and treat. And I imagine that
4 getting this data of what you want to do is maximize
5 the remediation effort by getting the most dangerous
6 contaminants, the LNAPL, things like that. And I'm
7 familiar with the whole history of the effort that's
8 been put in by this contract, as well as, I think the
9 prior contract, with characterization. And Councilor
10 Davis' questions about, well, how much work has to be
11 done before you can really get more accurate
12 assessment of the most volatile area and perhaps the
13 most efficient area to move, pump and treat, and that
14 kind of thing. And I'm not holding you to any
15 specific amount of time. Is that fairly regular with
16 these types of underground plumes?

17 MS. MARCILLO: That you're saying? I'm
18 sorry.

19 MR. PERRY: That you would have to
20 continuously try to identify locations and character
21 of the major pollutant area within the underground
22 water plume.

23 MS. MARCILLO: What currently has been
24 installed is an interim measure.

25 MR. PERRY: Right.

1 MS. MARCILLO: The purpose is to collect more
2 data so that the Air Force and their contractors can
3 install permanent solutions. So I think in this
4 process, yeah, it would be -- I mean, typically you
5 want to have a full understanding of the situation
6 before you implement a remediation system, or whatnot.
7 But you can always put pilot test systems or interim
8 measures while you're concurrently collecting data so
9 then you can build out to a full-scale system.

10 MR. PERRY: Got it.

11 MS. MARCILLO: Does that answer your
12 question?

13 MR. PERRY: It does to a certain extent. It
14 certainly hones it down and I appreciate your efforts.
15 My question wasn't very precise and clear. But in
16 plumes of this nature, and I understand probably no
17 two plumes are the same. I'm assuming TAT this type
18 of data effort is pretty common. I mean, does it take
19 five, ten years to really probably do a lot of that
20 data so that you can, you know, put permanent measures
21 that are confirmed to be at least close to high level
22 of efficiency with remediation efforts in place?

23 MS. MARCILLO: Any field effort, yes, it's
24 going to take -- I mean, it's a lot of energy and
25 time, because you have to secure permits and whatnot.

1 And I also think it's an iterate process. You can't
2 just, you know, sit and be like, hey, we're going to
3 put a hole here, here, here or here, you know. So, I
4 mean, the Air Force has gone out and done it. You
5 know, they've put, you know, a lot of monitoring wells
6 in, definitely, you know. Unfortunately, some of the
7 data may be previously in the source area could have
8 been collected at the time those wells had put in and,
9 you know, don't feel like there was sufficient data
10 collected. Some data was collected, but we feel as
11 though, you know, there's still some -- obviously some
12 data gaps. So unfortunately, since when those wells
13 were being put in, that data was not collected.

14 MR. PERRY: Sure. I understand. I think I
15 understand. And let me express my appreciation,
16 because I think they have some -- the Air Force is
17 committed to it to start with. They have the
18 resources and they put resources towards it. Very
19 high capital cost of those resources. They've
20 listened to the community, probably most importantly,
21 try to do a good job with keeping the community in the
22 loop of what's going on and transparency related
23 thereto. You come down and told us it's not perfect,
24 we still have work to do. I mean, that's what you're
25 telling us tonight in plain, simple English. And I

1 understand it's a process of science and engineering
2 and a whole host of other things and that it will be
3 time-consuming. And they've got people like yourself
4 that are really smart and probably makes us all feel
5 at ease. You'll keep up with the science and the
6 engineering and the hydrology and everything else
7 that's related to it. But we hope to continuously get
8 updated as these problems -- well, I shouldn't say
9 problems. These issues and occurrences develop.
10 Thank you, Madam Chair.

11 CHAIRWOMAN O'MALLEY: Commissioner Stebbins.

12 COMMISSIONER HART STEBBINS: Thank you, Madam
13 Chair. I have a couple of questions. If you were to
14 say, like what's the most significant shortcoming in
15 the RFI, what would that be?

16 MS. MARCILLO: It would definitely be those
17 first two findings. It's really understanding the
18 mass, where it's located in the vadose zone and the
19 saturated zone. The longevity of the plume is totally
20 dependent on that mass and if you don't know where it
21 is and you don't know how much is there, it's really
22 difficult to implement a corrective measure. So I
23 think it's really important that the data is collected
24 to help fill in the holes with the data that's already
25 been collected and it will make a complete picture.

1 But it's just really important to get an understanding
2 of where the fuel is located in the vadose zone within
3 the source area so that it can be remediated and the
4 risk can be reduced to the potable water supply.

5 COMMISSIONER HART STEBBINS: And I hope I ask
6 this the right way. So several years ago, I think it
7 was either Shaw or CB&I did a test well that was
8 supposed to measure how water and contaminants move
9 through the soil there at the site of the fuel spill.
10 How much of this RFI is based on that, I think it was
11 called a pump test. How much of the RFI that was just
12 recently presented is based on that pump test? A lot
13 of the estimates of like how things are moving are
14 based on that or something else?

15 MS. MARCILLO: I do not recall off the top of
16 my head. I mean, I do know, the RFI, it's a
17 culmination of like all the data. And so it's based
18 on, you know, from the first soil sample was taken to,
19 you know, present day. So I don't think a lot -- I
20 mean, that test won't tell us about the mass or
21 anything like that. That's just going to tell us
22 about the aquifer parameters, which -- the aquifer
23 characteristics, which is a huge parameter for
24 designing pump and treat systems. Yeah, I don't
25 recall.

1 COMMISSIONER HART STEBBINS: So it would be
2 important though in the estimate of how the EDB plume
3 is moving? Capture perhaps.

4 MS. MARCILLO: Yes. Most definitely capture
5 perhaps. Definitely it's very sensitive. We know
6 that it's a very heterogeneous system. We know that
7 for these aquifer characteristics, there's a couple
8 that are T inputs, but there's a wide range out there.
9 So the capture of these plumes are definitely
10 sensitive to this range.

11 COMMISSIONER HART STEBBINS: I think we all
12 recognize that the pump and treat system that's in
13 place is an interim measure. There are three wells in
14 place. One soon to be installed.

