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01 CAMP CROFT RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

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02 PLACE: SC School for the Deaf and the Blind

03 Robertson Hall

03

04 DATE: Tuesday, October 12, 1999

04

05 TIME: 7:10 p.m. to 7:50 p.m.

05

06 PRESENTATIONS

06 GIVEN BY:

07

07 Suzanne Cantor-McKinney, Project Manager

08 Zapata Engineering, P.A.

08 1100 Kenilworth Avenue, Suite 104

09 Charlotte, North Carolina 28204

09

10 Karl Blankinship, Project Manager

10 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

11 Huntsville District

11

12 BOARD MEMBERS

12 PRESENT: Joseph L. Crissinger

13 Gary Hayes

13 William B. Littlejohn, Jr.

14 W. Brownlee Lowry

14 David Mullinax

15 George D. Mullinax

15 Gerard Perry

16 Robert W. Powell, Jr.

16 Clary H. Smith

17 Stonewall J. Stewart, Jr.

17 Sherry Wheeler

18 Darwin J. Wilson

18

19 BOARD MEMBERS

19 NOT PRESENT: Ed Y. Hall

20 Conley McIntyre, Sr.

20 Sanford N. Smith

21 James B. Thompson

21

22 REPORTED BY:

22

23 Sandy Satterwhite Reporting

23 P.O. Box 742

24 Roebuck, South Carolina 29376

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01 BY MR. MULLINAX:

02 I like to welcome you to the October RAB  
03 meeting. Mr. Thompson is not here. My name is David  
04 Mullinax, and I will be standing in for him tonight.

05 At this time I'd like to turn it over to Suzy  
06 McKinney.

07 BY MS. MCKINNEY:

08 Thanks.

09 Good evening and welcome. Thank you all for  
10 attending. Again, I am Suzy McKinney with Zapata  
11 Engineering, and I wanted to address the first topic  
12 on the agenda this evening -- and agendas were  
13 available at the front sign-in desk -- to give  
14 everyone an update of the status of the investigations  
15 in the Wedgewood subdivision.

16 You've perhaps seen the vans that are out there.  
17 UXB International is the subcontractor to the Corps of  
18 Engineers that's responsible for collecting the  
19 geophysical data and conducting the removal actions in  
20 that area.

21 So they are out there and have been out there  
22 for several weeks now. To date, what I'd like to do  
23 is give you a status of where they are with those  
24 activities.

25 Land surveying has been completed on 25 of the

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01 properties, and this may be hard to see, but you're  
02 more than welcome to look at it a little later.

03 We've got Wedgewood Drive and Wedgewood Place  
04 and the private properties. There's also a buffer  
05 zone that will be evaluated that surrounds those  
06 properties that are split between the back ends of the  
07 private property and then the golf course.

08 So as it's color coded on here, land surveying  
09 is in green, and that is to mark approximate property  
10 boundaries. Those are not legal survey boundaries.  
11 So if you see corner stakes or hubs, that's not  
12 necessarily your actual legal boundary. What that  
13 does is it gives the data collection crews points to  
14 run their grids to collect the data.

15 So land surveying has been undertaken now for  
16 the last several weeks. A few more areas need to be  
17 completed. Then what we've started to do and what UXB  
18 has started to do is to go in there with a piece of  
19 equipment, an EM-61, and several of you probably have  
20 now seen that. It's an orange framed cart that is  
21 pulled behind an individual, and it just traverses the  
22 land and it collects the data of any subsurface  
23 metallic anomalies.

24 So the purple areas have been evaluated as far  
25 as data collection with this piece of equipment. So

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01 we still have several properties remaining. Let me  
02 see, the geophysical mapping, the data collection has  
03 been completed on 13 properties, and a few acres in  
04 that surrounding buffer area have also now been  
05 addressed.

06 Zapata Engineering was out in the neighborhood  
07 about a week-and-a-half ago. We took pictures of

08 several of the properties. Everyone, really, that had  
09 provided right of entries and have provided you  
10 photographs. So that in the event there is some  
11 damage or concerns about this contractor being on your  
12 property, you'll have some photo documentation of  
13 that.

14 If there is damage, as you've been told, you  
15 will be compensated those shrubberies, whatever, will  
16 be replaced, and so you can take your own photos  
17 afterwards or you can contact us and we can come out  
18 and document that for you. The Corps of Engineers  
19 also has a set of photographs for their records.

20 Updated schedules are provided to the neighbors  
21 on a -- we try to get out there every week. We put  
22 updated schedules in mailboxes today, actually. UXB  
23 anticipates collecting data on about eight more  
24 properties through the remainder of their week. Their  
25 schedule will be starting Monday. They will be out  
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01 there from approximately 8:00, not before 8:00 in the  
02 morning, until 5:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday,  
03 four days, and Friday will be used potentially as a  
04 makeup day if they have bad weather, rain or have any  
05 other problems. So you should not really see them out  
06 in the neighborhood on Friday. You will see them this  
07 week because yesterday was a federal holiday and they  
08 did not work.

