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01 WEDGEWOOD COMMUNITY MEETING

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02 PLACE:

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03 SC School for the Deaf and the Blind

04 Robertson Hall

04

05 DATE:

05

06 Thursday, August 5, 1999

06

07 TIME:

07

08 7:05 p.m. to 8:25 p.m.

08

09 PRESENTATIONS

09 GIVEN BY:

10

10 Suzy Cantor-McKinney

11 ZAPATA ENGINEERING

11

12 Jim Truelove, Project Manager

12 U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

13 Charleston District

13

14 Karl Blankinship, Project Manager

14 U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

15 Huntsville District

15

16 ALSO PRESENT:

16

17 Jim Hinely

17 U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

18 Savannah District

18

19 David Rich

19 U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

20 Charleston District

20

21 Jason Shiflet

21 Greg Hippert

22 Yolanda Hubbard

22 ZAPATA ENGINEERING

23

23 REPORTED BY:

24

24 Sandy Satterwhite Reporting

25 (864)574-1455

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01 BY MS. MCKINNEY:

02 Good evening. I'd like to welcome everyone this
03 evening. I'll the last few folks come on in and have
04 a seat. Glad to see such a nice turnout tonight.

05 My name is Suzy McKinney. I'm with Zapata
06 Engineering, and we provide the community relations
07 support to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

08 And, again, welcome everyone this evening. We
09 hope by the end of the night we will have answered all
10 of your questions pertaining to the on -- the upcoming
11 activities in the Wedgewood Community, which should
12 start within the next month.

13 I'd like to introduce several individuals this
14 evening. Mr. Karl Blankinship, he's from the U.S.
15 Corps of Engineers, the Huntsville Office, the Center
16 for Expertise for Ordnance. He's a project manager.

17 Jim Truelove is the project manager from the
18 Charleston District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

19 John Hinely is from the Savannah office. He is
20 involved with the real estate as far as this project
21 is concerned.

22 Zapata Engineering has a handful of folks
23 represented tonight. We will be on-site for a fair
24 amount of these activities. Again, if you have
25 questions during the project, we hope that you will
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01 come to us, and we can answer those questions.

02 Again, I'm Suzy McKinney. In the back we have
03 Greg Hippert, Yolanda Hubbard and Jason Shiflet.
04 Jason is sitting right here.

05 David Rich with the Corps of Engineers out of
06 Charleston is also here this evening in the back, and
07 he is with the office of public affairs.

08 So I will turn the meeting over to Jim Truelove.
09 We'll get started to talk about the overall project,
10 how we've come to be where we are today and the
11 schedule of the specific activities that are going to
12 take place in Wedgewood starting later this month and
13 early September.

14 BY MR. TRUELOVE:

15 One of the things I'd like to say is the purpose
16 of this meeting is directed towards the Wedgewood
17 people. That's the people that we wanted to focus on
18 and that's the upcoming effort, and so some of the --
19 I'm going to show you a little bit information just to
20 get us all talking the same, and so, hopefully, we'll
21 -- we're -- we are the government, and we have a
22 tendency to use acronyms a lot, so this little video
23 will help you understand some of those acronyms.

24 If during the process we say something using one
25 of our acronyms and you don't understand, please stop
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01 us. We want to make sure that you understand what
02 we're trying to do and how we're trying to go about
03 it, and, therefore, that's the purpose of this
04 meeting.

05 Again, we'll emphasize that it is directed
06 towards the Wedgewood people. I noticed some other
07 people that aren't Wedgewood people here, and we want
08 to focus on the upcoming effort of the Wedgewood
09 effort and not a lot of things that have gone in the
10 past.

11 (VIEWING VIDEO)

12 BY MR. TRUELOVE:

13 As I said, that was done at a certain point in
14 the process when we were completing what we call the
15 Phase II EE/CA, which it talks about the EE/CA
16 process. So some of the information is dated. We've
17 progressed beyond that.

18 Wedgewood is one of the areas identified in the
19 Phase II EE/CA that would need additional cleanup, so
20 -- and the reason for that was that we found enough
21 material there that it would indicate the possibility
22 of there being explosives there.

23 It doesn't mean it's there, but it indicates
24 there is a possibility, and that's what we want to
25 come in and determine, and that's the process we're
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01 going to try to explain to you tonight does.

02 We've provided this as a handout. It's
03 available at the table. Some of the telephone -- the
04 public affair telephones that are given are accurate,
05 but some of the other numbers that may have been given
06 during this process may not be accurate anymore. So
07 if you use the handouts if you need to make a
08 telephone call, that would be best.

09 As I said, we've gone through and for the
10 Wedgewood subdivision we've -- Wedgewood was also
11 covered in our first EE/CA, and we went in and did a
12 sampling.

13 Now that's the first step after the EE/CA is the
14 same thing is we're going to do is going in and map
15 out the area and determine whether or not there's
16 something there that we need to investigate further,
17 which is dig down, locate it and figure out what that
18 is.

19 The things that we found when we did that
20 sampling were hand grenades. We found shrapnel where
21 some of have exploded, and we actually found seven
22 hand grenades when we did the removal action on the
23 first EE/CA.

24 So that led us to the conclusion, and they were
25 scattered enough and that led us to the conclusion
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01 that we needed to expand the area that we looked at in
02 Wedgewood; and that's what we did during the Phase II
03 EE/CA is expand the area, come back in, take a second
04 look and do some more intrusion -- some investigation.

05 Where we found some things using the
06 magnetometer and everything there was dug down. We
07 did not find anymore live hand grenades, but we did
08 find enough shrapnel from exploded hand grenades to
09 make us concerned that there is the potential again
10 for other ones to be in the area. So that's why we're
11 moving on to the removal action, as we're calling it,
12 on this side we call it removal action II to go along
13 with the Phase II EE/CA.

14 So we're at the point now we have -- we've gone
15 and we've gotten the funds. We're ready to come on
16 your property and check out your property to see
17 whether or not there is anything that we actually need
18 to dig down and investigate or whether or not we don't
19 find anything that needs any further investigation.

20 Now, it talked about in the presentation the
21 magnetometer, and you saw lots of flags that they were
22 putting up. Technology has progressed some. We use a
23 little bit different equipment now that makes it
24 easier to be able to look down with the equipment
25 they're using now and determine the shape, size of

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01 what's down there. Where you just -- the magnetometer
02 you can't do that. If some piece of metal down there,
03 that's all you know.

04 Karl Blankinship from our Huntsville group is
05 going to try to explain to you what you can expect to
06 see, what type of equipment we'll be using, how it
07 will impact -- how it will be impacting you when we do
08 these operations.

09 If there's no questions on this part, I'll turn
10 it over to Karl.

11 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

12 Thanks Jim.

13 Once again, my name is Karl Blankinship. I'm
14 from the Corps of Engineers in Huntsville, Alabama.
15 Quite a few of you have seen me around over here.
16 I've been in and out of this area for, I guess, the
17 last five years working on different aspects of the
18 Camp Croft project.

19 I what to reiterate a little bit of what Suzy
20 and Jim both said, tonight we're very specifically
21 focused on one thing and that's making sure that
22 everyone we can reach within the Wedgewood subdivision
23 knows exactly what we're doing, exactly what steps
24 we're going to take and what to expect when we go into
25 your subdivision and work.

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01 So with that, I ask you, please, interrupt me if
02 you don't understand something or if you have a
03 question, and there are no dumb questions. There are
04 no questions that don't need to be asked. Please stop
05 me as I go through this, and we'll take as long as we
06 need to make sure everyone understands what we're
07 doing and that you're comfortable with our process.

08 Just to give you an idea, the contractor who
09 will be working out here is UXB International from
10 Ashburn, Virginia. They're one of the largest
11 ordnance removal contractors in the world. They've
12 worked for us in Huntsville for about the last ten
13 years all over the United States and some areas
14 outside the United States.

15 All of their employees who deal with anything to
16 do with ordnance are trained by the military, the
17 United States government only, trained at the Navy EOD
18 school and are fully qualified EOD technicians. Most
19 of the ones on staff in our building are the trainers.
20 We -- we've tried to make sure that we select the best
21 that we can to oversee the work for you.

22 So we'll have one of the people off of our staff
23 out on the ground who is actually EOD trained to
24 oversee everything is done by UXB.

