August 7, 2008, San Antonio, TX, San Antonio Evening

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

NATIONAL BIO AND AGRO-DEFENSE FACILITY

DRAFT

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (NBAF DRAFT EIS)

PUBLIC MEETING

EVENING SESSION

AUGUST 7, 2008

Radisson Hill Country Resort

9800 Westover Hills Boulevard

San Antonio, Texas

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RECORD OF PUBLIC MEETING

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Catherine Coghill, Moderator

PANEL MEMBERS:

Mr. James Johnson, U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Mr. Chuck Pergler, Tetra Tech, Inc.
Dr. Luis Rodriguez, U.S. Department of Agriculture
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question and answers.

So if anyone has a question, please remember that we'd like that question to be directed about the content of the presentation. If you have anything that you need further clarification on, please come to the microphone. If you'd like to give us your name and organization, that would be great. If not, that's fine as well.

Is there anyone who has a question that they would like to pose to the panel at this point in time? Yes, ma'am.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Should I go to the mic?

MS. COGHILL: Yes, ma'am.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: My question is for the gentlemen who is returning to his seat.

How can you possible extrapolate from Pirbright when the Pirbright situation is unique in the fact that Gordon Brown returned from vacation. We had learned the lessons, the failed lessons of Prime Minister Tony Blair. There was a lot of resource put toward it. I don't understand how you can take an example that occurs in the rural part of England and apply it to five different distinct sites within the United States.

MR. PERGLER: My answer regards...
socio-economics. And so what we did is, we looked at the economics impact of that release. We did not delve into necessarily the technical details of why it was released, how it was released. But it gives us a good barometer of what the effects are to livestock, what the response is.

And so we can take that information and other case studies. And we used more than just one case study to arrive at the potential economic impacts. And certainly because this was a very well-known event that occurred, we wanted to make sure that we addressed it.

And so if you look into our methodology that's found in the appendix of the EIS, you'll get an idea of how we used that.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: What other case studies did you look at besides Purebright?

MR. PERGLER: Well, we had the two events and then we used -- in some cases, not necessarily case studies, but Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory did a study using livestock population numbers within the region of influence of each of the six sites and extrapolated the economic consequence of the release of a pathogen on that livestock population.

So we tried -- so they took real numbers as best they could and the value of that livestock to
arrive at a number. And that's how we arrived at our 2.4 to $4.2 billion. Even though that is a national number, included in that is local response costs, as well as the value of the animal.

MS. COGHILL: Next question, please.

Yes, sir.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: I'm trying to understand the logic of two points. Number one, on the moderate risk in Texas, you sited ozone as a moderate risk, I believe, and I believe that because the case that ozone levels here are a little higher. But at the same time, you had traffic as a moderate risk, while the site that is in here in Texas has almost no traffic right now. So that it's kind of -- so what's the logic of the reverse that --

MR. PERGLER: Okay. For the traffic analysis, even though the specific site location is fairly isolated and doesn't have a lot, we look at the region of influence as we call it, and that is more than just one county area. So we're taking a rather big chunk, looking at the traffic data in that area and then extrapolating down. And you've got congested roadways here.

Now we've had several comments on this table to date, and what we're going to do is go back and
look at how we've categorized that, just to make sure
that we got it right.

MS. COGHILL: Thank you. Next question.
Okay. What we're going to do now is open
the agenda up to the formal comment period where we will
hear from you all on the comments that you would like to
present for the record this evening.

What I'm going to do is call your name
off of the list that folks use at the front of the room
to sign in. I'd like to go over the ground rules one
more time so we're all very clear on how we should
proceed, and that is each speaker, please remember you
only have three minutes. If you go over that time,
please do sit down and submit the rest of your comments
that you did not get to in writing because obviously we
want to make this as fair to be every individual here,
and this is the same process that we instilled at every
site as well.

So, also please come to the microphone.
Again, the meeting is being recorded. The court
reporter is up here to my left. To make sure she
captures everything accurately and correctly, please
make sure you're speaking to the front of the room so we
capture everything.

Our first speaker for this evening is
John Dickson.

JOHN R. DICKSON: Welcome to San Antonio, first of all. My name is John Dickson. I am an atmospheric scientist with a practice here in San Antonio as a consultant.

And first of all, I've got to tell you I've read your Draft Environmental Impact Statement with great interest. I found it to be a very well-written document, very well organized and very methodical. And I hope you don't mind if I kept a few sections on my hard drive because I may need to look at it that sort of thing in the future.