09 As far as aiding in geophysical data collection,  
10 there are some properties that have some extensive  
11 brush, and they will go in there and clear some of  
12 that brush; and some of the properties that have been  
13 identified, the property owners have the opportunity  
14 to be out there during brush clearing or beforehand to  
15 let them know, "Don't touch this shrub," or to just be  
16 familiar with what they're doing. They will not be  
17 brush clearing in landscaped areas. It would be more  
18 of the natural areas and the wooded areas on the  
19 property and that will ease in data collection.

20 Geophysical mapping is anticipated to be  
21 completed by the end of October, give or take a few  
22 days; and then, as it stands, the data that has been  
23 collected will be evaluated for approximately three to  
24 four weeks for the determinations on then where they  
25 need to return to actually begin intrusive  
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01 investigations.

02 And for the intrusive investigations, as we  
03 talked when we met with residents of that area in  
04 August, that's when we will potentially be closing the  
05 roads for periods of time and have to have individuals  
06 away from their property or adjacent properties when  
07 digging is being accomplished.

08 We will coordinate all that as early as possible  
09 with everyone. We will also be coordinating with the  
10 mail service, the garbage service, newspaper delivery  
11 to ensure that everyone is safe; and, again, that's  
12 the primary goal is safety of their personnel and,  
13 more importantly, of the residents of the  
14 neighborhood.

15 Updated project information can be obtained  
16 directly from UXB's field office. We are there

17 periodically. They have a field office at 800 Dairy  
18 Ridge Road, and there's usually an individual in  
19 there.

20 There is a -- let me borrow this real quickly.  
21 On the back of this brochure that is available there  
22 is a website, and we will keep updated project  
23 information and schedules available on the website if  
24 you would want to visit that.

25 And, I believe, that is all I have as far as an  
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01 update on where we are in the Wedgewood neighborhood.  
02 There are some areas outside of Wedgewood that are  
03 also beginning to be investigated by the Corps and  
04 UXB. And just to give you some familiarity with where  
05 those locations are in the event that you see UXB or  
06 their vans, we'll let Karl Blankinship from Huntsville  
07 Corps of Engineers briefly describe those outlying  
08 areas.

09 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

10 Just to give you a bit of an idea, there are  
11 three areas that are not right in the neighborhood  
12 that we're working on. It's hard to see on here.  
13 We've identified them before as 11C and 11D, and then  
14 a little small parcel we added onto the Wedgewood  
15 contract.

16 What this -- this amounts to is right back here  
17 behind the school, there's one -- one hillside that's  
18 all covered with kudzu where they're starting a new  
19 subdivision on this outer loop of the subdivision  
20 area. It's all essentially vacant, and we're just --  
21 we're going to check it while we're there. I don't  
22 think we found anything when we were sampling, but  
23 what we were told was that that they felt like  
24 something had been fired up against that hill. So  
25 we're going to go ahead and clear it.

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01 11D is in the golf course itself, and I'm not  
02 sure how the holes lay out. It's on the front nine  
03 where it goes up north and turns and comes back down.  
04 There's an area of woods there that haven't been  
05 developed, and if any golfers are here, there's a pond  
06 up there right up on the north end. That area we're  
07 going to clear it. We started doing some surveying in  
08 there, and also on the creek, this -- let me see if I  
09 can read this road. I can't remember the name of  
10 them, though. The second road that turns into the  
11 subdivision off Dairy Ridge going to the east. I  
12 can't remember the name of it.

13 BY MR. GEORGE MULLINAX:

14 That's Hickory Hill Road.

15 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

16 Hickory Hill?

17 BY MR. GEORGE MULLINAX:

18 Yeah.

19 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

20 In the bottom where it drops down to the creek,  
21 this year -- earlier this year they had found the  
22 mines and fuses and things in there on the hillside.  
23 We've got five acres that we're going to clear in  
24 there to make sure all that's taken care of as well.  
25 So all of that's under contract in addition to the

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01 work that's within the subdivision.

02 So if you see the UXB vans and the people out in  
03 those areas, that's -- that's what they're doing  
04 there. They're under the same restrictions in those  
05 that they are in the subdivision. They have to have  
06 their caps and shirts so you know exactly who they are  
07 and placards on their vehicles.

08 BY MS. MCKINNEY:

09 Are there any questions on the status of the  
10 activities on Wedgewood?

11 (NO RESPONSE)

12 BY MS. MCKINNEY:

13 Okay. Next on the agenda is RAB membership.

14 As many of you know and are aware, the current  
15 term of this RAB, two years, is rapidly approaching  
16 within the next three months, and we are soliciting  
17 interest from individuals who would like to be  
18 considered to serve for our next two year term.

19 We have forms available in the back of the room.  
20 If you would like to be considered, we request that  
21 you complete those and either leave them with us this  
22 evening or mail them into the address that's on the  
23 form.

24 As many of you attend these meetings, we meet  
25 quarterly, and the meetings last about an hour,

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01 hour-and-a-half, if that.