25 Their contract, just to give you an idea, for

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01 the work in the Wedgewood subdivision is almost a half
02 a million dollars.

03 The approach that we developed to doing this
04 work, and that we've briefed to the RAB and several
05 other people around, that our primary approach is not
06 on here, but I do need to cover it that the most
07 important thing that we're doing out here is making
08 sure that all of you are safe no matter what we're
09 doing.

10 The second most important thing is to make sure
11 every worker that's involved in what we're doing is
12 safe. Doing it safely, following the rules and
13 regulations that we have and keep themselves safe and
14 you safe and making sure that there is no problem with
15 anyone being in areas where they shouldn't be or where
16 they could even potentially be injured during any of
17 the work we're doing.

18 So as we go through, please try to keep that in
19 mind that's our number one focus on everything we do
20 is safety, and we have done it and continue to do this
21 work all over the United States, and it's that way
22 everywhere.

23 Our approach here, initially, we wanted to meet
24 with as many of you as we could, get all the
25 homeowners together, give you a chance to understand
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01 what we're doing and talk to us one-on-one or as a
02 group like this so that you all know where we are and
03 it's not -- not a mystery to you.

04 The geophysical mapping that we'll do will take
05 about a month, and I'll skip forward, if you don't
06 mind.

07 We'll be using primarily a piece of equipment
08 that looks like this. I know it's difficult to see.
09 It's almost like a wheelbarrow without the middle.
10 It's just a metal frame with a handle on it. There
11 are no -- no rays, no -- nothing to do with this. No
12 output from it that can harm anyone or anything.

13 It's pulled across the ground just like you see
14 it. It records, actually, the difference in the
15 magnetic field in the earth through the bottom coil
16 here, and the top coil records readings based on an
17 output from a magnetic readings within the earth. All
18 the data goes into a little pack that this guy is
19 carrying.

20 We'll take those back, run those through a
21 computer and a computer looks at that data and figures
22 out if there's a piece of metal in the ground that's
23 of the size or shape of a piece of ordnance that we're
24 looking for.

25 Now there are a lot of different people who have
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01 figured that out a lot of different ways, so we use
02 several different software routines, but, essentially,
03 that's what it does.

04 It looks in the ground just almost like the old
05 metal detectors you get from Radio Shack to go look
06 and searching for -- for metal in your yard or on the
07 beach, but it's a much more sophisticated system
08 because we measure the difference the magnetic field
09 between these two coils and compare that to what's in
10 the earth.

11 So it's not intrusive. It's not going to hurt

12 anyone. One person will pull it. There will usually
13 be one person with him, and all they do is walk. They
14 may lay out ropes on the ground to keep themselves
15 straight, but, essentially, while they're gathering
16 data, that's all you'll see. I don't think you'll see
17 any cows in the background over here, though.
18 I went to Auburn, so that was near and dear to
19 my heart having a cow or two on the pictures.

20 BY MS. NOGOSKY:

21 May I ask a question?

22 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

23 Yes, please.

24 BY MS. NOGOSKY:

25 What do you do with a tree? Do you just walk it

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01 around the tree?

02 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

03 Yes, just go around the tree.

04 The -- this equipment that -- it looks straight
05 down in the ground in the three foot area that you
06 pull it in, but it also has some fringe area outside,
07 about a foot or so outside the frame.

08 So if you go next to a tree, you can find
09 something if it's right up against the tree. But in
10 areas where we can't just pull it, say a shrub, we'll
11 go around the shrub, but they have -- we have hand
12 held instruments that are smaller and more compact,
13 and we'll go fill in the geophysical data right there
14 with a smaller hand held instrument. So we'll --
15 we'll completely map everything except, of course, we
16 can't go under the trees straight down, but we can go
17 up against it.

18 Anyone else or are we at a good stopping point?

19 BY MS. MCKINNEY:

20 Excuse me. May we have your name, please?

21 BY MS. NOGOSKY:

22 Kathie Nogosky.

23 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

24 I'm sorry. I was supposed to do that, and I

25 forgot, Suzy.

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01 The young lady up front, if you do have a
02 question, it will help her immeasurably if you could
03 state your name first so she'll know who to identify
04 in the transcript.

05 Okay. Back to where we were. We'll go out and
06 do the mapping with the wheelbarrow. We'll go away
07 for a little while, probably about 30 days. We'll
08 take all that data, analyze it, look at two or three
09 different software packages, several different sets of
10 eyes, and everyone agree on exactly where we're going
11 to dig holes.

12 So when our contractor comes back and goes to
13 your yard to dig, he can tell you exactly how many
14 holes he plans to dig and where they'll be before he
15 ever sets foot on the property with a shovel.

16 BY MR. MILLS:

17 Eddie Mills. How deep are you looking?

18 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

19 The -- the equipment that we have will locate a
20 grenade approximately two feet deep. So the depth

21 that I would expect them to dig is no deeper than two
22 feet.

23 We don't expect to find anything other than
24 grenades. Now I'll preface that. That's what we
25 expect to find. That's what we're looking for. If

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01 they do find something larger, we could dig as deep as
02 four feet, but that would be the maximum depth that we
03 would dig.

04 Yes, sir.

05 BY MR. PETTY:

06 Now have they found any live hand grenades in
07 the Wedgewood area?

08 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

09 Yes, sir. We certainly have. We found seven
10 the last time the last time we did a removal up there
11 that were live.

12 BY COURT REPORTER:

13 Could I have your name, sir?

14 BY MR. PETTY:

15 Paul Petty.

16 BY COURT REPORTER:

17 Thank you.

18 BY MR. TEASTER:

19 Where were -- Bud Teaster from Wedgewood. Where
20 were these found?

21 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

22 On the Pike property. I think it's 109.

23 BY MR. TEASTER:

24 Okay.

25 BY MS. PIKE:

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01 106.

02 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

03 Okay.

04 BY MS. PIKE:

05 I'm Ms. Pike.

06 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

07 Oh, Ms. Pike. Okay. I'm sorry. I got the 1-0
08 part right, but we did do a clearance there, and we
09 did find several grenades that were live in her lawn,
10 and, hopefully, she was happy with what we did. I
11 didn't hear her complain, and they're gone, so.

12 BY MR. CROXDALE:

13 What are you going to do about under people's
14 houses?

15 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

16 Your name, please?

17 BY MR. CROXDALE:

18 Gene Croxdale.

19 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

20 Yes, sir, we don't do clearance under houses,
21 and the rationale for that, when your house was built,
22 they had to build a foundation, and there's nothing
23 there but crawl space.

24 Most of that crawl space was probably disturbed
25 to some extent, so we wouldn't expect to find anything

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01 under there. And that's just a general -- that's our
02 general policy. If there's a structure or a house
03 built, we don't go underneath it. It's the same thing

04 with a driveway or any other structure that you have
05 around your house.

06 Any other?

07 (NO RESPONSE)

08 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

09 Okay. When we do come back to dig around your
10 house, the -- our approach right now is to offer you a
11 room in a local motel that you can go to if you choose
12 from approximately 9:00 in the morning to 4:00 in the
13 afternoon.

14 The reason for that is that if we're working
15 right around your house -- and let me preface --
16 that's not everybody in the whole subdivision at once.
17 We can talk -- I'm sure that helps a little.

18 We can talk specifically about which blocks and
19 how many people are impacted at one time, but the
20 reason for that is back to where I started. The
21 safest place for anyone to be when we're in there
22 digging or looking for ordnance is someplace else.
23 That's as easily said as I can.

24 So the government will provide you
25 accommodations. You don't have to use them if you
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01 don't want to. You can use them if you want to go to
02 the local motel and enjoy the pool and stay there
03 during the day, you can stay there at night if you
04 choose. We'll -- we will give you as much notice as
05 possible before we ask you to do that, at least a
06 week. We'll have a plan laid out that shows which
07 areas we'll be working in. We'll share that with you
08 before we start and show it by lot.

09 If there is a problem with leaving or a time
10 that you can't do that, we can work with you, and
11 we'll be glad to rearrange our schedule to meet yours
12 the best we can and still make sure that your property
13 is clear and everything is done safely.