15 MS. MARCILLO: I believe it's installed
16 already and I think we're putting it on line, yes.

17 COMMISSIONER HART STEBBINS: How comfortable
18 are you that those wells are going to capture the EDB
19 plume?

20 MS. MARCILLO: We do have some videos from
21 the last time, I presented. It was prior to the pump
22 and treat system being installed. Intera had created
23 a model and we had put some hypothetical wells in,
24 just to kind of show, you know, capture. Basically,
25 the uncertainty it is with respect to the aquifer

1 characteristics. You know, with five wells versus
2 three wells. You know, like hydraulic conductivities,
3 basically how water flows through soil. There's a
4 wide range, you know. I think the pump test that
5 you're talking about, a range from 70 feet per day to
6 300 feet per day. So we updated what we had shown you
7 guys, we updated the model and put in the three
8 extraction wells that currently the Air Force is
9 actively pumping at and we have them at 150 gallons
10 per minute. So here we have -- I can replay it. On
11 the left-hand side is the shallow plume. The
12 intermediate is the blue. And then the brown is the
13 deep plume. So what those are, you can think of all
14 those little colored dots as EDB particles. You know,
15 this is one set of parameters of the aquifer that we
16 could test it at. So, you know, here in this
17 situation, where the K was set at 175 feet per day,
18 these wells are doing a fairly good job, right. You
19 see all the little particles are being captured by the
20 three black dots, which are the extraction wells. And
21 then I can show you the next simulation that we did
22 with the model that we had created and it's a little
23 bit different. And so we changed, we altered the
24 parameters to be what would fall within the
25 variability of the system. And you can see we have

1 some escape. And so it is a variable. You know, it's
2 a lot of heterogeny and so it's really important when
3 you're evaluating capture to take a look at all the
4 different permeations that you could have as far as
5 aquifer characteristics. So with the three wells, I
6 mean, I definitely wouldn't be confident or four wells
7 be confident, unless -- to say that it's all going to
8 be captured unless, you know -- I mean, we need to
9 evaluate it. You know, look at the models. Look at
10 the data to see.

11 COMMISSIONER HART STEBBINS: And the reason I
12 ask that question. Again, I recognize that this is an
13 interim measure. Several years ago Deputy Assistant
14 Secretary Mark Correll was here. He had a meeting
15 with many of us elected officials, where he made a
16 commitment to eight wells. I absolutely agree that
17 there's no need to do eight, given the cost of eight,
18 if it's not necessary. But I guess I just always go
19 back to that original commitment, is eight what we
20 need and maybe it's too early to tell. Right now in
21 your evaluation, three or four, doing the job?

22 MS. MARCILLO: We're further evaluating it.
23 I mean, I think we need to run more simulations, you
24 know, put that fourth well in. Confirm how much each
25 of these wells is actually pumping, to make sure that

1 we're modeling the system correctly. Really then, you
2 know, kind of take a look at the data as well and, you
3 know, evaluate whether or not there is a hundred
4 percent capture of the plume.

5 COMMISSIONER HART STEBBINS: Thank you.
6 Madam Chair, just one more quick question. Can you
7 explain the complexities of the rising water table?

8 MS. MARCILLO: With respect to additional
9 source mass or just altogether?

10 COMMISSIONER HART STEBBINS: Well, just the
11 remediation. If the water table were where it was ten
12 years ago, that would be one circumstance. I
13 continually hear that the rising water table is just
14 going to create more complexity in the remediation
15 process.

16 MS. MARCILLO: Well, I think, yes. I think
17 you're going to have -- two-fold. I mean, it's easier
18 to treat the unsaturated zone, basically, instead of
19 just pumping and trying to dewater and then treat the
20 soil. There's other ways that you can do it, by air
21 sparging, you can heat it up. But I think also, I
22 think what's -- you know, we're seeing wells, you
23 know, the expensive wells that are being put in are
24 now being submerged and so they're going to have to
25 put more wells in. And additionally, what's really

1 important is that we have this mass in that vadose
2 zone and so as it's rising up it's just, you're adding
3 mass to that plume. And so your plume is getting
4 thicker and thicker and thicker. But I think just
5 overall, it complicates things when water is involved.
6 Did that answer...

7 COMMISSIONER HART STEBBINS: Yes, it does.
8 Thank you. I think most of us look at the rising
9 water table as a good thing, except in this particular
10 circumstance. Thank you very much.

11 MS. MARCILLO: At sites all over New Mexico
12 you see wells going dry and we're having to go out and
13 install new wells because the wells went dry and then
14 all of sudden, you know, wells start -- the water
15 levels are rising in some areas and then the well is
16 -- so it's not just in Albuquerque. You know, it is
17 happening in other places.

18 COMMISSIONER HART STEBBINS: Thank you, Madam
19 Chair.

20 CHAIRWOMAN O'MALLEY: Commissioner Johnson.

21 COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Thank you, Madam
22 Chair. I thank you for your work.

23 MS. MARCILLO: Yep.

24 COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: You know, half the
25 time it leaves me scratching my head. Sometimes I'm

1 wanting to scream, we need to get rid of all of our
2 water conservation programs because obviously it's
3 messing up the whole --

4 MS. MARCILLO: Don't do that.

5 COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: No, I'm kidding.
6 Please don't report that, Martin. In any case, one of
7 the things I think is really important to realize is
8 that you get to a certain point, and it's your best
9 educated guess, you're really trying to define a
10 system with a limited number of data points and the
11 modeling that goes in there. I see this in the East
12 Mountains quite a bit when you're dealing with water,
13 once you get about five feet underground nobody knows
14 really what's going on and it's just your best guess
15 that -- educated guess, because you're very smart
16 people. I wouldn't presume to tell you how to do your
17 job or anything else. But we also have to realize
18 that there's a range of different ideas as far as how
19 serious it is and what the consequences are across
20 that board. And we need to make sure that all the
21 players are engaged in a continuing dialogue. Because
22 you have a spectrum of risk across that board, it's a
23 very high risk to low risk and what you're trying to
24 do is balance that as a public official across the
25 board. So I was very happy to have you work and have

1 this report. But I also see there's some folks here
2 from the 377th and I don't know whether they want to
3 make any comments on this. Ms. Lynnes or Colonel
4 Nichols or someone? Someone smarter than me would
5 probably be a good person to comment from the Air
6 Force's perspective.

7 MS. LYNNES: Thank you, Madam Chair. And
8 thank you, Commissioner Johnson. For those of you who
9 don't know me, my name is Kate Lyness and I'm the
10 Senior Advisor for the Air Force for the Bulk Fields
11 Cleanup Project.

12 What Intera just presented to you today,
13 we're actually more in agreement than it may appear at
14 first glance. The RFI report, and for those of you
15 who were able to come to our public meeting the other
16 night, Diane Agnew from NMED presented this part of it
17 as well.