02 If you personally are not interested or don't  
03 have the time, you're always more than welcome to  
04 attend the meetings. They are opened. If you are  
05 aware of other individuals who might be interested,  
06 feel free to take some forms to distribute those.

07 The other request for interest would be to serve  
08 on a selection panel. That is a panel between three  
09 and five individuals who will review those interest  
10 forms and make actually the recommendation of who  
11 would best serve the community to the Corps of  
12 Engineers to establish our upcoming Board.

13 So, again, feel free to take some forms and  
14 complete those, and this is also opened to the members  
15 of the RAB as well. You will need to resubmit your  
16 forms for consideration for the next term.

17 And that's all I have on the RAB.

18 David.

19 BY MR. DAVID MULLINAX:

20 Does anybody have any new business?

21 (NO RESPONSE)

22 BY MR. DAVID MULLINAX:

23 I'd like to thank you for your time and  
24 attention, and I'll entertain a motion to adjourn.

25 BY DR. LOWRY:

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01 So move.

02 BY MR. DAVID MULLINAX:

03 All those in favor?

04 (ALL RAB MEMBERS RESPOND)

05 BY MR. DAVID MULLINAX:

06 Thank you. Have a good evening.

07 (OFF THE RECORD)

08 BY MR. JAMES LANCASTER:

09 That gentleman speaking about the mines over  
10 there below the bayonet corps. On up a little bit  
11 more there's still some in there that's there. I'm  
12 the one that's dug them up.

13 There's something that's real particular at that  
14 camp I'd like for everybody in here to know about and  
15 some people in this room knows about it, and there  
16 were supposed to have been some people here tonight  
17 but they didn't come because they got mad.

18 And the military people was in this camp.  
19 Everybody talks about the state park being safe.  
20 I've got something to tell you all. There's eleven  
21 railroad cars of hand grenades buried off the right of  
22 Dairy Ridge Road. Eleven railroad cars full, and they  
23 contain black powder and phosphorus.

24 At the upper end of Kelsey Creek where the road  
25 goes into the state park entrance across where all the  
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01 land mines was buried. Okay. Right behind the pump  
02 station up the creek there's a spring. I had a good  
03 friend in 1962 to get blowed out of the ground up  
04 there. There's some barrels of hand grenades, and he  
05 took a pick trying to separate them and it blowed up  
06 and he's drawing a pension from it today.

07 Them things are still there. I've told the  
08 Corps about them two-and-a-half years ago, and I can  
09 go up there today and dig them up. Now I think it's  
10 time to dig them things up.

11 I mean, one time I went up there, they wouldn't  
12 even go up there and look at them. I've dug this  
13 stuff up time after time having to prove that it's  
14 there. If it wasn't there, I wouldn't say so. A lot  
15 of these people that buried this stuff is dead, and  
16 I've been working on a book on this camp ever since  
17 1955. I've dug in this camp ever since I was a little  
18 boy. I've got mountains of stuff that I've dug out of  
19 there, and a lot of people know it, and I give it to a  
20 lot of people in this room.

21 Wayne Bogan, I had a meeting with Wayne. He was  
22 doing some research on the well on Whitestone Road  
23 with the old chain gang camps there. I have a list of  
24 chemicals here that was positive in this camp, and  
25 there's records that are in the archives in the  
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01 Spartanburg Herald-Journal where they was put in  
02 there in 1947. When Wayne left, nothing was never  
03 done about this. Them chemicals are still in that  
04 well, and they need to be taken out.

05 I'm getting tired of people saying there's  
06 nothing there when I know it's there. I've got some  
07 friends that's in the chemical brigade at the store.  
08 The Corps, the military, Mr. Gaswright, Civic Arms  
09 Committee and Colonel Phil Campbell in the Pentagon do  
10 not know nothing about this.

11 I'm going to dig this stuff up with the proper  
12 people, and I'm going to give it to the media because  
13 I -- over two years there should have been something  
14 done. This stuff is not going to go away and somebody  
15 is going to have to start doing something, and as to  
16 DHEC, I understand was turned over to the Corps to  
17 take care of it. The land samples and the 200 tons

18 of land is fired off as a firing range, and this  
19 report right here off of Dairy Ridge Road, all of that  
20 stuff is running down into Kelsey Creek. The people  
21 are eating fish out of Lake Johnson, and I've talked  
22 to the State about this and nobody has done nothing.  
23 There needs to be somebody to do something. That's  
24 the only thing I've got to tell you.

25 BY MR. LITTLEJOHN:

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01 Sir, I'm sorry. I didn't catch your name.