I would like to comment about your conclusion regarding the moderately adverse impact on atmosphere in air quality here in San Antonio. And I think that you need to relook at some statements in the EIS. San Antonio is an attainment area. We will not -- I hate to use the double negative -- we will not be nonattainment until at the earliest April or May of 2010, will not be subject to those restrictions until late 2010, probably at the very earliest. So that if you were to apply for your permit for this facility any time in the next 14, 15 months, it would not be subject to any of the nonattainment review or any of the SIP restrictions, conformity analysis, any of that sort of thing.
From a subjective view, I would tell you that I have personally permitted two plants very similar
to this facility in the last five years without any
difficulty at all. They were much larger plants than
this, with much greater emission rates. So I really
question whether or not these -- this plant would have a
moderately adverse impact on air quality.
I request or suggest that you take a look
at that conclusion, and I'd be happy to provide you with
some information to back that up.
MS. COGHILL: Thank you, sir.
One other thing I just wanted to mention
before we have our next speaker come up is, in this
portion of the meeting, under the National Environmental
Policy Act, we are here to listen to your comments. So
I don't want anyone to think that we're being
disrespectful.
In the event that you pose a question
during your comments, we will not answer them here
because what we have to do is take that and do some --
makesure we have a scientific analysis and the right
response, which we are required to do in what's called a
Comment Response Document.
Our next speaker is Jay Fraser.
JAY FRASER: Hi. I'm Jay Fraser, and I actually moved to San Antonio about two and a half years ago. And so tonight I'm very proud to be talking about bringing the NBAF to San Antonio where I believe it belongs.

I'm an entrepreneur, I'm a defense contractor. I understand risk. I understand the ratio between risk and reward, and I understand the value of mitigation strategies. So as much I might disagree with people who are against the lab, certainly they have their right to be against the lab, whether it's here or anywhere else. The fact is that risk is part of science and technology. And along with that risk, as long as you know that you have identified those risks and set in motion the mitigation strategies to take care of anything that might happen, the fact is that risk is part of life. Risk is part of research.

Now, is there a risk associated with putting the NBAF, whether it's here in San Antonio or in Kansas or in North Carolina? Probably. But it's mitigated. For anybody to believe that the planners, whether it's at your side of the table or on our side of the microphone, aren't recognizing the risk that's associated with running a lab that's studying high risk pathogens.
Of course, the planners are looking at that risk and they are mitigating the risk. So for people who think there is a high level of risk associated with that, I just think it really is not looking at and recognizing the way things like this is done.

The other thing that I want to talk about is that there has been a discussion about a mainland site being a higher risk of terrorism than an island or an offshore location. I came from Long Island before I moved to San Antonio so I know where Plum Island is. And I think that we all remember history, that on September 10th, 2001, we actually thought that the oceans protected us. Most of my friends in law enforcement and counterterrorism work basically believe that there is no place that’s immune to terrorism.

So I think that, actually, when you look at things, our Research Park location is a great place to put the NBAF. We have a city that wants the NBAF. We have an infrastructure of science and technology, and we have a city that wants to grow, based on science and technology.

So I hope that when the decision is made ultimately that we end up being awarded the lab and that we get the opportunity to greet those 350 Ph.D. scientists to our region. Thank you.
Gene Dawson:
Thank you. My name is Gene Dawson, and I'm president of Pape Dawson engineers. And our firm has been representing the Texas Research Park in master planning and infrastructure since the late '80's. And since that time, the infrastructure has been designed to accommodate large-scale campus research facilities. On-site utility and transportation infrastructure already exists that can handle the needs of the proposed NBAF facility.

I want to point out in table 3.1.1-1 and other sections of the EIS, the statement incorrectly identifies 4.6 miles of off-site sewer extension required to serve the proposed facility, when, in fact, sewer service is available adjacent to the property today. Combined with other existing infrastructure and commitments from our local utility and infrastructure departments, the Texas Research Park is ready to serve the proposed NBAF facility today.

Thank you.

Bill Rasco:
Good evening, I'm Bill Rasco.

DHS acknowledges commentor's identification of new information pertaining to the sanitary sewage system infrastructure for the NBAF operation at the Texas Research Park Site Alternative. DHS will document, review and incorporate all appropriate new and/or revised information in the NBAF final design.

DHS notes the commentor's statement.
Rasco. I'm president and CEO of the Greater San Antonio Hospital Council, and I was asked to comment on hospitals and health systems within the region.

Our Hospital Council represents some 53 licensed hospitals and health care systems in 23 counties here in San Antonio and surrounding South Texas. And the Hospital Council provides the leadership advocacy for and cooperation among the members in addressing the health of the communities we serve.

Our region's hospitals provide the largest economic impact of industry sector with over $4 1/2 billion dollars annually in the most recent year for San Antonio alone. The total geographic area that our hospitals cover is about 22,000 square miles, roughly the size of the State of Delaware.

The facilities represent urban and rural hospitals from 25 to over 1000 bedsides. And near-term expansion plans include programs for four new acute-care facilities and two total replacement facilities with active discussion underway for two additional new facilities in this region.

San Antonio also serves as a hub for tertiary referral services, for patients requiring specialized care, having three Level-2 trauma centers here within San Antonio. And with the implementation of...
the National Base Realignment Closure Requirements, the
two Level-1 trauma centers, the military trauma centers
at BAMC and Wilford Hall Medical Center, will evolve
into the U.S. military's largest medical training
facilities anywhere in the world. Also headquartered
here is the South Texas Veterans' Health Care System,
providing extensive health care to services to veterans.