18 We started doing investigation work 16 --
19 well, now more like almost 18 years ago. And so the
20 RCRA facility investigation report that was submitted
21 to the State collects 16 years worth of data. So
22 basically the stopping point of the data that was
23 analyzed in the report was the end of 2015, which is
24 not that long after our first extraction wells were
25 put in place.

1 The purpose of an RFI report is to
2 characterize the nature and extent of the
3 contamination. I think what got a little confusing,
4 and I can see it more clearly now based on Intera's
5 review and other people's review of the report, is
6 that we also summarized the progress of the interim
7 measures to date in that report. But keep in mind,
8 these things are ongoing. I think it led to the
9 impression that we thought we were done and ready to
10 go to the corrective measures evaluation, but the
11 report actually clearly states that is not the case.

12 In fact, the report, if you look at the
13 conclusions and recommendations, says that additional
14 characterization was needed on the ethylene dibromide
15 plume, the one that's gone off base, as well as coring
16 and other characterization activities in the source
17 area that was just being discussed. And that coring
18 work plan, you know, will do just that. And we're
19 working on the locations with the State.

20 We're also getting ready to submit a work
21 plan for the locations for the additional monitoring
22 wells. And I apologize to everyone in the
23 neighborhood. Yes, there will be additional
24 monitoring wells. And I know I'm going to hear about
25 it, the dog bark in the grocery store and everywhere,

1 and I feel very bad about it, because there's no fun
2 in having a rig in your front yard, I get that.

3 So I think, you know, when we look at it and
4 we're looking at -- so keep in mind, you have up to
5 December of 2015. We've continued to collect data.
6 We've always known about the rising water table. And
7 as Diane discussed a couple of nights ago, it's been
8 gradual. It's been predictable. We knew it. We knew
9 we were going to need some additional wells, we knew
10 all this. But all of a sudden it took this really
11 significant jump, you know, earlier this year, well
12 after the cut-off point for that report. So of course
13 that report doesn't address it.

14 Have we done as much work in source area we
15 would like to as we -- you know, unfortunately we
16 can't do everything at one time. We heard the
17 community's deep concern, as well as the State's, that
18 we get some extraction wells, get that interim measure
19 in place, particularly at the tip of the plume, you
20 know, to mitigate any potential forward movement and
21 to try -- you know, to eventually bring it back so
22 that the potential threat to Ridgecrest wells three
23 and five is mitigated and in the future eliminated.
24 And that's what we focused our initial energy and
25 resources on.

1 And believe me, getting a treatment plant
2 built in four months, even for a private sector, would
3 be amazing. And the government did that. So, you
4 know, you have been pulling out all the stops to get
5 that in place.

6 But we did have treatment in the vadose zone,
7 we had extraction that ran for 12 years that took out,
8 between that and some bioslurping, which is one of my
9 favorite things to say, which is getting free product
10 at the top of the water table, removed about 750,000
11 gallons of fuel, equivalent of fuel to vapor. And we
12 had to let that system shut off because it kind of
13 reached the end of its useful life. We were putting
14 more propane to run the system than vapors we were
15 taking out. So we had to let that rest and come back
16 to equilibrium so we can go back and look in the
17 vadose zone, were cleaned up by the soil vapor
18 extraction. What areas are left. And that's one of
19 the things that the coring that we're going to do next
20 year will help us figure out.

21 That fourth well that's going to come on line
22 at the end of January -- sometime in January of next
23 year is the one that's at the base of the plume. And
24 what we're going to do there, the goal of that one is
25 to start -- because we know we still have source area

1 -- we know, we still have fuel in the source area. We
2 don't want to continue to feed that off site plume.
3 So the purpose of this fourth well is to begin the
4 process of trying to cut that plume off at the base,
5 you know, so it doesn't continue to feed it while we
6 investigate. And we're going to have three different
7 pilot tests going on next year for ideas to remediate
8 the source area, in addition to the investigation of
9 cores. So we have not forgotten it. We never
10 intended to. We have the commitment. We have the
11 work funded and we're going to do it.

12 And to go to your point, Commissioner Hart
13 Stebbins, yes, my boss Deputy Secretary Mark Correll
14 promised up to eight wells, that is still there. But
15 as you know, we do things in phases. Intera addressed
16 that iterate process that we have. And so we'll put
17 this fourth well in. We'll see how it works. We do
18 further aquifer tests. We do further modeling. We're
19 going to have a second plume capture meeting with
20 Intera and USGS and the City and NMED in the very near
21 future, probably early December, to talk about that as
22 well, to continue to refine how we calculate that
23 capture, because we have lost some of our water table
24 wells and we need to look at other lines of evidence,
25 where our data gaps are and how to continue to address

1 this.

2 So are we still committed to up to eight
3 wells? Absolutely we're still committed to up to
4 eight wells if it's necessary. But we haven't even
5 seen how the fourth well is going to work yet because
6 it's coming on line in January.

7 So I hope that helps put it in a little bit
8 of context and I'd be happy to answer any questions.

9 COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Thank you. I don't
10 have any additional questions. Thank you for all the
11 work that you have done and I want to thank everybody
12 for being here today.

13 MS. LYNNE: Well, thank you for the
14 opportunity. I appreciate it.

15 CHAIRWOMAN O'MALLEY: Mr. Shean, do you have
16 anyone else who wanted to speak to this issue?

17 MR. SHEAN: I do believe the State
18 representatives are here from the Environment
19 Department, if they want.

20 CHAIRWOMAN O'MALLEY: Is it just if we have
21 any questions or did they want to make comment? I
22 guess not.

23 MR. SHEAN: Diane Agnew from New Mexico
24 Environmental Department.

25 CHAIRWOMAN O'MALLEY: Welcome.

1 MS. AGNEW: Madam Chair, Members of the
2 Board. We're here primarily for questions. We wanted
3 to be available if anything came out of the
4 presentation tonight with Intera.

5 CHAIRWOMAN O'MALLEY: Commissioner Stebbins
6 has some questions.

7 COMMISSIONER HART STEBBINS: Thank you, Madam
8 Chair. Thank you for being here, Diane. So I have
9 two real quick questions. What was NMED's response to
10 the Intera report?

11 MS. AGNEW: The Intera report is very much in
12 line with the comments that we had from our review.
13 In fact, there are four findings where -- the four
14 issues that we were discussing internally, primarily
15 the lack of mass, delineation, understanding where the
16 mass of the fuel remained. The need for additional
17 data to understand that distribution. The rising
18 water table. Those two things are very much high
19 priority, which I think is what Intera was also
20 expressing. Is that until you know where the mass is,
21 you could potentially keep encountering it as the
22 water table rises and as the water table rises this
23 network submerges. So we don't know what's happening
24 at the water table in the source area and that's a
25 critical need.