02 BY MR. LANCASTER:

03 My name is James Lancaster.

04 BY MR. LITTLEJOHN:

05 Mr. Lancaster, you referred to a eleven railroad  
06 cars of hand grenades?

07 BY MR. LANCASTER:

08 Yes, sir.

09 BY MR. LITTLEJOHN:

10 What type of documentation do you have that  
11 supports that?

12 BY MR. LANCASTER:

13 The guy that put them in there. I've got a tape  
14 recorder, and I've got over 20 hours of tapes.

15 BY MR. LITTLEJOHN:

16 Of the guy that put them in there.

17 BY MR. LANCASTER:

18 Well, it took ---

19 BY MR. LITTLEJOHN:

20 So there's no documentation from the military?

21 There's no records? There's nothing in writing?

22 BY MR. LANCASTER:

23 Well, let me tell you people something. Camp

24 Croft was put here as a special project. There's

25 stuff stored in this camp for invasion. There's

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01 enough chemicals in this camp today right now that

02 poors in the whole park to the lower part of the

03 State. That was the idea if they invaded. That was

04 the invasion plan.

05 I don't know why the Corps and everybody else

06 don't contact the Pentagon and get them to open them

07 records up and get this stuff out of here that's

08 stored here.

09 BY MR. LITTLEJOHN:

10 Have you ever seen these invasion plans?

11 BY MR. LANCASTER:

12 Nobody has seen the invasion plans.

13 BY MR. LITTLEJOHN:

14 Then how do you know they exist?

15 BY MR. LANCASTER:

16 It's called the Blue Ribbon Project.

17 BY MR. LITTLEJOHN:

18 It's called -- have you ever seen the Blue

19 Ribbon Project?

20 BY MR. LANCASTER:

21 I've talked to people about it.

22 BY MR. LITTLEJOHN:

23 But you've never seen it?

24 BY MR. ROBIN ZIMMERMAN:

25 Excuse me. Bubba, it exists.

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01 BY MR. LANCASTER:

02 It exists.

03 BY MR. ROBIN ZIMMERMAN:

04 It -- I mean, it's on the history channel on TV

05 if you turn it on at the right time.

06 BY MR. LITTLEJOHN:

07 The Blue ---

08 BY MR. ROBIN ZIMMERMAN:

09 The Rainbow Project. The Blue Ribbon Project.

10 BY MR. LANCASTER:

11 Henry Byrd built this camp and this -- there's a

12 presidential bunker here and there's a US cabinet

13 bunker here. You, nobody, the Corps or the Army or

14 nobody in this thing is supposed to know about this.

15 This stuff was put here in case of invasion.

16 The chemicals was here that was going to poor to

17 the lower part of the State in case it was invaded and

18 this stuff is still here. There's bunkers all over

19 this camp. You can open them up. The Corps has got a

20 job to do, and I'm going to tell everybody here it

21 can't be done. There's so much stuff here it will

22 never be cleaned. It's impossible.

23 BY MR. LITTLEJOHN:

24 Mr. Lancaster, you referred to a report that you

25 have there in your hand, and where did that report

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01 come from and ---

02 BY MR. LANCASTER:

03 The Corps' records.

04 BY MR. LITTLEJOHN:

05 From the Corps of Engineers. The Corps of

06 Engineers gave that report to you that's listed as an

07 official document?

08 BY MR. LANCASTER:

09 Well, it came out of the Corps' computer.

10 Right.

11 BY MR. LITTLEJOHN:

12 It came out of their computer?

13 BY MR. LANCASTER:

14 Yeah.

15 BY MR. LITTLEJOHN:

16 And when did it come out?

17 BY MR. LANCASTER:

18 Well, I've got one report here that's '91.

19 BY MR. DAVID MULLINAX:

20 Mr. Lancaster, will you present that report to

21 the Board at this time?

22 BY MR. LANCASTER:

23 Do what?

24 BY MR. DAVID MULLINAX:

25 Will you present that report to the Board at

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01 this time?

02 BY MR. LANCASTER:

03 Yeah, this is about the lead and this is the

04 chemical that's here and the Corps admits it here

05 right there in this report right here about stuff

06 dumped in the wells and the landfills.

07 (RAB MEMBERS REVIEWING DOCUMENT)

08 BY MR. LANCASTER:

09 There's large amounts of TNT explosives down on

10 Lake Johnson and lake and creek that's never been dug  
11 up.

12 BY MR. LITTLEJOHN:

13 There's nothing on there that says Corps of  
14 Engineers or anything.

15 BY MR. LANCASTER:

16 Here's the Corps' report here.

17 BY MR. LITTLEJOHN:

18 These are Corps?

19 BY MR. HAYES:

20 This is coming off the website.

21 BY MR. LITTLEJOHN:

22 This is coming off you all's website?

23 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

24 Yes.

25 BY MR. LANCASTER:

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01 It took two years to get an area fenced in in  
02 the state park. There's soldiers that trained in this  
03 camp won't even walk on it to this day 50 years later.  
04 It's over 50 years and won't even go down there and  
05 people in the state park ride horses across it and  
06 everything else.

07 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

08 Could I explain to the Board what this is,  
09 basically?

10 BY MR. MULLINAX:

11 Yes.

12 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

13 And to everyone here as well.

14 What Mr. Lancaster has done is gone to the web  
15 page to the internet and pulled some of the  
16 information that is there. It came from ours.