All federal health care systems in those
regions are members of the Hospital Council. The
hospitals and health care systems represent the broad
spectrum of services in the health care industry,
including mental health, renal-natal intensive care
services, and renowned cancer and research therapy
centers.

Virtually all levels of medical
specialties are provided here in this region. An
integral partner is the University of Texas Health
Science Center of San Antonio, including medical and
dental schools, nursing schools, allied health schools.
Moreover, the critically significant needs in private
academic health care organizations, also members of our
Council, complement and round out the strong educational
environment in the San Antonio health care industry that
work closely with the nation's and with this region's
hospitals. Thank you.
Electronically signed by Carol De Leon (401-420-005-1327)
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MS. COGHILL: Thank you.

Ann Stevens.

ANN STEVENS: Hello. I am Ann Stevens, president of Bio-Med DA. We are a nonprofit, membership-based industry organization, supported in part by the City of San Antonio and Bexar County.

While the primary purpose today is to discuss the potential environmental impact of NBAF on San Antonio, and from reading the EIS it sounds like the benefits far outweigh the minimal risks, I would like to kind of turn that around and describe the San Antonio environment and its potential impact on the NBAF and its mission.

As you've heard repeatedly today, San Antonio is a city that embraces science and medicine. We have unique research assets, diverse resources, and strong infrastructure, some of which can be found literally nowhere else, such as the nation's only privately owned BSL-4 lab at the Southwest Foundation, in addition to a number of other BSL-3 labs throughout the city, highly regarded educational institutions, and a thriving bio-medical research community.

Health care and bio-science is actually a leading engine of the local economy, with an annual economic impact exceeding $15 billion, and that's...
actually a very conservative estimate with no multiplier effect.

The sector employs more than 112,000 people or about one out of every seven members of the San Antonio work force. And not included in these already impressive figures are significant numbers of other people employed in academic medicine and military medicine, both of which are actually integral components of our health care and bio-science industry.

As you were aware, San Antonio is also becoming home to the largest military health care and bio-medical research operations in the nation as a result of the recent BRAC decisions.

The breadth, the depth, and the diversity of our scientific research community provides unique collaborative and recruiting opportunities that simply are not available anywhere else. We already have, right here with within our own community, the kinds of knowledgeable technical staff needed to safely operate high containment laboratories.

Scientists here are already investigating numerous select agents and infectious diseases in ongoing research programs. This depth of expertise, along with San Antonio's excellent quality of life, is an important advantage in recruiting top-level
scientists, physicians, and professionals of all kinds. In short, we believe the selection of San Antonio's Texas Research Park would make a major, positive, environmental impact on the NBAF facility and mission. Thank you.

MS. COGHILL: Thank you.

Dr. Fernando Guerra.

DR. FERNANDO GUERRA: Thank you very much. And I also want to take this opportunity to welcome you.

There will be three of us from the Department of Health: myself, the director, Mr. Charles Pruski, the administrator for different health services, and then Mr. Roger Pollok, who coordinates our public health emergency preparedness.

I am Dr. Fernando Guerra, Director of Health and the health authority for the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District, which is the public health department for the City of San Antonio and Bexar County. I have a privilege of also being a member of the Institute of Medicine in the Academy of Medicine, Science, and Engineering for the State of Texas.

Our mission is to provide leadership and services for San Antonio and Bexar County, to prevent illness and injury, promote healthy behaviors and
protect against health hazards. Our vision is to assure the optimal health for our communities and the protection of our environment through the implementations of the core values prevention, immerse the equity and integrity.

In our public health work, we have the responsibility for over 1.5 million people within our jurisdiction, and at any given time, as you can well understand, any visitors and guests in our community as the tourism and convention businesses are major contributors to the economic base after health care in the Department of Defense programs. In this regard, we must have the capacity to anticipate and respond to unforeseen incidents that potentially could put individuals at risk.

Because of the important place that this geographic region occupies in the state and the country, our responsibilities are taken very seriously. Therefore, staff capabilities are carefully assessed and upgraded on a regular basis, even beyond preparedness and response related to the mandates of Homeland Security.

Our staff continues to play an important role in any areas of environmental concern, the unnatural disasters and threats of terroristic
activities, but certainly the environmental impact of
changing eco-systems, urban sprawl, that disrupt natural
habitats and the rapid population growth that we've
experienced in recent years.

With such a facility as NBAF is located
in our immediate region, I am confident that our
department and staff will expand its competencies and
capabilities to more closely assess the anticipated
environmental impact in the near term, with both active
and passive surveillance systems, which also includes
air monitoring, we can assess some of the longer term
consequences.

Our department has, for the past eight
years, had in place the Public Center for Environmental
Health, supported through the Department of Defense
contract as a research and policy center health for
assessing environmental impact, health effects, and
prior land use, and the potential adverse effects of
contaminants from a number of industrial operations.