14 BY MS. HORTON:

15 That's if just you find something? I mean you
16 don't have to leave if you're just looking?

17 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

18 Yes, ma'am. Right. That's right. When we're
19 doing the geophysics, no one will have to leave.
20 There will be no impact at all. Only after we do the
21 analysis and we bring the sheets back that show
22 exactly what we need to do, that's the only time that
23 you could be impacted.

24 BY COURT REPORTER:

25 I need your name, please.

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01 BY MS. HORTON:

02 Gail Horton.

03 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

04 The next thing we need to talk a little bit
05 about is engineering controls. That's one of the
06 things that my office has worked a great deal with
07 over the last few years because safety distances
08 historically have been very large, like 1,250 to 2,500
09 feet for small items.

10 So what we've done is look at the individual
11 items themselves and we've done a great deal of
12 testing to see exactly what happens when you do

13 detonate a piece of ordnance.

14 We've looked at how far the pieces of fragment
15 or the shell -- the pieces of the shell go when it's
16 blown up and different conditions and try to develop
17 structures to contain any metal that may exit because
18 of an accidental detonation or could contain it so
19 that we can demolish something without impacting the
20 people a quarter of a mile away, essentially.

21 So one of the things that we've developed and we
22 did use on -- on Ms. Pike's property previously is
23 what we call a bud light, and it's not named after
24 anything you might associate it with.

25 The gentleman in our office who actually

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01 designed it, his name is Bud, so he got the
02 opportunity to name it after himself; and he called it
03 light because the initial design was out of steel, and
04 it was one inch plate steel, and he came up with the
05 idea of using thin aluminum plates and a channel on
06 the side so you can adjust the thickness to fit the
07 item that you're actually digging for. So that's the
08 name bud light.

09 It's a three foot square box, and you can see
10 the sloped roof on it. What we do is we'll use that
11 when we come back and start digging anomalies. We'll
12 go to where we think there's an item of some sort and
13 set this down over the top of it. The gentleman who
14 is actually working on it, you can see one of them up
15 there, will be inside, essentially inside the opening
16 of that box. There's a better picture on the bottom.

17 What this is designed to do is if by some chance
18 there's an accident and there is a detonation of an
19 item, this box will stop all the fragments on three
20 sides. So as best we could, we developed something
21 that contained all those fragments.

22 Now with that said, and, in fact, to our safety
23 mentality, we stopped all the fragments from three
24 sides, but the front is opened. So we end up with an
25 area or an exclusion zone or a clear zone around where

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01 we're working of 200 feet on each side of the box,
02 then about 850 feet out of an opening. So that's the
03 large arch.

04 So that will give you an idea when we start
05 talking about who could be impacted by us working on
06 one lot. That -- that will give you an idea of what
07 areas of where we have to work, where we can work and
08 what happens to -- to the people next door when we're
09 working on a lot.

10 I'll try to be a little more clear on that in a
11 little bit.

12 I talked about the bud lights for glass
13 protection. We also can and will use sandbags if
14 there's an area where we can't use that type control.
15 We can build a wall of sandbags, essentially, around
16 the items so we can dig it safely. There's no chance,
17 if it should happen to detonate or if it's even a
18 piece of ordnance and it should happen to detonate,
19 then no fragments would go towards people or towards
20 their houses. So that's one of the others that we
21 use.

22 If we're close to your house and we think there
23 is an ordnance item there that we're digging, we will
24 protect your windows and your glass. If anything
25 happens to it, we're responsible to fix it.

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01 The same thing with subsoil. If we have an item
02 and it's in the ground and it's close to your
03 foundation, first we'll have several of our engineers
04 out to look at it to make sure that what the safe
05 distance is for your property to detonate that,
06 because we don't want to damage anything. We don't
07 want you to have any problems with your home after we
08 leave.

09 We'll look at it with engineers who are
10 qualified in glass and in structural design. If we
11 need to do something between the item and your house
12 to keep that glass away from moving -- through the
13 soil to your foundation -- we'll do that before we --
14 before we handle the item.

15 Of course, we'll always -- the first thing we'll
16 always try to do, if we find something, is move it as
17 far away from all the people that we can to detonate
18 it. We won't just normally sit there and detonate it
19 right -- because it's right there because of your
20 house. If it's safe to move, it's safe for our crews
21 and safe for everyone else in the community, we'll
22 move it as far away as we can before we do any
23 demolition on any item.

24 To give you an idea of where we are right now in
25 the process, the work plan for doing the work in your
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01 subdivision is under review now. I should have the
02 final in my office by the time I get back.

03 It will go into specific detail on everything we
04 plan to do, all the safety requirements, all the
05 health requirements for the workers and everything --
06 everything that I've talked about essentially related
07 to how the work will be done at your property.

08 That will be available in the administrative
09 records down in the library. It will also be
10 available on-site anytime we're out here doing work.
11 You'll also be able to get to it from Zapata. If you
12 can get them, you can always get it from me. I will
13 have extra copies that you're welcome to look at.

14 Unfortunately, I don't have extra copies to give
15 everyone a copy of it, but I don't -- I don't think
16 you really want it anyway. It's -- it will be about a
17 four inch binder that goes into very, very much
18 detail. It has all the forms the contractor has been
19 using and things like that, so it's available to look
20 at. It will be available for you to look at it. If
21 you want a copy, we'll do our best to get you one.

22 The next step in the process for us is an
23 explosive safety submission. Whenever we go on public
24 property to look for ordnance when we have a feeling
25 that there is something there that needs to be

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01 investigated, we have to submit an explosive safety
02 submission to DOD in Washington.

03 It doesn't matter whether it's Army, Navy, Air
04 Force, Marines. Everyone or anyone who plans to go

05 and intrusively remove ordnance has to submit a plan
06 to the safety board. That -- I should have that.
07 It's probably at my office now. It's ready. It's a
08 very short document that summarizes exactly where
09 we're working, what we think we might find there, what
10 controls we'll take to protect the public and the
11 workers.

12 So it's very short, but those normally take 60
13 to 90 days for approval. We will probably in your
14 case take it to Washington, brief them on exactly what
15 we're doing to take care of you to make sure you're
16 safe and what we're doing to make sure that we're
17 doing -- we're investigating the right items at the
18 right depth, so that will probably be our next step is
19 to go up there and talk to them.

20 After that is done, we will -- which now is
21 already underway, temporary or preliminary planning
22 rather for temporary locations. We've talked with at
23 least one local motel. We've looked at the things we
24 can do and the things we can provide you to try to
25 keep from disrupting your life as much as we can.

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01 We -- I think John has been and talked to quite
02 a few of you about the rights of entry. He'll also be
03 talking with you about the things that are available
04 to you if the time comes that you do need to relocate
05 during the day for a certain period of time.

06 So we're working on all of those, and this is a
07 little old, but planning for neighborhood support. We
08 have Zapata Engineering and their staff who are
09 available to you for anything you need while this work
10 is going on.

11 They'll be out here. They'll be set up on Dairy
12 Ridge Road in the area that -- that we normally use
13 for an office. There will be a sign up there so you
14 can find them. You have their phone numbers and my
15 phone number and Jim's phone number, and our entire
16 goal is to make sure we take care of you and that we
17 do the work safely and get it over with as quick as we
18 can and get out of your hair, to be honest, and I
19 think all of you can certainly appreciate that.

20 BY MR. OSBORNE:

21 Question.

22 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

23 Yes, sir.

24 BY MR. OSBORNE:

25 On number two there.

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01 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

02 Yes.

03 BY MR. OSBORNE:

04 Harold Osborne. You submit that to who?

05 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

06 To the Department of Defense Explosive Safety
07 Board, and that's -- I'm sure that doesn't mean a
08 whole lot to most of you.

09 That's a senior board in Washington that's made
10 up of Generals or at least Colonels from all the
11 services; and any construction, or, in this case,
12 removals that deal with explosives or military
13 munitions, they review the plans for any of that

14 before -- before it's done.

15 If we start to build another -- a new -- new
16 building on a military base, they would look at those
17 plans to make sure that it's properly sited, away from
18 any explosives, or if we're building an explosives
19 building, to make sure that it's sited away from the
20 general public for safety reasons.

21 A quick look at our very preliminary schedule.
22 We -- we talked very briefly with the manager of the
23 Cotton Creek Golf Club because, as you know, it
24 surrounds your subdivision, and we will impact the
25 operation of the golf course because of our safety

00027

01 zones.