1 And then the other finding that we had was
2 not only was the degradation analysis misrepresenting
3 what we believe for the processes that were happening,
4 they were based on erroneous data and were overstating
5 what was happening at the site.

6 And so that was NMED's summary in a nutshell
7 and that was reflected in our August 3rd letter.

8 COMMISSIONER HART STEBBINS: Thank you.
9 Madam Chair, just one more question. It was my
10 understanding that there was a report due from the Air
11 Force earlier this month responding to a work plan
12 that was supposed to address NMED's concerns. Has
13 that been received? Is there a deadline for that?

14 MS. AGNEW: That's right. So our August 3rd
15 letter required the Air Force to submit a work plan to
16 address the three issues we had in our letter, rising
17 water table, the need for downward monitoring wells to
18 address the degradation rate and then also to address
19 the LNAPL flux. The due date was the 8th of November.
20 We had not received a work plan yet, though we've been
21 in communication with the Air Force and NMED did issue
22 of notice of deficiency today.

23 COMMISSIONER HART STEBBINS: Thank you.
24 Thank you, Madam Chair.

25 CHAIRWOMAN O'MALLEY: Thank you very much.

1 Are there any other questions? I do have a question.
2 I guess this is for staff. Of course, this came to
3 the surface, literally. So it was mentioned that
4 there was anticipation that the water level would
5 rise, it's risen quite a bit. Is that because of the
6 recharge efforts, the water recharge efforts? What is
7 causing that? Apparently it's making things worse.

8 MR. SHEAN: Madam Chair, that is actually
9 part of both the move to dependence on surface water
10 as the primary drinking water supply, so we're not
11 pumping as much in the old basin, so that does allow
12 us some more water recharging in and to replace the
13 dry soil now with saturated soil where it had not
14 been, since we have been pumping down below. Also I
15 would say conservation has also led to that.

16 CHAIRWOMAN O'MALLEY: So what is the plan? I
17 mean, that's a Water Authority issue, right, in terms
18 of pumping and what sources it uses. So what is our
19 plan to do with this issue or is that out of our
20 hands? What is the deal?

21 MR. SHEAN: Madam Chair, one, we're still
22 patting ourselves on the backs, seeing this water rise
23 and to increase the groundwater supply for the
24 community. As Eileen mentioned, across the state
25 they're usually dealing with issues of a drop of water

1 supply when you're at a contamination site. And in
2 those cases the responsible party for the
3 contamination are having to adjust their technologies.
4 There are technologies to deal with both drop in water
5 table and a rise in water table at these spills.

6 CHAIRWOMAN O'MALLEY: It just sounded like it
7 got a lot worse as a result, but you're saying there
8 is a way to deal with it and that is to address it
9 with new technology or just relook at the whole thing?

10 MR. SHEAN: That's correct.

11 CHAIRWOMAN O'MALLEY: I was just curious
12 about that. I don't have any questions. Commissioner
13 Stebbins.

14 COMMISSIONER HART STEBBINS: Thank you, Madam
15 Chair. And I want to thank everybody that has come
16 here tonight. I specifically want to thank the
17 individuals who have come from Kirtland Air Force
18 Base. I think I saw the Vice Base Commander, Colonel
19 Nickell. I want to thank you for being here, Ma'am.
20 And the Commander of the 377th Mission Support,
21 Colonel Michael Harner. So I just want to say thank
22 you to you for being here tonight and being part of
23 this conversation.

24 CHAIRWOMAN O'MALLEY: So that ends that
25 particular item. We're going to go to public comment.

1 Ms. Carreon, would you tell us how many people we have
2 signed up to speak.

3 MS. CARREON: We have seven speakers.

4 CHAIRWOMAN O'MALLEY: So each speaker will
5 have three minutes, and then at about two-and-a-half
6 minutes you'll get a little bell that says if you
7 would start to think about closing up your comments.
8 If you will call the first speaker, please.

9 MS. CARREON: Becky Gutierrez followed by
10 Phil Hern.

11 CHAIRWOMAN O'MALLEY: Welcome.

12 MS. GUTIERREZ: Good evening, Madam Chair,
13 Board Members. I'm speaking in support of Bill
14 R-17-20. Now with the rapid Albuquerque growth, it's
15 so important to regionalize and combine smaller water
16 and wastewater systems. Albuquerque Water Authority
17 has the means and the smarts to run these systems.
18 Carnuel Mutual Domestic recognized this back in 2008
19 and asked Albuquerque Water Authority to partner with
20 us and to represent us to run our systems. This
21 turned out to be very valuable not only to the
22 community, but New Mexico in general. By using the
23 Albuquerque Water Authority there's now one less
24 community competing for funds and, in turn, that helps
25 with priorities and regionalization. Small

1 communities tend to waste funds given by NMFA by
2 overpriced planning engineers who end up pocketing
3 most of the money of the grants and the loans and
4 building these systems themselves. I know this
5 because that happened to Carnuel Mutual Domestic.
6 We're asking the Albuquerque Water Authority to
7 continue to help Carnuel in our request to a water and
8 wastewater system due to poor water quality and aging
9 septic tanks. They have done, especially Frank Roth,
10 has done a wonderful job in the past in getting us
11 funds and we are hoping that they will continue to do
12 so. Thank you.

13 CHAIRWOMAN O'MALLEY: Thank you.

14 MS. CARREON: Phil Hern followed by Pete
15 English.

16 CHAIRWOMAN O'MALLEY: Welcome.

17 MR. HERN: Hello. My name is Phil -- well,
18 first I want to say, Madam Chair, thanks for letting
19 me speak. Madam Chair and Board Members, my name is
20 Phillip Hern. I'm the Union President of the
21 Management Employees of the Water Utility. The reason
22 we are here tonight is to ask this Board why they
23 supported the imposition of the contract on the M
24 series employees without getting input from the Union.
25 Also, why would the Water Authority and this Board

1 choose to impose this contract even though the Water
2 Authority knew that in 2013 Judge Fry, Judge Fry's
3 decision in the Court of Appeals in AFSCME versus The
4 City of Albuquerque, the City of Albuquerque cannot
5 impose a contract on its employees. Knowing this, the
6 Water Authority came to this Board to support
7 something they cannot do. Since the imposition of the
8 contract the Labor Board for the Water Authority and
9 District Court Judge Bacon have ruled in the Union's
10 favor that the Water Authority cannot impose a
11 contract on its employees, but the Water Authority
12 continues to appeal these decisions. So how did we
13 get here? We got here because the Union will not
14 agree to the status quo of two percent in a three year
15 contract until a plan is developed to correct the pay
16 inequalities within that management pay scale. This
17 has turned into a younger managers versus older
18 managers. We got younger managers making more than
19 senior managers that have been here 28, some 30 years.
20 You have newer managers that are coming in with only
21 six years of employment and already topped at the top
22 of the pay scale in the management pay scale. So what
23 we're looking for or what we're asking for is for this
24 Board to look into these inequalities. And if they
25 are there, to help fund these inequalities for these

1 senior employees. The whole goal is for the senior
2 employees to have these equity adjustments for them so
3 they can retire at their last three years at a higher
4 wage than what they're getting. Now, I know there's
5 been issues between the Water Utility and the Union,
6 but I think it's time for us to return back to the
7 table and see if we can work out a deal. That's all I
8 got to say.