The Department of Health has long enjoyed
a close working relationship with the Department of
State Health Services, Centers for Disease Control and
Prevention, the EPA Agency for Toxic Substances, Disease
Registry, and also the School of Public Health in
America, their institutions, their scientists and
researchers as well as the medical community.

Finally, I would say as the Director of Health that I am confident that our Department, our community, and our community partners throughout the region have in place the expertise and capacity to provide vigilance and support for such a facility and the surrounding environment. Coupled with this is the ability to recognize and respond to any accident or incident that would put us at risk for Foot and Mouth Disease or other viruses that potentially affect populations of livestock and agricultural products.

Thank you.

MS. COGHILL: Thank you.

Roger Pollok.

ROGER POLLOK: Good evening. My name is Roger Pollok. I'm the Public Health Emergency Coordinator for the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District. My role as a coordinator is to develop all-hazards response plans, using local, state, and federal resources, and to coordinate those resources during an event to maximize efficiencies and response. The all-hazards plan consists of response systems for bio-terrorism, chemical terrorism, radiological, natural disasters of many types, and emerging infectious diseases. To effectively coordinate...
our response, the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District has implemented a number of interlocal agreements with all municipalities within Bexar County, identifying the Director of the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District as a health authority during an all-hazards event.

The San Antonio Metropolitan Health District also implemented memorandums of agreement with all the school districts to utilize their facilities in an effort to prophylax 1.6 million people in our community. We also implemented agreements with many agencies, such as University Health Systems, Bexar County Medical Society, Baptist Child and Family Services, to support and augment personnel resources in a response.

As part of the all-hazards plan, the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District has implemented many surveillance and monitoring systems to measure the health status in our community. Required by law, all physicians, hospitals, and laboratories must report those diseases as identified on the Texas Department of State Health Services reportable disease list to their local health departments.

Through some strong surveillance we monitor the signs and symptoms of those patients who
enter into the emergency departments here and around San Antonio. We also monitor school absenteeism, over-the-counter drug sales, which are often used as community indicators.

An important key to responding efficiently is laboratory support. The San Antonio Metropolitan Health District currently operates a Bio-Safety Level-3 laboratory located at Brooks City Base. This laboratory is part of the laboratory response network and is outfitted with cutting edge technology to rapidly detect and identify those agents that may be used in a bio-terrorism emerging infectious disease event.

Finally, as we know, plans are rendered useless if they're not exercised. The San Antonio Metropolitan Health District exercises its all-hazards plans in conjunction with emergency management, the regional medical operation center --

(Beeper sounding)

MS. COGHILL: That's fine. Thank you.

Charles Pruski. Thank you.

CHARLES PRUSKI: Thank you. My name is Charles Pruski, and I'm an Assistant District at the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District. I have requested to speak this evening in order to provide you...
information concerning the communication capabilities of
the Health District.

As a local public health department, we
frequently must provide information to our residents and
use a number of channels to do so. We have a public
relations manager who serves as our liaison with the
media. She contacts -- she has contacts with all the
local media outlets and communicates with them
frequently to get information out from our various
divisions and to assist them in obtaining information
and interviews from our staff.

All contacts that we have with media are
reported to the city's Office of Communications and
Public Affairs, where they are combined with those of
other departments and transmitted to the City Manager on
a daily basis. This information is shared with our
mayor and city council as warranted. In addition, we
have an extensive Web site, as we post information
frequently. Our Web address is:

www.sanantonio.gov/health.

Several of our staff have been trained to
use the Web site software and were supported by the
city's Information Technology Services Department, so
there is little delay in making new information
available to the public.
As you may know, our work is not done in a vacuum. We have literally hundreds of public health partners that we communicate with and meet with very often. This includes governmental entities, physicians' offices, hospitals, schools, nonprofit organizations, and many others. Generally we do this electronically through e-mails that are -- can be sent out very quickly to large groups. Similarly, we can very quickly e-mail information to those entities that we regulate -- restaurants, for example.

During a public health emergency, we leverage significant assets that we have, providing a response. These are handled through an incident command structure that can be expanded to accommodate any need.

San Antonio has a new, fully equipped, emergency operations center that can be activated on very short notice, and city, state and federal resources can be efficiently mobilized and coordinated through this facility.

We have an automated call-down system that we quickly program to contact our staff via telephone and mobilize them for service. Once employed, they have access to landlines, cell phones, 800 MHz radios, walkie-talkies, satellite phones, com radios, to facilitate communication with other staff and with other
agencies.

The EOC can accommodate video conferencing, and we can also communicate through this method at the Public Health Emergency Preparedness offices that are across the street from the EOC.

To communicate with our medical partners, we use the Public Health Information Network for federal, state, and local responders to include hospitals. Through EM alerts generated through the Southwest Texas Regional Advisory Council we also communicate to local responders in hospitals.