02 But we did talk to them on the 14th of July just
03 to give them an idea of where we were going and what
04 our plans were. We still have -- have other work to
05 do.

06 We mailed you an information packet. Hopefully,
07 all of you got it, and that was our first attempt to
08 make sure we try to get in touch with you and give you
09 as much information as we can. Of course, the -- the
10 meeting down here on the 5th of August, we did get on
11 that. We haven't done very well on the Explosive
12 Safety Submission or the work plans, but, hopefully,
13 next week I can get those back on track and get them
14 done and ready so that we stay on schedule.

15 Our geophysical mapping should start late in
16 August or early September. It shouldn't last over
17 about a month. The people who will be out here doing
18 that will be UXB. Zapata will be also here. They'll
19 come and tell you before we go on your property,
20 hopefully, at least a week in advance, if we can.
21 That goes so fast. It's hard to estimate the
22 production, but as early as we can, we'll let you know
23 they're going to be there. You won't need to leave.
24 We won't be bothering you. If the day that we're
25 coming is not convenient, please let us know, and

00028

01 we'll reschedule it. There's no problem at all with
02 that.

03 I will be around at least the first week, and my
04 phone number, you've got it on the sheets back there.
05 Either one of them you can get to me. The contractor
06 will be directly under my control. So if they do
07 anything that doesn't suit you or you need help with
08 anything they're doing, please call me and we'll fix
09 it.

10 They -- we have a very good working
11 relationship. They understand what we expect, and
12 they know that you're our first priority. I mean, if
13 you're not happy with what they're doing, you're
14 paying the bills, and we need to fix it. So please be
15 very forward with us on what we're doing all the way
16 through the process.

17 After the mapping is done, we'll take about a
18 month to make sure that we know where we want to dig,
19 that we can tell you where we want to dig, what we
20 think we're digging for and when we think we're going
21 to be on your property.

22 After that month, I hope to start out here in

23 October. It may be towards the middle of October to
24 start the intrusive work. Our plan is to look at the
25 least disruption we cause to everyone as we plan for
00029

01 that work and schedule around the neighborhood to
02 lessen the impact and get done as quickly as we can,
03 and we hope to be done in December. I hope early
04 December. I hope we're done in October, but I've been
05 called an optimist. That's pretty optimistic. I know
06 we'll do some excavations, but I hope we'll be done
07 earlier.

08 To give you just a few pictures and an idea of
09 how things look, I think from the video you may have
10 gotten a better idea. This one is very hard to see.
11 That's just a -- I can't even see it.

12 To give you an idea of the size of the charge
13 we're talking about, I think you saw it in the video,
14 if you'll look at this little small thing here, that
15 -- if we find an ordnance item, that little small
16 perforator is something like you would expect to see.
17 We're not looking for bombs. We're not looking
18 for big huge things or explosives. If we find
19 something, this is what you can expect, something of
20 this size, very small, the absolute minimum we need to
21 safely destroy the item. A lot of the EOD guys like
22 to see big booms and dirt flying in the air. That's
23 -- you won't see it. If you see it, then we have a
24 problem.

25 We work very hard to make sure that when we set
00030

01 up an item for destruction that, hopefully, you don't
02 even hear it to the parking lot; but if you do, then
03 there's no debris. We've developed quite a few
04 engineering controls to do that. You'll see a lot of
05 sandbags when we get ready to demolish items.

06 This one -- I don't know if you can tell much
07 about it, but I wanted to put it in there, because,
08 essentially, according to our regulations, we have to
09 cover anything that we find with a certain depth of
10 soil and pack that soil to keep any of the fragments
11 from coming out when we demolish the item.

12 What we've done out here consistently, we do
13 what we have to do. We put at least two layers of
14 sandbags on top, and we've found that normally the
15 first layer there may be a little bit of metal exit
16 the ground and it hits those sandbags.

17 We've never had anything hit them the second
18 time, and that's on much, much larger items than what
19 were here. So that's the additional safety factor.
20 You will always see -- well, we will always have it.
21 You won't see it, because, of course, no one could be
22 around when we're doing a demolition job, which we do
23 make sure that it's going to be safe and that's
24 essentially my message for you.

25 I would like to open it up for questions on
00031

01 things that I have covered.

02 BY MR. MATHIS:

03 Question.

04 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

05 Yes, sir.

06 BY MR. MATHIS:

07 Frank Mathis. When you get through, are we
08 going to get a letter that's saying that our property
09 is clean and we don't have to go through this again,
10 you know, later on down?

11 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

12 Yes, sir. What you would get is a statement
13 signed by my Colonel and possibly the Charleston
14 Colonel that says we came and we did a removal action.
15 "We found everything that could be found with the
16 technology available, and we feel like it's clean."
17 There will probably be something in there -- and
18 you understand the government. There will probably
19 be something in there that says, "This is not a
20 guarantee that everything is 100 percent," because --
21 because there's no such thing as 100 percent on
22 anything. This -- we've got very good technology.
23 We're using the best that's available. Nobody can
24 give you a 100 percent guarantee on anything, not even
25 a car, so -- but you will get a statement. Yes, sir.

00032

01 BY MS. NOGOSKY:

02 Kathie Nogosky. I'd like to ask you if at a
03 later date any of the homeowners ever wanted to put
04 in, say, a swimming pool or something like that and
05 this only goes down two feet deep, what could they --
06 what action could they take at that time to make sure
07 that it's safe to go ahead and dig down deeper?

08 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

09 When we're done, if we don't find anything else
10 out here -- and let me back up just a little bit to
11 preface it. If all we find is grenades and fragments
12 of grenades, we don't feel that there will be any
13 problem in doing whatever you want to if we clear that
14 two foot depth.

15 If we find something else, we'll have to adjust
16 our depth to -- based on the penetration or possible
17 penetration of those items and we clear to a deeper
18 depth, but we don't -- we don't expect to leave and
19 say, "Before you do anything in your yard, you have to
20 call us."

21 We expect to be done. When we finish within
22 Wedgewood this time, then we're finished. There's no
23 other -- no other restrictions, no other requirements,
24 but, of course, like I said, there's not a 100 percent
25 guarantee; but if you are digging in the area and

00033

01 someone finds something that's suspect, we'll always
02 still respond.

03 We have the responsibility, even if it's a piece
04 of pipe and you dig and you see it and you're afraid
05 it's something, then you stop and call us. We'll
06 legally obligated to respond and see what it is. If
07 it is ordnance, we're legally responsible to
08 investigate that, get rid of it and see if there's any
09 other problem on your property.

10 BY MS. NOGOSKY:

11 Okay.

12 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

13 That's -- that's the way -- that's what this
14 program is for.

15 Of course, I think we said it over and over, but
16 the one thing that is very important that I haven't
17 covered tonight, if you see anything that you think
18 could even potentially be a piece of ordnance, please
19 call the Sheriff or call 911.

20 Don't move it. Don't touch it. Don't bother
21 it. The best training they gave me - I'm an engineer.
22 I'm not an EOD person. They only had to train me one
23 day. If you see it, turn around and walk off, because
24 I'm not trained. I'm not qualified, and there are
25 very few people in the United States who are to deal
00034

01 with it. The best thing to do is to let the people
02 whose job it is to deal with it take care of it for
03 you. So either the Sheriff or 911, and it will
04 definitely be taken care of.

05 BY MS. MILLS:

06 What about our pets? Cathy Mills.

07 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

08 The ---

09 BY MS. MILLS:

10 The outside pets. Do we leave them?

11 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

12 You read the sheet, didn't you?

13 If you have outside pets -- excuse me -- and
14 we're working on your individual lot, we're going in
15 there and digging or we're mapping, we would need --
16 when we we're mapping, we would need to ask you, if
17 you could, to keep them inside for the short time
18 we're there doing the mapping.

19 When we're doing the intrusive work, we'll have
20 to work with you, because we'll need to have them off
21 the property because we don't want your dog to be in
22 anymore danger than anyone else or your cat or
23 whatever.

24 If they're outside pets, we would need to work
25 with you and make arrangements to have them boarded or
00035

01 to help you relocate them for the time we're there
02 working on your lot.

03 BY MS. PETTY:

04 Phyllis Petty. Where do you plan to start?

05 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

06 I'm not really sure. We've -- we've had --
07 we've gone through a couple of scenarios, and what
08 I've been doing for the last two or three weeks is
09 looking -- let me hold this up. I'll demonstrate a
10 little bit.