9 CHAIRWOMAN O'MALLEY: I just wanted to say
10 thank you. I didn't know if the Water Authority
11 wanted to respond. I don't know what the legal issues
12 are at this point, whether or not you can respond to
13 the statements or what the plans are. So I'm just
14 going to leave it up to you.

15 MR. AUH: Madam Chair, Members of the Board.
16 I don't think this is the right venue to get into the
17 complicated issues that surround the case that
18 Mr. Hern is referring to. We would be happy to set up
19 a litigation meeting and explain in detail. But the
20 quote that Mr. Hern, from the Court of Appeals case,
21 referenced has been the focus of this litigation and
22 continues to be the focus. Because our position is
23 that it's taken out of context and it was a sentence
24 in a Court of Appeals opinion that when read out of
25 context makes it sound like you cannot impose a

1 contract. However, when read within the context, it's
2 pretty clear, to us anyway, that it's fact-specific to
3 that case. That case involved a pure lack of good
4 faith negotiations to an impasse and that's what
5 differentiates with this case. I mean, we can talk
6 about this all evening and I think it would be not
7 productive to try to engage in that here.

8 CHAIRWOMAN O'MALLEY: Well, I guess we could
9 talk about it all evening, but it might be good for
10 you guys to talk. Maybe you can work something out
11 and meet. I think that's kind of what -- and I
12 believe that's what the Water Authority wants to do
13 too. Without getting into too much, I think there's
14 an opportunity for further communication. Councilor
15 Davis.

16 COUNCILOR DAVIS: Thank you, Madam Chair.
17 Again, we know this is not the proper forum to have a
18 legal discussion and we want to allow that process to
19 take place, Mr. Hern. You know, we have a tremendous
20 amount of respect for our employees and appreciate
21 their work. We can't get that done without it. But
22 we want this to be answered. So if I can make a
23 request, Madam Chair, if it would be conducive, would
24 it be possible for us to do an executive session on
25 this, either just prior to our next meeting or after

1 perhaps, for the members who would like to
2 participate? But is it possible to -- can we get a
3 status on that now? Is it before the District Court?
4 It is before the Court of Appeals? And do we know
5 what a schedule on that is right now, without getting
6 into the legal arguments and the underlying concerns
7 there?

8 MR. AUH: Yes. Madam Chair, Councilor Davis.
9 The status is that we have filed what's called a
10 Petition for a Writ of Certiorari with the Court of
11 Appeals. The Union has responded. It is now up the
12 Court of Appeals to decide whether to grant the
13 petition, that is even consider the case, because they
14 can just deny it and say, "we don't even want to get
15 into the merits of the matter." So we are waiting the
16 Court of Appeals decision on that threshold issue.
17 Sometimes these things can take a little while,
18 sometimes they pop up suddenly out of nowhere.

19 COUNCILOR DAVIS: If it please the Chair, I
20 would like to request we just do an executive session
21 at the next meeting for members who would like to
22 attend.

23 CHAIRWOMAN O'MALLEY: Is that possible?
24 Thank you very much. The next speaker, please.

25 MS. CARREON: Pete English followed by Dave

1 McCoy.

2 AUDIENCE SPEAKER: Madam Chair, fellow
3 Members of the Board, I do not need my time.

4 MS. CARREON: Dave McCoy followed by Michael
5 Jensen.

6 MR. MCCOY: Madam Chair and Board Members.
7 I'm Dave McCoy, Executive Director from Citizen Action
8 New Mexico. I've been coming to meetings about the
9 jet fuel spill since 2008, reading documents, writing
10 reports. You've entertained a couple of resolutions
11 and actually passed a couple of resolutions from
12 Citizen Action on this matter. One of the things that
13 we've recommended and we think the necessity is
14 greater than ever is for the establishment of an
15 independent oversight panel, due to administrative
16 technical concerns and lack of transparency. You
17 know, this RFI, don't take this lightly. This is a
18 bombshell of a report. That RFI was supposed to have
19 been done in 2014. It's three years out of date.
20 What were the issues then? The issues were, oh, they
21 didn't know the mass of the plume. They didn't know
22 the horizontal, the vertical extent. They didn't know
23 the flow velocity. They didn't know, they didn't
24 know, they didn't know. Okay, so I pointed to the
25 fact that well screens were being submerged several

1 years ago and that there were air bubbles and that
2 they didn't have accurate sampling data at that time.
3 You know, this is not something that all of a sudden
4 is a new deal. This has been going on, this shortage
5 of information. You know, when that first RFI came
6 out the Environment Department didn't even make
7 comments on it. They didn't even talk about the data
8 gaps that were in it. You know what happened to it,
9 it got withdrawn by the Air Force. So then, on the
10 basis of this RFI, that's defective, they come out
11 with a risk assessment report. Then you hear
12 discussion about the extraction wells and the recovery
13 of ethylene dibromide. Do you know how much four
14 extraction wells are going to recover in ethylene
15 dibromide every year? 90 grams. Okay, 90 grams. How
16 many grams of ethylene dibromide are out there? For
17 every gallon you had two grams. So if it was 50,000
18 gallons of the aviation gas, you would have 100,000
19 grams of EDB. So if you were going to extract that,
20 just in one extraction that would be 4044 years it
21 would take to extract that with four extraction wells,
22 you know. So if you look at the map on this, it
23 doesn't make it look like your water is real
24 protected. You got a 500-foot perimeter around the
25 jet fuel spill where no wells can be drilled. Well,

1 just look at that area as water that's unavailable to
2 the City now. Now, how much of your water is being
3 wiped out by this? Don't let the Air Force get away
4 with this soft shoe routine where they come up and
5 they tell you, "yeah, you know, we're going to get it
6 done and everything and we're considering this." This
7 is a walk in the park for them. This is not
8 aggressive remediation. It's not aggressive
9 protection.