There's an epinet system for emergency infectious control practitioners in an e-mail blast-back system that we use with the Bexar County Medical Society. During a medical emergency, DISTRAC will stand up to the Regional Medical Operations Center. This is an entity that coordinates the efforts of all hospitals in this region. The Health District maintains a representative in the RBOC to facilitate communication.

Another tool that we use during an emergency event is Web ELC. This secure software allows us to track and coordinate all aspects of an event.

Thank you.

MS. COGHILL: Thank you very much.

Eric Stevens is our next speaker.
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ERIC STEVENS: Good evening, I'm Eric Stevens. I'm the Director of the 311 Human Systems Wing at Brooks City Base and also the Installation Director, so that makes me a federal employee. I work for the Air Force. And what I want to talk about is the history of Brooks City Base and the research that's gone on there for the last 50 years, very similar to the timeframe of Plum Island.

I want to make the point about the people and the professional work force we have and also the facilities, both wet lab facilities and vivarium facilities at Brooks. The significance of this is, we were one of the 27 sites at Brooks but we were not selected to be a final site but we, in fact, are here in San Antonio. And because of BRAC, most of our -- all of our missions are moving from Brooks to other installations by September 2011. So there may be some interim use of facilities by the NBAF if the Texas Research Site is selected.

The 50 years of history are pretty unique. Again, we've been using live animal models. It dates back to the '50s when we were part of the managed space program partnering with NASA, so we are -- we have experience with large, large national programs; in the '70s and '80s, directed energy and radio frequency
radiation, again with live animal models, and more recently in the past couple decades, nuclear biological and chemical terrorism, operational development and testing of the hand-held devices. So we have a long history of, again, doing research with live animals, as well as -- well as human models.

The professional work force. Well, we have approximately 550 engineers, bio-medical folks, medical doctors, public health folks, as well as scientists, that may or may not be moving with their jobs. San Antonio is a great place to live culturally, and we have indications that maybe only 10 or 15 percent may be moving with their jobs to other locations, like Dayton, Ohio. That gives a terrific work force of some of the same skills you're going to be looking for in the NBAF that are already here in San Antonio, not just at Brooks but across the -- across the area in -- not only metro health facilities but also in the universities.

The wet lab facilities. We have over 200,000 square feet of wet lab facilities that are in use right now, and again, they're going to be vacated by 2011.

Animal care facilities, we have over 40,000 square feet of vivarium facilities. The army of vets that support Plum Island also support us here at...
Brooks, and we have been ALAC accredited in our facilities since 1967. So Brooks, in itself, can be a very strong supporter of the NBAF site just because of our presence and some of the stuff that we have going away.

Thank you.

MS. COGHILL: Thank you very much.

Next speaker is Donald Jakeway.

DONALD E. JAKEWAY: Welcome back with the EIS team to San Antonio. My partner, Eric Stevens, from Brooks City Base, I couldn’t add anything more to what he said.

We were very proud to be a part of the competition at Brooks City Base for this very facility. We want you to know that the Brooks Development Authority is a member of the TBAC, the very unique consortium that came together in this community to support this facility, and that the Brooks City Base and all these facilities will be standing ready for anything that we can do to help in any kind of transition to this facility, and/or support anything that would come to be a support to the final facility in the future.

So on behalf of the Brooks Development Authority -- and by the way, Catherine, we submitted all DHS notes the commentor's support for the Texas Research Park Site Alternative.
of our comments in writing. So thank you very much.

MS. COGHILL: Thank you.

Henry Cisneros.

HENRY CISNEROS: Yes, ma'am, gentlemen.

I am Henry Cisneros and serve as chairman of a housing
investment company named CityView. I had the great
honor of serving as mayor of San Antonio for four terms
in the 1980s and saw the consolidation of the city's
five medical institutions and in those years and since.

I'd like to talk about them as four
pillars. Medical education. It's some very substantial
institutions, including some of the best in the country,
like the UT Health Science Center Dental School.

Medical research. Again, including some
of the best, like the Southwest Foundation for
Bio-Medical Research. Clinical specialization. A very
important component of that being military medicine, and
bio and medical businesses that are growing here.

Now I'm not going to dwell on the
components of each of those because time doesn't allow
and because you're familiar with them. But I do want to
say a word about the results of that growing aggregation
of institutions and the implications for NBAF.

First we have, as a result of our efforts
over the years, sites and specialized facilities, like...
the Texas Research Park, which wouldn't exist but for
the efforts of a lot of people from all of these
sectors, Brooks City Base, The Southwest Foundation,
etc.

We have a personnel pipeline that's deep
in this field because of military medicine and because
of the 115,000 people involved in health care and the
bio-sciences. So recruiting ought to be easy from the
local work force.

We have training institutions of all
kinds, literally from the high school level, Health
Careers High School and community college focusing on
this, all the way through higher education of various
kinds.

We have knowledge of the federal system
with this city's long history of working with the
federal institutions, Army, Air Force, and now Navy, as
the consolidation of all military medicine occurs here.