11 I took the subdivision map, and the overlay that
12 I had before that shows the safety zone, I've been
13 moving it around in all combinations I could come up
14 with to figure out how to least impact the people in
15 the subdivision.

16 Next week I'm bringing some structural -- a
17 couple of structural engineers over to help me look at
18 the engineering controls that I talked about and
19 figure out how to best configure them so that we can
20 figure -- can develop a good plan to work as quickly
21 and safely as we can through the subdivision. So I
22 don't have a real good answer for you, but ---

23 BY MS. PETTY:

24 How many people do you plan to have there at a
25 time?

00036

01 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

02 The crew size right now is four. That would --
03 and -- and possibly five. There would be a
04 supervisor. There will always two people digging an
05 anomaly, and I would hope to have two or four -- two
06 groups of two digging on each property or each lot at
07 a time.

08 The only problem with that, I have to keep that
09 same 200 foot separation between the two groups. So
10 more than likely one would be working one corner, and
11 they would work around the lot or maybe an adjacent
12 lot, but, essentially, crews of five, if I can arrange
13 it -- if I can do it, I'd like to put two crews of
14 five down there, but I don't think I'll be able to
15 without being very disruptive to you all, and I -- I
16 don't really want to do that because I'm afraid that
17 the productivity that increases we get by having a
18 second crew wouldn't counteract the disruption to the
19 neighborhood actually.

20 So probably one crew of five.

21 BY MR. TEASTER:

22 My name is Bud Teaster. I live at 144
23 Wedgewood. Your first letter, April 30th, says that
24 an inventory report -- the results of that inventory
25 report have confirmed the presence of ordnance and

00037

01 explosive waste.

02 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

03 Yes, sir.

04 BY MR. TEASTER:

05 And this was something that was done in 1991.

06 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

07 Yes.

08 BY MR. TEASTER:

09 Could you tell us what was found in that report?

10 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

11 That -- what that report does, that's an inquiry
12 that's done by the district, and, essentially, they go
13 through all the archives that they can find locally,
14 look at what was done and what clear sections were
15 undertaken.

16 In some cases they may send someone to the
17 field. In other cases they may just talk to local
18 people who have found ordnance here, and that document
19 is what actually authorizes a project under the
20 DERP-FUDS program. So what that did was actually set
21 up a project so that we could go through the steps.

22 BY MR. TEASTER:

23 Interviews with local people?

24 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

25 Yes, sir. That and ---

00038

01 BY MR. TEASTER:

02 You don't have any documentation that live hand
03 grenades -- you said you found seven live grenades?

04 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

05 Yes, sir.

06 BY MR. TEASTER:

07 Do you have any documentation left from Camp
08 Croft that would indicate that live grenades or
09 mortars or anything else were used in the Wedgewood
10 area?

11 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

12 Yes, sir. Within that -- within that report we
13 did. We also ---

14 BY MR. TEASTER:

15 Where is that information? Is that in the
16 repository in the library?

17 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

18 It is. It's in the library. Actually, in some
19 of the very, very early documents in that and in the
20 archive search, which is the next step, there were
21 several grenade courts which were shown as practice
22 grenade courts up in the Wedgewood area.

23 BY MR. TEASTER:

24 I found 50 or more on my lot. Where were you
25 people 35 years ago when I was digging these things up
00039

01 every time I put a plow in the ground?

02 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

03 Yes, sir. I understand.

04 BY MR. TEASTER:

05 But I've never found anything that's --
06 fortunately, I've never found anything explosive.

07 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

08 Yes, sir.

09 BY MR. TEASTER:

10 And I'm just wondering if the real things were
11 there.

12 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

13 I ---

14 BY MR. TEASTER:

15 Other than maybe a demonstration. You said you
16 found fragments of live grenades somewhere else. I'm
17 sure they had to show them how one exploded, but I
18 found many of those old dummy things for practice.

19 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

20 Yes, sir, they -- they did have a practice
21 grenade court here, and I guess the best answer to
22 your first question about where were we, as far as the
23 Corps of Engineers and the program to address these
24 was only set up in '91 or in 1990. I'm sorry.

25 So when Congress gives an agency a program to
00040

01 approach a problem, that's the best we can do. We
02 have the program. It's been funded for about ten
03 years, and we've been working here for half of those,
04 so Camp Croft is getting, I think, very good
05 attention.

06 BY MR. TEASTER:

07 It may be too much attention.

08 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

09 If it were me, I would much rather get a little
10 extra attention to make absolutely sure I'm safe.

11 BY MR. MILLS:

12 Are you folks, after you get done with this, are
13 you going to go to the local media and let them know
14 that you're done and the papers and all that, because
15 like Bud was saying, we've got a lot of bad press in

16 the paper about, you know, we're got tons of bombs
17 down here.

18 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

19 Yes, sir. You see they're here. We have a
20 meeting every three -- every three months with the
21 Restoration Advisory Board here on the school
22 property. It's always announced. Excuse me.

23 All the results from everything we've done have
24 been placed in the repository. Every step that we've
25 made has been out advertised to the public. We've

00041

01 asked you -- asked -- I'm sorry -- asked for public
02 input and gotten very good input over here on what
03 we're doing and how we're going about it and making
04 sure that all those results are available to you, and,
05 yes, they definitely will be on this, and they'll be
06 available to you eventually which is even better.

07 I think this -- this one, since we are on
08 individual people's lots, I think we have the
09 responsibility to let you know what we've done on the
10 property and make sure that you know we've taken it
11 away.

12 BY COURT REPORTER:

13 I need your name, sir.

14 BY MR. MILLS:

15 Eddie Mills.

16 BY COURT REPORTER:

17 Thank you. I forget. I'm sorry.

18 BY MR. MILLS:

19 And this was known about in '91? I mean, that
20 they had this problem?

21 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

22 The actual FUDS program started in 1990, and
23 then the Corps of Engineers Huntsville started into it
24 in '91, but I think the best answer to a potential
25 problem, the -- the government knew and most of the

00042

01 local people knew that this used as a training base
02 and fort, so it's not a new problem. It's not
03 something that just came up. It's been here for a
04 number of years.

05 BY MS. HORTON:

06 Well, I know it's been here for a number of
07 years, but it seems like they would have cleaned it up
08 before they sold lots and we built our homes.

09 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

10 Yes, ma'am, and that, to their defense, it's
11 hard to defend somebody 50 years ago to -- I wasn't
12 even here then, but in their defense they -- at the
13 end of World War II, if you think about the attitude
14 of the country was the war is over. "We're done.
15 Let's go home."

16 And most of the military installations we've
17 seen they did a pretty good job of cleaning up. Here
18 they did a very good job. We really haven't found a
19 lot of ordnance, but you can't just say, "Well, they
20 did good enough."

21 If there's better technology to look at the
22 areas where they've been and we have found items over
23 here around the area for several years, I feel like we
24 have an obligation to come back and make sure with the

25 technology we have now that's as clean as we can get
00043

01 it.

02 BY MS. NOGOSKY:

03 Kathie Nogosky. Security like mail carriers
04 and people like that going through the community while
05 you guys are doing this, how do you control that?

06 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

07 We haven't talked to the post office or the
08 garbage people yet or the newspaper people. That's
09 one of the things we still have on our list to do.

10 If they're in there, we won't be working. I
11 mean, that's -- if they're within the exclusion zone,
12 we'll stop for them just like we'll stop for anyone.

13 So as they pass through, we've got to work out a
14 schedule with them as well so that they're safe and
15 that we know when they're there or when they're coming
16 so we can stop our operations and plan around them.

17 BY MR. CROXDALE:

18 Will you have road blocks set up to keep people
19 from coming up in there?

20 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

21 Yes, sir. We'll have a person from UXB
22 stationed at each end of the exclusion zone. and their
23 purpose will be to -- if there's an emergency and
24 someone has to go to their house, their purpose will
25 be to call the crews that are working and tell them to

00044

01 stop.