17 What this is the very first step in an ordnance  
18 project, we go and research all of the records we can  
19 find. We write up a summary of what we found, and,  
20 like he said, what was done here, what was brought  
21 here, what was used, and that's probably some of that  
22 is in here. It lists numbers of things and quite a  
23 few activities that potentially went on. This is the  
24 first step of our project that was done years and  
25 years and years ago.

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01 BY MR. LANCASTER:

02 Yeah, but they never done it.

03 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

04 We take this. We do the field investigations.

05 We do more research to see if we can verify these  
06 things. Everything we've done for the last five years  
07 here has been to try to verify exactly what's on these  
08 sheets, where there's ordnance and there is access to  
09 that ordnance, we've gone through two studies to make  
10 sure that everyone knows where it is, to make sure  
11 that we clean it up like we're doing here and on this  
12 map, but we're not cleaning up everything everywhere.  
13 What we're looking for is where there is ordnance  
14 contamination and where people are going into those  
15 areas where they have access to it.

16 A number of people in the area seem to like to  
17 go out into the woods and dig for ordnance. That's  
18 the most dangerous thing that anyone can do. This

19 stuff is not for people to dig around with or play  
20 with, pick up, carry home or tinker with. It's there  
21 because the military used it for training. If it's  
22 left there, it needs to be left alone until we can get  
23 to it.

24 Mr. Lancaster I know has been to the area where  
25 the mines are.

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01 BY MR. LANCASTER:

02 I'm the one that dug them up.

03 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

04 He went out there digging around and found them.

05 They are in an area of the state park that's not used.

06 There's no access to it. There's no reason for anyone

07 to be in there, but now we're going back and doing

08 more cleanup in that area because it's been identified

09 and it's a spot where there is ordnance.

10 The box cars full of grenades, I'm sure they

11 brought hundreds of box cars of munitions here.

12 That's what you do in a training base. You bring the

13 munitions for the troops to train with. That doesn't

14 mean they're buried in the side of a hill by Wedgewood

15 subdivision, and it doesn't mean they're dumped in the

16 wells or dumped in the creeks.

17 DHEC has been out here several times. We've

18 worked with them, as well, on contamination of soils,

19 anything around the old landfills and wells, and, as

20 far as I know, and speaking for Charleston because

21 they're not here, as far as I know they haven't found

22 an area to date where they say there is any ground

23 contamination -- ground water or soil contamination

24 that needs to be cleaned up, and we haven't found that

25 either.

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01 So that's the best I can say from just skimming

02 over this quickly, and I will say we're not finished.

03 We've got a lot of work left to do. We haven't been

04 sitting around doing nothing. We've spent almost \$15

05 Million cleaning up ordnance here. So in five years

06 that's a lot of money and we're working on it. We're

07 getting there as fast as we can given the constraints

08 we have with funding, but we're staying after it and

09 trying find all we can and get it cleaned up.

10 BY MR. HAYES:

11 One of his concerns was about Johnson Lake, has

12 that water been tested?

13 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

14 I can't say for sure. The District can tell

15 you, but we -- I don't know. I can't answer that.

16 BY MR. LANCASTER:

17 Well, you're talking about potential finding it.

18 I'm talking about the stuff that's there. You can go

19 there and kick it out of the ground. I'm not talking

20 about the maybes, and that -- I took the Corps up

21 there and showed them that, and they didn't believe it

22 was there and told me it wasn't nothing there.

23 Well, when I dug it up, they did go in there and

24 clean it up when I give all that stuff to SLED and the

25 county. Well, like you say, it's dangerous digging it

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01 up, but you know how to dig it up. You've been taught

02 by people that knows how. It's not too bad, but you  
03 can get killed walking across the road. It's like  
04 this. That stuff is there and it needs to come out of  
05 there and doesn't need people to be blown up like one  
06 time before, and I've done a lot of digging, like  
07 everybody says. I'm going to tell all of you, they  
08 won't even let me on the state park.

09 BY MR. LITTLEJOHN:

10 Good.

11 BY MR. LANCASTER:

12 To visit.

13 BY MR. LITTLEJOHN:

14 It's for your own protection.

15 BY MR. LANCASTER:

16 Well, I mean, I'm not worried about myself. I'm  
17 worried about like that gentleman sitting back there,  
18 Mr. Clyde Coleman, his property has filled up with  
19 stuff, all kind of stuff and nobody has never done  
20 nothing to get none of it up.

21 BY DR. LOWRY:

22 I believe that's been cleared, Mr. Lancaster.

23 BY MR. LITTLEJOHN:

24 His property has been cleared.

25 BY MR. LANCASTER:

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01 They said -- they said it was.