The long and short is, we have working
for us and for you what economists refer to as
agglomeration effects, the effects where two plus two
equal five. Because people are working together, you
get the synergy of teams and institutions and funding
and budgets, a people working together on these
subjects. It's happening, literally, daily in San
Antonio, things like BRAC; things like the Incarnate Word setting up an optometry school and veterinary school; like Texas A&M locating a new campus here; Trinity University and its medical administration program.

Let me just close with one other quick point. Having been a Cabinet officer in President Clinton’s administration, I know that sometimes the issue of diversity comes up. San Antonio is one of the most diverse cities, and generally speaking, our military institutions end up improving their diversity scores simply because they’re in San Antonio.

It’s almost impossible to put a work force together that isn’t 40 or 50 percent minority, and generally end up with the largest aggregation of Hispanics in their work force because they’re here. So it’s just an added bonus to the kinds of things and one other piece of this agglomeration effect. Thank you.

MS. COGHILL: Thank you.

George Irving.

GEORGE IRVING: Thank you again for the opportunity to speak tonight. My name is George Irving, I’m a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine. I am also and have had the privilege to be the past president -- a past president of the American Association for Laboratory
Animal Science. I'm currently a vice president for Conceptual Mindworks, Inc. I have over 40 years experience in laboratory operations, particularly those related to infectious diseases or radiation that demands presentation procedures and the use of laboratory animals.

CMI is a woman-owned, minority small business, based here in San Antonio. We are an applied research and software engineering company and have supported the Department of Defense District for over 18 years. CMI is emerging over 10 years in developing counter-measures for bio-warfare agents, as a result that in Florida, proof patents, plus three pending patents that our scientists have written in numerous other locations in the course of executing this government programs.

One significant positive aspect of our San Antonio community is, that's not described in the EIS, is our demonstrated capability in the process of transport of biological samples. I have personal knowledge of the process that's used by the Air Force at Brooks City Base to receive and process tens of thousands of biological samples every year for worldwide tracking of diseases.

These processes are similar in nature to...
those required by the NBAF to receive biological
samples. They illustrate the San Antonio community has
the processes in existence and in place to support the
diagnostic mission of the NBAF.

When this Air Force experience is
combined with existing modular transportation of
patients by the San Antonio Health District, the Texas
Animal Health Commission, and the Texas Veterinarian
Diagnostic Laboratories, it is clear that Texas is ready
and safely able to administer biological sample
transportation needed by the NBAF.

As an experienced administrator and
laboratory veterinarian, I would like to emphasize that
San Antonio in particular and Texas in general have
exceptional experience in housing, care, and handling of
laboratory animals. That includes the gamut from
domestic farm animals to nonhuman primates.

We have outstanding internationally known
facilities here in San Antonio, accredited by the
American Association for the Accreditation of Outdoor
Animal Care, and at least 80 veterinarians in San
Antonio that are board certified in specific specialties
required by the NBAF.

I'm confident San Antonio has the desire
and capability to assist in building, operating, and
maintaining laboratory animal facilities at the NBAF at
the highest state of the art. Thank you so much tonight
for my opportunity to speak. I am confident that the
nation is best served by locating the NBAF here in San
Antonio, Texas.

MS. COGHILL: Thank you.

JOHN FEIK, JR: Good evening. My name is
John Feik, Jr, and I represent a company here in San
Antonio called DPT Laboratories. We're a pharmaceutical
research and development company. We do that on a
fee-for-service basis to the "who's who" of the
pharmaceutical industry as well as the bio-tech
community.

We have major research and development
facilities here in San Antonio, manufacturing located
just north of San Antonio, downtown San Antonio, with
new research and development facilities down at Brooks
City Base. We employ more than 1600 employees worldwide
with our facilities, 800 of those employees being here
in San Antonio. And this business originated here in
San Antonio.

I thought since we are talking about the
Environmental Impact Statement with the NBAF project,
I'd like to speak briefly about how DPT views the city
for projects of this type.
First, DPT has been able to access a
great work force existing here in San Antonio. And when
we've needed to recruit folks from outside of San
Antonio, be it scientists or professionals, we've been
able to attract highly qualified people. In fact, we
employ more than 100 R&D scientists here in San Antonio
alone. In fact, it's been -- it's actually been a
recruiting tool to bring scientists, be it bio-chemists,
chemists, or microbiologists because of quality of life
that San Antonio affords, diversity of culture and
recreational happenings.
As aside to that, when we were recruiting
our scientists here to San Antonio, one of the things
that they're happy to learn is of the large and
accomplished scientific community we have here, as well
as the world-class research being done by a number of
institutions and companies like ours.
Secondly, we'd like you to know that
since 1990 the company's experienced great growth, a
tremendous growth. And I think that's important for
you-all to know, because without the city and the county
providing an environment that's conducive to supporting
our growth, this would not have been possible to
relocating our own R&D center down at Brooks City Base.
We believe that San Antonio has had a long track record of supporting this, whether it's federal, state, or private, such as DPT or Southwest Foundation for Bio-Medical Research. Lastly, I'd like to point out another environmental advantage that we view of San Antonio. We view this as a clean climate from a standpoint that we're not in tornado alley, we're not in danger of hurricanes, and we're not in an earthquake zone. That's important to DPT because there's minimal risk for our employees, our facilities, and I think that should be important for you guys as well. For all these reasons and many more, the DPT fully recommends that San Antonio be considered, and we recommend that San Antonio be a logical choice for the NBAF in relocating to our city. We hope you'll choose the city.