02 So if you have to go past the barricades or
03 anyone has to go in there, we will stop working while
04 you're there.

05 BY COURT REPORTER:

06 I need your name, again. I'm sorry.

07 BY MS. CROXDALE:

08 Gene Croxdale.

09 BY COURT REPORTER:

10 Gene?

11 BY MS. CROXDALE:

12 Uh-huh (affirmative response). Croxdale.

13 BY COURT REPORTER:

14 Croxdale. Thank you.

15 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

16 Yes, sir.

17 BY MR. CLEMMONS:

18 Vernon Clemmons, 155 Wedgewood. When you over
19 at Ms. Pike's property first, what level did you find
20 these explosives and what type of explosives were
21 they?

22 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

23 The only thing that I know of that we found that
24 were live were grenades, and please don't quote me on
25 the depth, but I don't think there was anything much

00045

01 over a foot, if that deep.

02 BY MR. CLEMMONS:

03 And like their front yard it had been probably
04 graded?

05 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

06 Yes, sir.

07 BY MR. CLEMMONS:

08 So there was just some of the soil that had been
09 graded off of it.

10 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

11 I don't know if it had been ---

12 BY MR. CLEMMONS:

13 At some time, probably?

14 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

15 I don't know if it had been graded off or added
16 to or -- I'm not really sure.

17 BY MR. CLEMMONS:

18 So it was probably less than two foot deep?

19 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

20 Yes, sir. That's -- that's what -- that's what
21 we're proposing to the Explosive Safety Board. We
22 don't think there's anything deeper than two feet,
23 and, normally, if you think about a grenade, this is
24 the old John Wayne pineapple pull out with your teeth
25 and throw, they're not going to go deep in the ground.

00046

01 I mean, they're -- they're going to hit the ground,
02 and, essentially, they're going to lay on top down in
03 the grading or whatever.

04 BY MR. CLEMMONS:

05 Are most of these -- are most of these grenades
06 like you're talking about pineapple grenades where the
07 top flip and ---

08 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

09 Yes, sir.

10 BY MR. CLEMMONS:

11 --- the detonator can blow the bottoms out of
12 it.

13 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

14 Yes, sir.

15 BY MR. CLEMMONS:

16 They were not designed to explode anyway.

17 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

18 The practice weren't. That's correct.

19 BY MR. CLEMMONS:

20 And, of course, the fuse inside of it is blown.

21 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

22 Yes, sir.

23 BY MR. CLEMMONS:

24 You can tell it's burnt.

25 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

00047

01 Yes, sir.

02 BY MR. CLEMMONS:

03 The bottom is out of it. It's already done all
04 it will do.

05 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

06 Yes, sir.

07 BY MR. CLEMMONS:

08 You won't find anything under it.

09 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

10 On the practice grenades. That's correct.

11 BY MR. CLEMMONS:

12 It's the finger grenade which is like a
13 cannister.

14 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

15 Yes, sir. What we found on her property were
16 not practice ones.

17 BY MR. CLEMMONS:

18 I doubt they were practice ones.

19 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

20 They were loaded with high explosives. Yes,
21 sir.

22 BY MR. CLEMMONS:

23 But there are some of the pineapple grenades
24 that's live?

25 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

00048

01 Yes, sir.

02 BY MR. CLEMMONS:

03 But they were not the practice grenades that the
04 bottoms were out of it?

05 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

06 No, sir.

07 BY MR. CLEMMONS:

08 It's a different type of grenade?

09 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

10 The same grenade. It looks just the same. The
11 only difference is the hole in the bottom, because
12 that's where the explosives are loaded through the
13 bottom. So that's why it's important not to fool with
14 any of them, even if you see them laying around. You
15 really can't tell until you pick it up and look and
16 see if there is a hole in the bottom.

17 BY MR. CLEMMONS:

18 Well, I ---

19 BY MS. CLEMMONS:

20 That's right. We had a lot of grenades down in
21 the back yard.

22 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

23 Yes, ma'am.

24 BY MS. CLEMMONS:

25 The front yard was very little.

00049

01 BY MR. CLEMMONS:

02 I'm like Bud over there. You know, I've picked
03 up a bucket full up on the knoll over there.

04 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

05 Yes, sir.

06 BY MR. CLEMMONS:

07 How about these rock bunkers?

08 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

09 Sir?

10 BY MR. CLEMMONS:

11 How about the rock bunkers that's in there?

12 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

13 I'm not -- I'm not really familiar with them.

14 BY MR. TEASTER:

15 I've already got rid of most of them.

16 BY MR. CLEMMONS:

17 Well, would there possibly be parts under those
18 -- what were those bunkers used for?

19 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

20 We don't think there was any artillery in there
21 or any munitions stored at all. The only evidence
22 we've found is that they had a practice grenade area,
23 and there will be -- there are concrete structures all
24 over this place, underground foundations and pipes and
25 footings and that; and to be honest with you, I don't

00050

01 know if anyone knows what all of them were.

02 BY MR. CLEMMONS:

03 I don't know, but I wonder if there may have
04 been some kind of munition buried under those bunkers?

05 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

06 The normal -- and I'll talk normal because
07 that's the best I can do. The normal way that the
08 military stores ammunition is not in an underground
09 bunker. It's in an igloo or a storage facility. I
10 know you've seen them. The oval -- the oval buildings
11 that are about 25 feet wide and 80 feet long, 60 to 80
12 feet where they can haul a truck or carry boxes of
13 munitions in there to store. That's the normal
14 storage.

15 BY MR. CLEMMONS:

16 It's been a practice area now. They would not
17 have stored ammunitions?

18 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

19 No, sir, they shouldn't have stored anything.
20 They would take, you know, daily use out what they
21 were going to use. They might set it in one area, but
22 they wouldn't particularly store anything there.

23 BY MS. PIKE:

24 If they wouldn't use it up that day, they just
25 buried it and got rid of it. That's what I feel like

00051

01 they did with my yard in 1979 we found.

02 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

03 You never know what an 18 or 19 year old soldier
04 might have done.

05 BY MS. PIKE:

06 These were still in the box that they were in, a
07 bazooka.

08 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

09 Yes, ma'am.

10 BY MS. PETTY:

11 Phyllis Petty.

12 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

13 Yes, ma'am.

14 BY MS. PETTY:

15 The people that came and stayed like a week on
16 our property before, that was part of this same
17 project?

18 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

19 Yes, ma'am, it was part of the same project. It
20 was in the phase of the project where we went through
21 on the video where we did an investigation or did a
22 study, and they went and did small, small areas within
23 Wedgewood to see if there was a reason for us to
24 expand the removal action that we did up at Ms.
25 Pike's. We knew that we had found grenades up there.

00052

01 When we found them, we said, "Well, are we sure that's
02 the only place we had them?"

03 We went back and did the other sampling on your
04 place and a couple of others, I think, and found not
05 more grenades, but more fragments, more pieces of
06 metal that came from them. So when we found those
07 other pieces, it only made sense to expand the area
08 that we needed to look to make sure we covered the

09 entire ground or the entire area where they could go.

10 BY MS. PETTY:

11 From -- from that work that's been done before,
12 do you have some areas that are more suspicious than
13 other areas?

14 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

15 No, ma'am, we really don't, because we only did
16 the one removal, and when we do sampling, we don't
17 really do enough to figure out the exact boundaries.
18 We look how far out away we can find some evidence
19 that there may have been grenades, like the little
20 pieces of scrap, so we don't try to contain the area,
21 and we don't -- we can't really prioritize it as far
22 as what's worse or what's better until -- now when we do
23 the geophysical mapping, we'll have a much better idea
24 of where the concentrations of metal are. We won't
25 know if that's grenades or ordnance. We just know

00053

01 this is a concentration of metal, but it will give us
02 an idea.

03 BY MR. MILLS:

04 Eddie Mills. Other than the piece of equipment
05 that you showed us on the video there, what other type
06 of equipment? I've got a letter that says you guys
07 will be able to park equipment on our land and that
08 kind of stuff. What are we talking about?

09 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

10 The -- there's -- we won't use any heavy
11 equipment, but the biggest thing you will see out here
12 is a van to carry the men in. We -- all of the -- all
13 of the instruments that we use, the two wheel cart is
14 the largest. Everything else is smaller than that.
15 There -- the heaviest thing that will roll
16 across your yard is a bicycle tire like the one there.
17 I've got some other examples, but I don't have
18 pictures of them right now, but they're all smaller
19 than that, but, generally, what it looked like is a
20 stick with two wheels on the end of it that they roll
21 on wheels about this tall.