02 BY DR. LOWRY:

03 The money came out of my project clearing his  
04 property, so I know it was cleared.

05 BY MR. LANCASTER:

06 Well, there's the man right there. Ask him.

07 BY DR. LOWRY:

08 Is your land -- haven't they given you ---

09 BY MR. COLEMAN:

10 Absolutely not.

11 BY DR. LOWRY:

12 Anybody given you a written piece of paper  
13 saying your land is cleared?

14 BY MR. COLEMAN:

15 They said they've been there and gone, but this  
16 Board right here sat there and let the Chairman of the  
17 RAB Board say I was satisfied and there was nothing I  
18 was satisfied with.

19 I told him I was satisfied at the time, but they  
20 wasn't nearly completed up there. He gets up here and  
21 looks at me in the face and told you all it had been  
22 marked off and cleared.

23 BY DR. LOWRY:

24 Mr. Blankinship, could you ---

25 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

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01 I'm sorry. I didn't understand part of that.

02 We went -- we went to your property once, we  
03 sampled it and we looked. We went back out there and  
04 walked with you out into the field. We checked it.  
05 We mapped it. We flagged the areas, and we showed you  
06 where we were going to dig. We showed you what we  
07 dug, where we dug and you were happy. I don't know --  
08 I'm not sure what more we can do. We found no  
09 ordnance on your property.

10 BY MR. COLEMAN:

11 I need to talk to you in private a little bit.  
12 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:  
13 Well, I'll be glad to talk to you in private,  
14 but I want to make sure that everyone here understands  
15 we did exactly what we were asked to do. We had you  
16 there with us to make sure that you were satisfied  
17 with what we were doing and we didn't find anything.  
18 BY MS. MOLNAR:  
19 You found nothing at all on his property?  
20 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:  
21 Nothing but scrap metal and junk. We did find  
22 some metal, but there was nothing at all related to  
23 ordnance.  
24 BY MR. MOLNAR:  
25 Did they look in the areas that you wanted them

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01 to look?  
02 BY MR. COLEMAN:  
03 There's no use to say anything to him.  
04 BY MS. MCKINNEY:  
05 Excuse me.  
06 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:  
07 Well, please, I mean, if we didn't ---  
08 BY MR. MOLNAR:  
09 Tell him now.  
10 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:  
11 If we didn't do something, we all need to know  
12 it, but I was under the impression that we had done  
13 exactly what you wanted us to do.  
14 BY MS. MCKINNEY:  
15 We have one more question.  
16 BY MR. DAVID MULLINAX:  
17 And, also, before you ask a question, please  
18 state your name for the recorder, please.  
19 BY MS. MCKINNEY:  
20 Your name, ma'am?  
21 BY MR. COLEMAN:  
22 Yes, listen, I don't want to get nothing  
23 started. My name is Clyde Coleman, and I'm not trying  
24 to cause this man no harm, but I've been here for five  
25 or six years attending these meetings, and I'm getting

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01 nothing out of it and getting nothing done. Mr.  
02 Blankinship, you and I talked the last time you were  
03 down there.  
04 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:  
05 Right.  
06 BY MR. COLEMAN:  
07 You told me to go ahead and proceed, "But be  
08 careful on top of the hill. You might run into some  
09 shells," but he says, "There's nothing there," when  
10 he's telling you all, and that's not what he told me.  
11 Now, what do you all think and how should I  
12 think and how should I react?  
13 Now, did you tell me that or did you not?  
14 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:  
15 No, sir, I didn't.  
16 BY MR. COLEMAN:  
17 Yes, you did.  
18 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:  
19 If you had told us you thought there was

20 anything anywhere else, I had two crews sitting there  
21 waiting to look any place you wanted us to look. We  
22 asked you where.

23 You went down there with us into the pasture all  
24 the way down that strip where you felt like there was  
25 a problem, and that's all you asked us to do. We did  
00029

01 what you asked for.

02 If there was something else, we have looked. We  
03 would have tried and investigated that, but we -- you  
04 didn't tell us there was any place else to look. We  
05 had no reason to believe there was anything there to  
06 start with up on top of the hill or down in the  
07 bottom, other than the rumor that there was a sign  
08 there that said something about gas.

09 BY MR. COLEMAN:

10 It said, "Cannister gas," and I went back there  
11 and you showed me where the cans had rusted and dug a  
12 hole. Now, I could see that there was rust there, but  
13 that was on top of the ground. I don't know what's  
14 foot down under there because I don't intend to go  
15 down that far, but I'm not satisfied that there's not  
16 anything there.

17 BY MR. MULLINAX:

18 Yes, sir.

19 BY MR. JOHNSON:

20 I'm Jessie Davis Johnson, and it just looks like  
21 the more I come over here that the more I learn. Now,  
22 I don't come over here expecting one thing from nobody  
23 here because I work for a living, but I am concerned  
24 about people because I don't want anybody to have to  
25 go through and see to anybody what had happened to us,  
00030

01 and I think we're the ones that got all this stuff  
02 started back in 1945.

03 All right. You couldn't have had more sloppy a  
04 wall or whatever they call themselves doing if you had a  
05 bunch of children out there. Now anybody got any  
06 sense know that a wall is not going to last forever,  
07 and if you bring something in here, you ought to be  
08 kind for it or take it out of here.