10 CHAIRWOMAN O'MALLEY: Thank you.

11 MS. CARREON: Michael Jensen followed by
12 Elaine Hebard.

13 CHAIRWOMAN O'MALLEY: Welcome.

14 MR. JENSEN: My name is Michael Jensen. I'm
15 going to be talking about that provision of water
16 services to Valle De Oro. So, in case you've
17 forgotten, in February of 2015 there was a six million
18 gallon spill of untreated wastewater that ran down
19 through Isleta Pueblo. I learned about it that
20 morning from a representative of the Pueblo before it
21 was public knowledge. There was an EPA settlement
22 that included some money. I think that's accurate
23 from the FOIA documents that I got, it might have
24 changed. And what's called a supplemental
25 environmental project. That project was approved in

1 March of 2016, I believe, and includes a 3.4 mile
2 nonpotable pipeline to the -- from the wastewater
3 treatment plant to the refuge for two lagoons and a
4 wetland, which is incorrect, and for landscaping on
5 Second Street. EPA mandated that the Water Utility
6 Authority spend at least \$400,000 on that project and
7 complete it by June of next year, and they are
8 required in everything that they put out, including in
9 the notice that they are presenting tonight, this
10 language saying that this is mandated by a settlement
11 agreement with the EPA, and they haven't done that.
12 There are a lot of issues with this that I can't even
13 begin to get into, but the EPA had concerns with not
14 only the use of that required language, but if
15 \$400,000 is really going to be spent. And there are
16 some serious conditions on that that have an impact on
17 how this is being done now. It's being lumped in with
18 the provision of water service to the refuge. And I
19 think some really, really careful accounting is going
20 to have to be done to make sure that money from the
21 SEP isn't underwriting the cost of providing the water
22 service or vice versa. I'm also sort of concerned
23 about their statement that the fiscal impact to
24 providing this is none when there's a \$400,000 cost of
25 the SEP. And I'm also concerned that they say that in

1 their document that the Fish and Wildlife Service is
2 going to have to pay this utility charge, but maybe
3 that's just for the water, but they don't just
4 aggregate in their document between the water service
5 and the nonpotable service. So once again, I think a
6 really close eye needs to be kept on how these two
7 projects are going to intertwine with each other and
8 to assure the EPA when they look at this, that the
9 money, that \$400,000 was spent the way it was supposed
10 to be spent. And if I may, I just have one more point
11 that was really important to the EPA in the settlement
12 and that is that the Water Utility Authority is not
13 supposed to make a profit from that supplemental
14 environmental project. So one way of that is that the
15 Fish and Wildlife Service isn't supposed to be paying
16 for any of this, which I think includes their
17 connecting to the nonpotable pipeline, which is
18 written into this document, that they have to do that.
19 But also in the charges that the Water Utility
20 Authority makes for the cost of the water in the long
21 term, which again is something that needs to be looked
22 at. That's all. I just want to add, I really am in
23 favor of using nonpotable water. It's not about the
24 project itself. It's about all of this peripheral
25 stuff about how it's managed and implemented. Thank

1 you.

2 (Commissioner Hart Stebbins not present)

3 MS. CARREON: Elaine Hebard followed by
4 Philip Salazar.

5 MS. HEBARD: Good evening. My name is Elaine
6 Hebard, and I guess I got a frog. I have four points
7 that I would like to make very quickly. The first one
8 is on growth and water. A lot of questions have been
9 rising about is there enough water to supply growth
10 and I think that's a really important question. It's
11 not just about Santolina obviously. Given that there
12 will be new Board members next month and next January,
13 it seems to me a great time to have a study session
14 and discuss where that water for growth is going to
15 come from. So the 2021 plan and the current water
16 report would be very good items to have at such a
17 study session. I would also suggest other opinions be
18 included so that you have a well-rounded presentation
19 of those issues.

20 My second point is on no-net expense, that's
21 also an important issue to consider. That we have
22 spent a lot of money for the existing infrastructure,
23 we customers, for the existing infrastructure and
24 water rights, but we also have a backlog of \$450
25 million in infrastructure needs. In fact, there's a

1 billion dollars of infrastructure needs over the long
2 period, according Mr. Sanchez's memo to the Board in
3 2015. And so, with the debt as well being \$830
4 million, including interest, those kinds of issues
5 cannot be ignored when looking at no-net expense. And
6 I suggest a finding similar to what the County and
7 WALH entered into finding 21, making sure that we are
8 not -- any new development cannot add to the unfunded
9 amount of infrastructure backlog.

10 My next point is on objectives. And I would
11 again suggest a study session. The Performance Plan
12 that was recently released has not been presented to
13 the Board. It was for the FY18, so it's six months
14 after the objectives were selected. The Board and the
15 Public do not know whether or not the current
16 objectives or the past year's objectives have been
17 met, that would be a good presentation, as well as
18 looking at the effective utility management framework,
19 which we have not updated since it has been updated by
20 the group, the national groups that have done that, to
21 include such things as climate variability and
22 resource recovery. So again, that could be another
23 study session.

24 My final point is on vulnerability analysis
25 assessment and that is something you're looking at

1 tonight. I'm not sure that it includes it, but one of
2 the major issues in our basin is that water rights
3 have not been adjudicated. That means that the
4 ownership and the quantity and the priority dates have
5 not been resolved, nor have the ownership and the
6 quantity for the pueblos has been managed. And so
7 those water rights have not been actually assessed for
8 their vulnerability. And so as you're looking at the
9 vulnerability assessment and/or in your update of the
10 assessment management plan, I would suggest that the
11 vulnerability risk of your water rights also be
12 assessed. Thank you very much.

13 CHAIRWOMAN O'MALLEY: Thank you.

14 MS. CARREON: Our last speaker, Philip
15 Salazar.

16 CHAIRWOMAN O'MALLEY: I think Mr. Philip
17 Salazar must have left. Okay, thank you. That ends
18 public comment.

19 So there's an announcement. The next
20 scheduled meeting for the Water Authority is
21 December 22nd, in these chambers.

22 We're going to go to Item 7, which is the
23 introduction of first reading of legislation.
24 However, this is an item that they're asking for
25 immediate action on it, and this is authorization of

1 agreement for water service.