22 I don't -- they won't bring vehicles on your
23 yard. No heavy equipment, and the holes will all be
24 done with a shovel or a small scoop. When they get --
25 they'll usually dig the top of the surface off with a

00054

01 shovel if they don't feel any metal or any resistance.
02 After that, they'll go down to something close to a
03 small shovel or a scoop and do some work by hand.

04 BY MR. CLEMMONS:

05 Another question. What will it take to activate
06 or detonate a piece of explosive that's been left
07 there. It's going to be struck by something?

08 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

09 Well, ---

10 BY MR. CLEMMONS:

11 Arbitrarily, it's not just going to go off?

12 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

13 That's correct. If nobody touches it and nobody
14 messes with it, nobody vibrates it or does anything to
15 it, it normally will not go off. It has to have some
16 action, but you can't really say what that is because
17 there's such a range of items; and when you leave

18 anything in the ground for as long as this has been
19 here, you don't know what the reactivity is or how the
20 reactive the components in it, whether it's black
21 powder or high explosives or whatever. You don't know
22 how reactive they are, so there's really not a good
23 answer for how much -- what would it take to set it
24 off.

25 BY MR. CLEMMONS:

00055

01 There has been some pretty heavy pieces of
02 explosive found in the Camp Croft area?

03 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

04 Yes, sir.

05 BY MR. CLEMMONS:

06 Over the years?

07 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

08 Yes, sir.

09 BY MR. CLEMMONS:

10 I mean, enough to take a leg off?

11 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

12 Yes, sir. We have found 105 millimeter howitzer
13 shells or projectiles which that was one of the ones
14 in the picture here about this long and about that big
15 around.

16 We haven't found that many high explosive
17 rounds, but we found a lot of empty ones, and you
18 can't tell them apart. So -- but we have found them.
19 We have found some high explosive rounds. Not in the
20 Wedgewood area. Not even anywhere close to there, but
21 down in the impact areas.

22 BY MS. NOGOSKY:

23 Kathie Nogosky. If by chance something was
24 found on the property and went off accidentally and
25 one of your workers were harmed, what do we have that

00056

01 says we're not going to get sued or our insurance is
02 not going to have to come in -- that these families of
03 your workers are not going to come in and try to sue
04 because you would be on our property.

05 BY GENTLEMAN IN AUDIENCE:

06 Good question.

07 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

08 I don't know how to answer that. I'm not a
09 lawyer, but all of -- if it helps any, all of our
10 contractors are required to carry insurance for their
11 people and your property. I don't know what -- I
12 mean, anybody can sue for anything nowadays. I don't
13 know, you know, what the outcome would be, but that's
14 -- the best answer I can give is they are insured. I
15 don't -- I don't know.

16 BY MS. NOGOSKY:

17 Okay.

18 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

19 John, do you know? Do you know if there is ---

20 BY MR. HINELY:

21 I'll try and find out, but right now I don't
22 know of any way to say one way or another whether they
23 could or couldn't. Like you said, the insurance --
24 I'll try and find out.

25 BY MS. NOGOSKY:

00057

01 Okay.
02 BY MR. STRANGE:
03 This is Ronnie Strange, 136. Suppose you all
04 find something that's not ordnance related that is
05 valuable, whose property is that?
06 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:
07 If it's not ordnance, it's not ours.
08 BY MS. HORTON:
09 Finder's keepers.
10 BY MR. STRANGE:
11 Walk around and ---
12 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:
13 It's your property. If we find anything, and
14 Jim, you can help, but that's what we've been told.
15 If it's not ordnance, it's yours.
16 BY MR. TRUELOVE:
17 We had it checked out and investigated.
18 Anything of any value belongs to you. The only thing
19 that we're looking for is ordnance and that's all
20 we're planning to handle.
21 If there was anything that we would uncover, the
22 contractor will notify us that this is what was found,
23 and we will notify you that this is found. You may
24 even talk to the contractor before we do. Naturally,
25 that would be the process that you would go through.

00058

01 It does belong to the landowner. You own the property
02 now, you own what's there. The only thing that
03 concerns the government is to come and take care of
04 unexploded ordnance and that's all we're looking for.
05 BY MR. CROXDALE:
06 One other question. Going back to the road
07 block.
08 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:
09 Yes, sir.
10 BY MR. CROXDALE:
11 According to your schedule, how long are these
12 road blocks going to go on, and, you know, start --
13 planning to start for intrusion October?

14 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:
15 Yes, sir.
16 BY MR. CROXDALE:
17 And completion in December? Are we going to see
18 from October to December a road block down there?
19 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:
20 On those -- the hours that they're working in
21 the part of the -- just the part of the subdivision
22 that's impacted. Yes, sir, they have pieces of the
23 road block. Not the entire subdivision, but if we're
24 -- if we're working on one side and we're impacting
25 two or three lots, then it is blocked off at the end

00059

01 of those two or three lots.
02 BY MR. CROXDALE:
03 In other words, the first four or five houses as
04 you enter the street could block off the whole
05 subdivision?
06 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:
07 Yes, sir. And we've got a real good job of
08 figuring out exactly how to do that and when to do it
09 and how to keep from impacting them.

10 BY MR. CROXDALE:

11 Two months.

12 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

13 We won't be there for two months. I guarantee

14 it. But like I said, we have some challenges.

15 Because you do have the one entrance in, we've got to

16 make sure that we accommodate everyone as best we can,

17 even if we have to stop working when you come in and

18 out of the subdivision.

19 BY MR. STRANGE:

20 What are you going to do to protect the golfers?

21 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

22 The golfers, if the golf course is impacted by

23 an exclusion zone, they won't be able to play those

24 holes.

25 BY MR. OSBORNE:

00060

01 Can I ask one question on the bud light? When

02 you got the box there, you said it radiates out about

03 200 feet?

04 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

05 Yes, sir.

06 BY MR. OSBORNE:

07 Why can't you put a block right behind it?

08 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

09 Well, let me explain. 200 feet is our absolute

10 minimum safety distance we use for anything. The bud

11 light is designed to stop every fragment from that

12 grenade when it's set down there.

13 BY MR. OSBORNE:

14 Uh-huh (affirmative response).

15 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

16 The design of it says that there won't be one

17 fragment come outside that box, but we don't -- we

18 don't accept that, because, honestly, we haven't blown

19 any of them up inside, and we don't intend to, but our

20 absolute minimum distance to keep not only other

21 people away but even our crew is 200 feet. We

22 don't ---

23 BY MR. OSBORNE:

24 Well, it just seems logic to put another barrier

25 right behind that hole.

00061

01 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

02 Oh, you mean in front to cut down that 800 feet?

03 BY MR. OSBORNE:

04 Yeah.

05 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

06 We've looked at that, and we've done it before.

07 The only problem is when you do that, you have to have

08 room for men to get in and out to work, and when you

09 leave that opened, then you've still got the 800 foot

10 distance to the sides and straight up. So I haven't

11 given up, but that -- we are looking at that.

12 Yes, ma'am.

13 BY MS. PIKE:

14 Did you take mine off the property or did you do

15 it on the property?

16 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

17 I'm not really sure.

18 BY MS. PIKE:

19 I was down at work. I never did see what they
20 did.

21 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

22 Yes, ma'am. I'm not really sure.

23 BY MS. PIKE:

24 I didn't know what they did. They said they
25 took it off, but I didn't see.

00062

01 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

02 Okay. They -- they very well may have. I
03 wouldn't -- I wasn't over here during the time that
04 they did that. If anything that we can move off of
05 your property, that's what we prefer to do, then we
06 don't have the problem with being close to houses.

07 BY MR. MILLS:

08 Eddie Mills, 181. Why didn't -- why didn't
09 anybody have to be evacuated when they were doing Ms.
10 Pike's property? Did they not have a problem there or
11 was there something we just didn't know?

12 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

13 I don't have a real good answer other than ---

14 BY MS. PIKE:

15 They didn't care back then.

16 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

17 As we evolve with our safety rules and
18 regulations -- as we evolve with our safety rules and
19 regulations, we tend to be very conservative to make
20 sure that nobody, you know, that -- that we can't even
21 possibly involve hurting anyone, and that's a lot of
22 the reason for the restricted rules. I'm not sure
23 what they did on Ms. Pike's because I wasn't -- I
24 wasn't over here. I don't know. Did they have you
25 leave the house or did you stay?