09 Now, I have heard ever since I've been coming  
10 over here that there was stuff buried there and there  
11 was people there that was there that had buried this  
12 stuff, but it just seems like everybody that even know  
13 it and made fun of and breaks people off. I think  
14 people ought to listen.

15 Now, in the first place, if there's eleven box  
16 cars buried there, how did they get the box cars in  
17 there? Was there a railroad track going somewhere?

18 If eleven box cars of stuff is hid out there, it  
19 ought to be easily found. Now we have dug bullets all  
20 over that property, and I don't know anything about  
21 how dangerous that was until I was invited to one of  
22 these meetings.

23 Now if there's something there, something ought  
24 to be done about it because there's too much money  
25 being spent, and if it's a government thing, I'm  
00031

01 paying taxes, too. Thank you.

02 BY MR. CLARY SMITH:

03 Gary, let me say something. I think everybody  
04 that suspects something, they ought to have some  
05 documentation to it. Now, I've -- we've got property  
06 they claim there's rifles and pistols and everything  
07 buried all over it. I have seen no documentation.  
08 I've been offered to let people come in and dig in it.  
09 Until I see documentation, they don't come in.

10 If you've got something, how about bringing it  
11 to the Corps of Engineers so they can go out and  
12 investigate it. This stuff of just rumors, rumors,  
13 rumors, that's all we get is rumors. Get some  
14 documentation. Bring it to the Corps, then we can  
15 investigate it.

16 BY MR. GEORGE MULLINAX:

17 We'll make sure that it's investigated.

18 BY MR. CLARY SMITH:

19 Because this rumor stuff, "I think I've got it.  
20 I think I've got it. They tell me this." You've got  
21 to have some proof.

22 BY MS. MOLNAR:

23 "Show me the money."

24 BY MR. CLARY SMITH:

25 Like I say, they claim on our property there's

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01 stuff buried everywhere there. Sure, we were in the  
02 main part, but I live on Dairy Ridge Road. That was a  
03 machine gun range. They used our barns as warehouses,  
04 but I have found nothing. I've been living there.  
05 When the camp left, we bought it back. We've been all  
06 over it and never found a thing. Nothing. Oh, you'll  
07 find a few things, but nothing what they've been  
08 talking about. There's been nothing there.

09 Bring us documentation so that we can find it  
10 and get rid of it. That's all I request.

11 BY MR. MULLINAX:

12 Yes, sir.

13 BY MR. STEWART:

14 I'd like to ask the private manager if an when  
15 one property is cleared of these dangerous ammunitions  
16 and ordnance, are you willing to give a certificate of  
17 clearance to this individual or individuals?

18 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

19 Yes, sir.

20 BY MR. STEWART:

21 You are?

22 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

23 Yes, sir. If it's private property, we will  
24 issue a certificate of clearance if the individual  
25 wants it or we may go ahead and issue them anyway; but

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01 as a normal course of our work, if we have a large  
02 piece of property that we're clearing and we know it's  
03 contaminated, we'll issue some type of certificate at  
04 the end, but we document everything we do regardless  
05 of whether it's a private piece of property or part of  
06 the state park or whatever. We still document what we  
07 do and put it in the administrative record in the  
08 final report for the removal action. So there's  
09 documentation showing exactly what we've cleared and  
10 what we found and where we found it, and that we  
11 finished that piece of property and finished the work

12 on it.

13 BY MR. STEWART:

14 So that would be the case with Mr. Coleman?

15 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

16 Yes, sir.

17 BY DR. LOWRY:

18 The Corps had given me a letter stating that all  
19 of my property except for approximately ten acres has  
20 been cleared, and so I can tell you that it does  
21 happen. I'm just waiting for the next ten acres to  
22 happen. I want the full clearance letter, but they do  
23 issue letters and I have one, and I had to give it to  
24 the bank in order to renew a loan, so this does  
25 happen.

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01 And if you've got a whole lot of stuff out  
02 there, like I do, there's absolutely no trouble in  
03 finding it because you'll trip over it if you walk 200  
04 feet. So if there's all this stuff out there, some of  
05 it surely will probably turn up.

06 BY MR. COLEMAN:

07 He's talking about what he's got, and then how  
08 much they've cleared his whole property. I've got  
09 eight-and-a-half acres. Now they checked about two  
10 acres of my property. Now, am I right or am I wrong?