MS. COGHILL: Thank you.

Tom Long.

TOM LONG: Good evening. My name is Tom Long, and I'm the senior manager for Customer Relationships and Economic Development for CPS Energy. My comments this evening will focus on the infrastructure at the Texas Research Park site as addressed in the Draft EIS.
CPS Energy is the nation's largest municipally owned combined electric and natural gas utility. We serve over 680,000 electric customers and 320,000 natural gas customers in the San Antonio region. We are positioned to provide NABF power that you need well into the 21st century, with a diverse fuel mix and modern, well-maintained facilities.

We own and operate nine power plants, fueled primarily by nuclear, coal, natural gas, and renewable fuel sources. Combined, these plants provide a maximum capacity of 5,825 megawatts, translating to a 20 percent reserve capacity and sufficient power to meet NABF's needs now and in the future.

The Texas Research Park site will be provided with power through two diversely routed circuits. These circuits will originate from different transformers at the CPS Energy substation located adjacent to the Texas Research Park. The two separate lines would converge at the site and will be stepped down to customer voltage by two transformers, each capable of handling the entire facility load.

Likewise, the natural gas infrastructure at Texas Research Park is in place today around the site parameter and is adequate from a supply pressure level to meet the needs of NABF.
CPS Energy is also committed to providing NBAF with not only affordable and reliable power but also to finding ways to -- for NBAF to be more energy efficient and to develop greater solutions for your long-term energy needs.

Our energy efficiency programs are backed by over $96 million in customer incentives for residential and commercial customers who want to reduce their costs through lighting retrofits, general roof upgrades, and improvements to more energy efficient HVAC systems.

CPS Energy is the largest publicly owned purchaser of wind power in Texas. Currently we have a renewable energy power plant, in that we purchase over 500 megawatts of wind power from north and west Texas. Late this year, we will be adding to that wind portfolio with an additional 75 megawatts from the Texas first coastal wind farm.

So why San Antonio for NBAF? Among the other reasons you’ve heard all day long today, consider the fact that San Antonio would provide NBAF with a unique opportunity to partner with a locally owned utility to provide NBAF with reliable power, affordable power, and renewable power. Thank you.

MS. COGHILL: Thank you.
John Herbold.

DR. JOHN HERBOLD: Good evening. My name is John Herbold, Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, president of the American College of Veterinary Preventive Medicine, and Director of the University of Texas Center for Bio Security and Public Health and Preparedness.

I would like to speak specifically to the health and safety section of the Environmental Impact Statement. Over the past five years, our Center has trained over 50,000 individuals, including public health workers, first responders, physicians, nurses, environmental scientists, and veterinarians. Our workshops and training courses have covered basic and advanced disaster life support, recognizing and responding to bio-terrorism, disaster and crisis leadership, border health, epidemiologic outbreak investigations, laboratory preparedness, public health and the law, personal protective equipment, overview of agro-terrorism, protection of vulnerable populations, rural health and risk communication.

The University of Texas, along with our partners at the two other schools of the Public Health in Texas at North Texas and Texas A&M, and other academic health science centers, including University of...
Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, have built a significant work force infrastructure to protect, respond, and support any potential hazardous incidents, both human and animal.

Texas has a robust public health and animal health surveillance and response infrastructure, and as we deal with every day with the potential for endemic animal and human diseases.


Thank you for this opportunity to supplement the health and safety information available to you.

MS. COGHILL: Thank you.

Linda Loomis.

LINDA LOOMIS: As I mentioned during the last meeting, I'm the distant great-granddaughter of the Reverend Thomas Hooker and was injured by the smallpox vaccine.

I was really disgusted by the last meeting here, watching the audience reaction because we had someone who said, Let's make it a Fiesta del NBAF.

I saw a professor from UT San Antonio give a "high five"
to one of his graduate students after the graduate student's presentation.

This is not a sporting event. This is not a party for margaritas and cascarones. This is a lab proposed for eight dangerous Level-4 animal pathogens.

We moved here in '94. At that time, Herb and Mary Sandler, who were the CEOs of Golden West Financial and World Savings, waltzed into Governor Ann Richards' office and said, Let's get a good road down near World Savings. Well, that was in the early '90s, and that road that was proposed out to Potranco, you say it's mostly residential. We've been here 14 years, and we're still waiting for a freeway out on 1604.