00063

01 BY MS. PIKE:

02 I was at work most of the time. They just
03 continued to work.

04 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

05 The only thing I can say is we'll do it as safe
06 as we can this time, and I'm sure we were safe at that
07 time as well. I just don't have the background on
08 what we did.

09 BY MR. ZIMMERMAN:

10 Mr. Blankinship.

11 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

12 Yes, sir.

13 BY MR. ZIMMERMAN:

14 This is Robin Zimmerman. I don't know many
15 people on Wedgewood. Of course, I don't live on
16 Wedgewood. I live near it.

17 The reason you have this problem is that was
18 used, number one, they had the Camp observation post
19 there because that's the highest ground where Mr.
20 Teaster was talking about near there.

21 They had the non-commission officer training
22 school. They used it as grenade, a bazooka range,
23 grenade range. They even had -- they even used that
24 to drive golf balls and set them off.

25 I happen to know when the war was over in August

00064

01 1945 when Truman came on that radio at 4:10 and said

02 the Japs -- the Japanese accepted policy, and
03 whatever, whatever, whatever, whatever -- the whole
04 range was covered with grenades and mortars, and they,
05 -- as you see, they simply dropped it and buried it
06 right there.

07 I mean, I've talked to too many people. I'm
08 writing that book on the thing. I've talked to too
09 many of them that says we dropped it back there right
10 on that hill right over in that driveway, and that's
11 why you have that problem in that area. That was
12 basically a general purpose area.

13 It was surrounded by a loop, and they did -- you
14 know, they did a lot of training where they loaded
15 boxes of ammo on jeeps and the ammo carriers the
16 entire time the war was there. At the end of the war,
17 they just dumped it, and that's why these people have
18 that problem.

19 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

20 And over the years the Army EOD has gone to a
21 lot of places and picked up things like that. I don't
22 know the specifics of when or where or if they came
23 over here, but I feel like they had no more ordnance
24 that we've found from all the activities that we know
25 that have gone on here that the Army had to have done
00065

01 a good job of cleaning up.

02 BY MR. ZIMMERMAN:

03 They did for awhile.

04 BY MR. OSBORNE:

05 On that one picture that you had up there on
06 160, when you had the bud light, plus you had all the
07 red flags. What did all the red flags mean?

08 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

09 That was -- back when we did the property that
10 way, we did -- we used what's called a mag and flag
11 to try and find it. The mag and flag technique was a
12 good bit different from what we're doing now, but the
13 people went out -- the crews went out with a metal
14 detector, and every place -- every place where they --
15 where they got a hit or essentially felt like there
16 was a piece of metal in the ground, they stuck a flag,
17 and they would go and do that on the whole property.

18 They would normally do that over the whole
19 property or over a piece of it, but then after they
20 finished that, they would start digging. So they
21 might be in one area for several weeks just sticking
22 flags. Then when they got through sticking flags,
23 then they go back to dig the holes right after and
24 they -- the difference in what we're doing now with
25 the geophysics, we can actually look at it and see if
00066

01 it makes sense to dig.

02 When this was the process, and this what has
03 been used essentially since World War II for locating
04 ordnance. It's taking some type of instrument,
05 walking along with four or five people. Whereas with
06 a metal detector, where they would see a piece of
07 metal, stick a flag and go back and dig.

08 That process has been used since World War II,
09 at least, and what it results in is digging everything
10 if there's a bottle cap, there's a nail, if there's a

11 metallic rock the size of a human finger, you would
12 have to dig those up to see what they are.
13 Using the geophysics we can actually look at it
14 with the computer simulation and see if it's make
15 sense to dig. So if a metallic rock is this big, we
16 won't have to dig. We can see or get an idea of the
17 mass and we know that's nowhere near a grenade this
18 big.

19 We can also see the water line that runs all the
20 way across your property to the street, and say, well,
21 that's a water line. We don't have to go and dig down
22 to it everywhere with the guys walking across there,
23 and they say, "There's metal here." Where we might
24 have had to dig ten -- ten times to see that the water
25 line is running straight up. Now with the geophysics,
00067

01 you know what it is so we don't have to mark it.

02 So that's where the difference in the process
03 now as it evolved.

04 BY COURT REPORTER:

05 I need to change my paper.

06 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

07 Okay.

08 (OFF THE RECORD)

09 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

10 Just to give an idea, this is not a very good
11 representation, but this is from the top and this is
12 from the bottom. This is the same spot that's on both
13 the map for both coils that we know if there's likely
14 something there.

15 BY MS. MCKINNEY:

16 That's in your handout.

17 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

18 Any other questions?

19 Anything we haven't covered that we should have
20 or that you would like us to?

21 BY MR. MILLS:

22 When can we expect to see you guys the first
23 time late in August? I mean, you don't have a
24 specific date?

25 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

00068

01 I will be over here Monday. Okay. I won't be
02 doing anything intrusive. I probably won't be
03 bothering any of you, but in looking at some of the
04 topography, I may need to go in some of your
05 backgrounds, especially the ones with the steep
06 slopes. If we do, I'll come up and ring your door
07 bell or knock on the door and ask you before we go
08 anywhere. If you're not there, we just won't go on
09 your property.

10 After that it will be probably be mid-September
11 or -- I'm sorry. Early September before we start in
12 the crews to do the geophysical mapping, and before
13 that Suzy and her people will definitely come around
14 and talk to you or leave something with you. If you
15 are not there, they will make sure that you know when
16 we're coming.

17 BY MR. MATHIS:

18 Why don't you just send us all to Hilton Head
19 about two weeks and complete it all while we're gone

20 and be through with it?

21 BY MR. BLANKINSHIP:

22 We would like to go, too. There you go.

23 BY MS. NOGOSKY:

24 That's fine.

25 BY MS. MCKINNEY:

00069

01 Any other questions?

02 As we wrap up, we will be here this evening for
03 any additional questions as well as tomorrow morning.

04 Again, thank you. Don't hesitate to call any of
05 the numbers that we've provided. The Zapata
06 Engineering number is a toll free number, and we can
07 contact the Corps of Engineers for you and have them
08 return the phone call.

09 You have numbers for the project managers for
10 the public affairs' offices, so there should be no
11 reason you can't get a hold of someone.

12 When we are down here on-site, we will have a
13 temporary office that will have our hours on that
14 sign, a cellular phone number, again, the 800 number
15 to the office. So any questions or any concerns that
16 come up, we're all available to answer those
17 questions.

18 As Karl mentioned, before on-site activities
19 occur, even the geophysical which is non-intrusive, it
20 should not disturb any of you, we will walk through in
21 the evenings and during work hours to try to knock on
22 doors and say, "Starting Monday you'll see the van.
23 You'll see the equipment." That's all it is is a
24 reminder that pets need to be contained in the house
25 and what days we'll be getting to each yard.

00070

01 We also plan to have available on the internet a
02 site for any of you that have computers that you can
03 check the schedule and the status and keep up with
04 that that way so you'll know and we'll try to color
05 code properties as we get closer to those properties
06 so you'll know on week three we're going to hit
07 parcels numbered A, B and C and give you a heads up.

08 And, again, we'll be out there giving everyone
09 as much warning as possible when we're going to be on
10 those properties and talking about -- not for the
11 geophysical but when we come back to do the intrusive,
12 the relocation and the accommodations and who will be
13 affected on what days.

14 Thank you all for coming. I hope we've answered
15 your questions.

16 (MEETING CONCLUDED AT 8:25 P.M.)

00071

01 STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)

01) CERTIFICATE

02 COUNTY OF SPARTANBURG)

02

03

04

05 This is to certify that the within meeting was
06 taken on the 5th day of August, 1999;

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

09 That copies of all exhibits, if any, entered

10 herein are made a part of this record;
11 That the undersigned court reporter, a Notary
12 Public for the State of South Carolina, is not an
13 employee or relative of any of the parties, counsel or
14 witness and is in no manner interested in the outcome
15 of this action.
16 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my Hand
17 and Seal at Spartanburg, South Carolina, this 29th day
18 of August, 1999.

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24
24 (SEAL)

Notary Public for South Carolina
Commission Expires: 3/24/07