11 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

12 Yes, sir, that's about right.

13 BY MR. COLEMAN:

14 I've got seven-and-a-half acres left that they  
15 haven't bothered with.

16 BY DR. LOWRY:

17 I've got about 200 that they haven't bothered  
18 with. They're not going to clear the stuff where  
19 there's no evidence that there is no munition. I had  
20 one particular hill that is the dangerous part. I  
21 have land surrounding that hill that has 1,500 pounds  
22 of shrapnel per acre. I've got roads that have  
23 gullies in them that you can pick up a five gallon  
24 bucket full of shrapnel. Those are the areas that  
25 they've cleared, but approximately 200 acres of my

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01 property has not been cleared, has not been searched  
02 and has not been sampled because clearly there's  
03 nothing on it or I've been unable to find anything.  
04 And so -- now I think they're trying to do as much  
05 with the money allocated as they possibly can. It  
06 costs a lot of money to do this. In a lot of ways I  
07 think that some of things are redundant, but that's  
08 the government's way of doing that, and I can't change  
09 that and neither can Mr. Blankinship, but I have a  
10 great part of my land, better than half of it, that,  
11 Mr. Coleman, they've not searched, and I've got some  
12 pretty great stuff over there. Now we've found some  
13 shrapnel, you know, well over into Whitestone, but  
14 they haven't searched my whole property. I don't want  
15 you to be under that impression.

16 BY MR. COLEMAN:

17 There's a lot of things that goes on on my  
18 property that I can't tell everybody here, and it's  
19 dangerous and there's dangerous people hanging around,  
20 but there is stuff there, gentlemen, I'm telling you.

21 Thank you.

22 BY MR. DAVID MULLINAX:

23 Anything further? We've already had the motion

24 -- I'm sorry.

25 Yes, sir.

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01 BY MR. MILLS:

02 Eddie Mills, 181 Wedgewood Place. UXB or

03 whoever it is -- hey, David, how you doing?

04 BY MR. DAVID MULLINAX:

05 Pretty good, Eddie.

06 BY MR. MILLS:

07 Has been to my place three times, and today they

08 were back again for the third time, and I don't know

09 what the problem is. They said there's something

10 messing up the satellite or whatever. They come back

11 for a third time. They said they had hits in the

12 middle of my house. I don't understand that, because

13 I didn't think it -- this machine would pick up

14 anything in the middle of your house. Could somebody

15 address that?

16 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

17 Yeah, if I can explain the -- I'm sorry we don't

18 have all the pictures with us. The cart that they're

19 using, the EM-61, the orange cart, what they've done

20 is attached a GPS system to it. I'm sure most of you

21 have heard of those. A lot of them are the little

22 handheld units you used to yourself to find your way

23 around.

24 In integrating those two units, if they come and

25 do mapping and they don't put any stakes or anything

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01 down, they just roll the cart back and forth, and that

02 GPS is supposed to record their position as they roll

03 as they go.

04 What they've been doing is having troubles with

05 some of the satellite information, and when the

06 satellites are scrambled or one of the satellites is

07 scrambled and they're still recording that data, it

08 shifts the position.

09 So what they're trying to do is figure out the

10 right times of day when they can get the satellites

11 they need to and position themselves properly. If

12 they can't do that to my satisfaction, they'll have to

13 go back and do it again with just ground patrol so

14 that they know exactly where to roll. But when we

15 looked at the -- we looked at their GPS data and we

16 looked at their geophysics together, and then overlaid

17 those on a map to make sure that where they say are is

18 where they're actually going with the cart and the

19 unit.

20 So all the high tech is stuff is good, but you

21 have to make sure that the data you're getting is

22 correct, and that's what the problem is, and,

23 hopefully, they've got it fixed this time.

24 BY MR. MILLS:

25 So there's no ordnance in the middle of my

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01 house?

02 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

03 And that's the reason -- to explain a little

04 further, that's the reason for the time delay between  
05 when they just do the mapping and when we do the deed  
06 is to make absolutely sure that all the data makes  
07 sense, it matches up to where it's supposed to be, and  
08 that, you know, the GPS is not missing anything and  
09 putting things where they don't belong.

10 We've got a very good quality control and  
11 quality assurance program, but it will make us have to  
12 go back and do some things again. Even though it  
13 does, it will keep us from having to dig so much if we  
14 were doing it another way and having people out of  
15 their house as long. So it's a very good technology,  
16 but you have to make sure that all the data is right.

17 BY MR. DAVID MULLINAX:

18 We've already entertained a motion to adjourn,  
19 so at this time we'll adjourn. Thank you.

20 (MEETING CONCLUDED AT 7:50 P.M.)

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01 STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA )  
01 ) CERTIFICATE  
02 COUNTY OF SPARTANBURG )

02  
03  
04  
05

06 This is to certify that the within meeting was  
07 taken on the 12th day of October, 1999;

08 That the foregoing is an accurate transcript of  
09 the meeting;

10 That copies of all exhibits, if any, entered  
11 herein are made a part of this record;

12 That the undersigned court reporter, a Notary  
13 Public for the State of South Carolina, is not an  
14 employee or relative of any of the parties, counsel or  
15 witness and is in no manner interested in the outcome  
16 of this action.

17 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my Hand  
18 and Seal at Spartanburg, South Carolina, this 27th day  
19 of October, 1999.

20  
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22  
22 \_\_\_\_\_  
22 Notary Public for South Carolina  
23 Commission Expires: 3/24/07

23  
24  
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25 (SEAL)