2 So the first thing is to make a motion to
3 place this item on the agenda for immediate action.

4 MR. PERRY: Second.

5 CHAIRWOMAN O'MALLEY: There's a motion and a
6 second to place this item on the agenda for immediate
7 action. This is A, R-17-22 authorizing an agreement
8 for water service to the Valle De Oro National
9 Wildlife Refuge Headquarters/Visitors Center.

10 There's a motion and a second. All those in
11 favor say aye.

12 COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Aye.

13 COUNCILOR JONES: Aye.

14 CHAIRWOMAN O'MALLEY: Aye.

15 COUNCILOR DAVIS: Aye.

16 MR. PERRY: Aye.

17 CHAIRWOMAN O'MALLEY: All oppose say no. The
18 motion carries. So that brings it up for discussion.
19 If someone would come up to speak to this issue.
20 Thank you.

21 MR. CADENA: Hello, Madam Chair, Members of
22 the Board. I present to you a development agreement
23 for the Valle De Oro, it's a Fish and Wildlife project
24 for a headquarters and a visitors center on the
25 property. The property is located west of Second

1 Street just north of where I-25 crosses the river, in
2 that part of the area. It's an unincorporated area of
3 Bernalillo County.

4 Now, the project is seeking potable water
5 service and the developer in this case, U.S. Fish and
6 Wildlife, would be extending potable waterline from
7 existing infrastructure along the property frontage
8 and they will connect to that line for their potable
9 service. Also, as previously stated, the Water
10 Authority is installing a nonpotable waterline in
11 which, in fact, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife will
12 connect to upon its completion.

13 In terms of sewer service, there is no sewer
14 service proximate to the area. So this property will
15 take sewer service via an on site septic system.

16 The developer in this case, U.S. Fish and
17 Wildlife, will be responsible for paying utility
18 expansion charges, as well as water supply charges.

19 CHAIRWOMAN O'MALLEY: So I have a few
20 questions. Is there a trunk line that's being
21 installed along Second Street to reach Valle De Oro?

22 MR. CADENA: Correct, there currently is. I
23 believe it's a 36-inch transmission line which runs
24 east and west and that supplies water for what's
25 known as the Hubbell trunk in the pressure zone 1E.

1 So this project is taking what's called a distribution
2 line. Distribution lines are used for connections for
3 water services. They will be installing a waterline
4 from the existing transmission line and going south,
5 pretty close to Second Street, covering that property
6 frontage.

7 CHAIRWOMAN O'MALLEY: So the Water Authority,
8 are they responsible for the cost of the line up to
9 the Valle De Oro?

10 MR. CADENA: No, the Water Authority does not
11 install infrastructure for the development. It's the
12 developer's sole responsibility.

13 CHAIRWOMAN O'MALLEY: That includes the trunk
14 line to the Valle De Oro?

15 MR. CADENA: For the potable waterline,
16 correct.

17 CHAIRWOMAN O'MALLEY: So this is a
18 distribution line. So that means it could be tied
19 into the existing landscaping and/or it could also be
20 available if someone wants to develop along Second
21 Street.

22 MR. CADENA: Exactly.

23 CHAIRWOMAN O'MALLEY: But they have to pay
24 the expansion charges.

25 MR. CADENA: Correct. Yeah, development pays

1 for itself and the developer is responsible for the
2 utility expansion charges and water supply charges as
3 well.

4 CHAIRWOMAN O'MALLEY: Are there any
5 questions?

6 COUNCILOR DAVIS: Madam Chair. Could you
7 just address very quickly sort of the questions we
8 heard earlier about resolving these sort of unresolved
9 issues out of the EPA settlement and how this all
10 connects with that so that we can resolve that without
11 getting into too much legal detail there?

12 MR. SANCHEZ: Madam Chair, Councilor Davis.
13 Charles Leder should be able to address that.

14 COUNCILOR DAVIS: Thank you, sir.

15 MR. LEDER: Good evening, Madam Chair, or
16 Vice Chair. Charlie Leder. I manage the plant
17 operations group for the Water Authority.

18 I took part in the negotiations between EPA
19 Region 6 staff and the Water Authority when the
20 Supplemental Environmental Project was developed. To
21 the best of my knowledge, that project specifically
22 addresses the installation of a nonpotable waterline
23 that will be used for landscape irrigation on the
24 site. Again, with nonpotable water and for the use of
25 that line also to fill some of their wetlands given an

1 initial fill and if they need a supplemental fill.
2 But, again, the purpose of a nonpotable line is to
3 take care of those needs.

4 Apparently since the project has developed
5 further, and it's been a couple of years since I've
6 been in any discussions with the County and
7 representatives of the National Fish and wildlife
8 service, apparently the plan to take care of potable
9 water needs and wastewater infrastructure using on
10 site facilities, apparently that has progressed into
11 something else. It's a fairly easy matter to keep the
12 piles of being separate. That is, what is needed for
13 domestic water supply service and sewer service, it's
14 easy enough to keep that separate from the cost of the
15 nonpotable line.

16 The good news is, I believe a contract has
17 been awarded. Construction is about to start. The
18 Water Authority received very good pricing on that
19 line. It will be installed and complete in time in
20 accordance with the timetable set by the supplemental
21 environmental project. So some of those details I
22 hope will be of value to you as you consider this
23 development agreement.

24 CHAIRWOMAN O'MALLEY: Councilor Davis, does
25 that answer your question?

1 COUNCILOR DAVIS: I appreciate that very
2 much. I think that's good background. And just to
3 clarify, I think we're moving forward and satisfying
4 those conditions in doing all this work.

5 MR. LEDER: Thank you.

6 MR. SANCHEZ: Madam Chair, Councilor Davis.
7 We meet with the EPA periodically to give them a
8 status report.

9 CHAIRWOMAN O'MALLEY: Well, to get a clearer
10 picture. I know that particular corridor,
11 Mr. Manager, that particular corridor is also a
12 potential for, I think enhancement, in terms of the --
13 I think that's important for people to know, that's a
14 corridor to the wetlands or this area and I think
15 there's some opportunity actually for enhancement in
16 terms of development along that corridor. I think
17 we've been looking at that for a long time. And this
18 would add that opportunity. Is that a fair
19 assessment?

20 MR. SANCHEZ: That's correct. In fact, we
21 will be installing a landscape buffer in front of the
22 reclamation plant to begin the improvements along that
23 corridor.

24 CHAIRWOMAN O'MALLEY: I move approval.

25 COUNCILOR JONES: Second.

1 CHAIRWOMAN O'MALLEY: There's a motion and a
2 second to approve A, R-17-22. All those in favor say
3 aye.

4 MR. PERRY: Aye.

5 COUNCILOR DAVIS: Aye.

6 CHAIRWOMAN O'MALLEY: Aye.

7 COUNCILOR JONES: Aye.

8 COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Aye.

9 CHAIRWOMAN O'MALLEY: All oppose say no. The
10 motion carries.

11 We don't have any items on the consent
12 agenda. But we do have some items for approval.
13 We'll begin with Item 9A, which is R-17-20, which is
14 authorizing and approving submission of a completed
15 application for financial assistance and project
16 approval to the New Mexico Finance Authority for the
17 Carnuel Wastewater System Improvement project.

18 Mr. Roth, thank you.

19 MR. ROTH: Madam Vice Chair, Members of the
20 Board. The purpose of this application is to obtain
21 local government planning funding in the amount of
22 \$50,000 to help plan and design the gravity sanitary
23 sewer system for the Carnuel Community. The focus of
24 this funding will be in the high priority area between
25 New Mexico 333 and Interstate 40. The sanitary sewer

1 system would replace in about 125 homes those old
2 septic systems. The Water Authority is submitting
3 this application as a fiscal agent on behalf of the
4 Carnuel Community. Those residents would be customers
5 of the Water Authority. And based on input from the
6 community, they would greatly appreciate your support
7 in this resolution and submitting this application.

8 CHAIRWOMAN O'MALLEY: Commissioner Johnson.

9 COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Thank you, Madam
10 Chair. And just a quick comment. Thank you very much
11 for all of your work. This has been a very long
12 project that predates me out there in Tijeras and
13 Carnuel. And, Becky, it's good to see you. It's been
14 a while since I've seen you.

15 Madam Chair, with that I would move approval.

16 COUNCILOR JONES: Second.

17 CHAIRWOMAN O'MALLEY: There's a motion and a
18 second to approve 9A. All those in favor say aye.

19 COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Aye.

20 COUNCILOR DAVIS: Aye.

21 CHAIRWOMAN O'MALLEY: Aye.

22 MR. PERRY: Aye.

23 COUNCILOR JONES: Aye.

24 CHAIRWOMAN O'MALLEY: All oppose say no. The
25 motion carries.

1 We have 9B, which is R-17-21, supporting an
2 inventory of known and potential groundwater
3 contamination sites within and near the Albuquerque
4 Bernalillo County Water Utility service area including
5 potential threats to the regional aquifer.

6 Rick Shean.

7 MR. SHEAN: Madam Chair, Members of the
8 Board. This resolution will ask staff to hire a
9 consultant to prepare an inventory and threat
10 assessment of the known and potential contamination
11 sites that are within and nearby the Water Authority
12 service area. We would ask the Water Protection
13 Advisory Board to help develop the scope of this
14 project and to prioritize sites to be considered by
15 the chosen contractor. And information from this
16 report would actually help with the implementation of
17 the groundwater management as passed in the Water 2120
18 Water Resources Management Strategy approved by this
19 Board in September of last year, as well as augment
20 the water quality protection policy and action plan
21 that is currently being updated. The project would be
22 performed and reported by June of 2018.

23 I stand for questions.

24 CHAIRWOMAN O'MALLEY: Thank you. Any
25 questions?

1 COUNCILOR DAVIS: I move approval.

2 MR. PERRY: Second.

3 CHAIRWOMAN O'MALLEY: There's a motion and a
4 second to approve B, R-17-21. All those in favor say
5 aye.

6 COUNCILOR DAVIS: Aye.

7 MR. PERRY: Aye.

8 CHAIRWOMAN O'MALLEY: Aye.

9 COUNCILOR JONES: Aye.

10 COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Aye.

11 CHAIRWOMAN O'MALLEY: All oppose say no. The
12 motion carries.

13 I guess I kind of went a little too fast with
14 C, we already approved that. So let's move on.

15 That takes us next to D, which is approving
16 the recommendation of award for the vulnerability
17 assessment.

18 Mr. Charlie Leder.

19 MR. LEDER: Thank you, Madam Chair, and
20 Members of the Board.

21 We initiated an RFP to select a consultant to
22 conduct a vulnerability assessment of our entire
23 enterprise facilities. The last one we conducted was
24 done in 2009, and it's important that these things get
25 updated to be a little more inclusive as the standards

1 for conducting these assessments have evolved.

2 Anyway, what we have before us is a
3 recommendation to award a contract to Tinwood
4 Consultants whom the Ad Hoc Advisory Committee
5 recommended a contract be entered into.

6 CHAIRWOMAN O'MALLEY: So the scope of this,
7 is it more -- it's physical as well in terms of
8 vulnerability, what does that mean? What are you
9 looking for?

10 MR. LEDER: Madam Chair, what we're looking
11 for is an assessment of our vulnerability to man-made
12 threats and natural threats to our enterprises, what
13 are they and what measures should we undertake to
14 mitigate those threats.

15 As sadly as the recent events in Texas,
16 Florida and Puerto Rico have demonstrated, disasters
17 happen and we need to be prepared to respond to those
18 disasters. And this assessment, since the last one
19 was done in 2009, we've added a lot of infrastructure
20 to our enterprise. And our participation in the
21 vigilant guard exercise which simulated what would
22 happen to the Albuquerque area when hit by a massive
23 earthquake, it shows that it's good to be prepared.
24 And this document will be an integral part in our
25 being prepared for such disasters.

1 CHAIRWOMAN O'MALLEY: Any questions?

2 COUNCILOR DAVIS: I move approval.

3 CHAIRWOMAN O'MALLEY: There's a motion and a
4 second to approve the vulnerability assessment.
5 That's 9B. All those in favor say aye.

6 COMMISSIONER DAVIS: Aye.

7 MR. PERRY: Aye.

8 CHAIRWOMAN O'MALLEY: Aye.

9 COUNCILOR JONES: Aye.

10 COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Aye.

11 CHAIRWOMAN O'MALLEY: All oppose say no. The
12 motion carries.

13 Just in closing, I want to wish everyone a
14 really wonderful Thanksgiving, you and your families.
15 And this meeting is adjourned. Thank you.

16 (Meeting adjourned at 6:24 p.m.)

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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

I, Kim Kay Shollenbarger, New Mexico Certified Court Reporter, No. 236, do hereby certify that I reported the foregoing proceedings in stenographic shorthand and that the foregoing pages are a true and correct transcript of those proceedings taken to the best of my ability.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am neither employed by nor related to any of the parties or attorneys in this matter and that I have no interest in the final disposition of this matter.

Kim Kay Shollenbarger
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