And if you talk about animal impact, we can see your Environmental Impact Statements. The man here at the last meeting from the State of Texas was wise beyond what most of the other people proposed. He said, Should there be an accidental release of a pathogen, it would really, truly decimate Texas' animals. This is a man with the State, and yet you still have to on and do an EIS report?

There's growth to the west. There's Sea World, a major tourist destination. There's Northwest Vista College, City Bank and Wachovia campuses, and
there's also a Southwest Research Center. To put two BSL-4 labs within 10 or 12 miles of each other is ludicrous.

I don't know what kind of security you plan, whether it's helicopter surveillance as Clinton and Schumer have recommended for Plum Island, but I still don't see much to promote putting the lab in San Antonio.

Why are so few people from San Antonio at this meeting? Do a Jay Leno kind of walkabout. Go down to Main Plaza. Ask them what Plum Island is. Ask them to tell you what a virus is. Ask them if they can define the Nipah Virus or the Rift Valley Fever Virus.

You have an uneducated, highly illiterate population, despite what others here promote as the colleges in the area. I should know. I have a master's in education. And they will not be able to tell you.

To put it here is environmental racism because these people do not know what's going on.

You're not going to get that kind of coverage from the Express News.

I see some presentation tonight that are pure CYA, cover your ass. The mulch fire, if you're looking for responses, it was a failure on the part of Bexar Metropolitan Health. You have people who don't
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1 want to stay, educated people out of AT&T who are
2 leaving. You really ought to think twice about this.
3               MS. COGHILL: Thank you.
4               Matthew Medina.
5               MATTHEW MEDINA: Hello. Thank you for
6 your time.
7               I got a few mainstream news articles
8 here. I got a wired news, CDC shuts down bio-weapons
9 lab after infections. The Center for Disease Control
10 suspended bio-weapons research at Texas A&M University
11 after the school failed to report exposure to biological
12 agents. This is the first time the CDC has ever forced
13 a research facility to stop work on so-called selective
14 agents.
15               Also I have here Associated Press. U.S.
16 labs mishandling deadly germs. American Laboratory's
17 handling of the world's deadliest germs and toxins have
18 experienced more than 100 accidents and missing
19 shipments since 2003. And the number's increasing
20 steadily as more labs across the country are approved to
21 do the work. But the documented cases reflect poorly on
22 procedures and oversight in high-security labs, some of
23 which worked with organisms and poisons so dangerous
24 that illness that have no cure. In some cases labs have
25 failed to report accidents as required by law.

Comment No: 1 Issue Code: 21.6
DHS notes the commentor’s concern regarding the NBAF. The purpose and need for the proposed
action is discussed in Chapter 1 of the NBAF EIS. DHS cannot guarantee that the NBAF would
never experience an accident. However, as discussed in Section 2.2.1.1, modern biosafety design
substantially diminishes the chances of a release as the primary design goal is to provide an
adequate level of redundant safety and biocontainment that would be integrated into every
component of the building. A discussion of human health and safety is included in Section 3.14.

Comment No: 1 Issue Code: 19.6
DHS notes the commentor’s concern regarding the NBAF.

Accidents could occur in the form of procedural violations (operational accidents), natural phenomena
accidents, external events, and intentional acts. Although some accidents are more likely to occur
than others (e.g., safety protocol not being followed), the chances of an accidental release are low.
The specific objective of the hazard identification, accident analysis, and risk assessment is to identify
the likelihood and consequences from accidents or intentional subversive acts. In addition to
identifying the potential for or likelihood of the scenarios leading to adverse consequences, this
analysis provides support for the identification of specific engineering and administrative controls to
either prevent a pathogen release or mitigate the consequences of such a release. The risk of an
accidental release of a pathogen is extremely low. The risk of an accidental release of a pathogen is
extremely low, but the economic effect would be significant for all sites. As described in Section
3.10.9 of the NBAF EIS, the economic impact of an outbreak of foot and mouth disease virus has
been previously studied and could result in a loss in the range of $2.8 billion in the Plum Island region
to $4.2 billion in the Manhattan, Kansas area over an extended period of time. The economic loss is
mainly due to potential foreign bans on U.S. livestock products. Although the effects of an outbreak of
Rift Valley fever virus on the national economy has not been as extensively studied, the potential
economic loss due to foreign bans on livestock could be similar to that of foot and mouth disease
outbreak, while the additional cost due to its effect on the human population could be as high as $50
billion. There is little economic data regarding the accidental or deliberate Nipah virus release.
However, cost would be expected to be much lower then a release of foot and mouth disease virus
or Rift Valley fever virus as the Nipah virus vector is not present in the western hemisphere.
I have here another example of the same article. Oklahoma City University in Stillwater in December could not account for a dead mouse. Inoculated bacteria that causes joint pain has been missed. Lymph nodes from a rodent, one of 30 to be incinerated, was never found.

And if you don't know, a Level-4 lab poses a high risk of life-threatening diseases for which no vaccine or therapy's available, despite all your fail-safes.

And I have here another mainstream article. Bear with me. I appreciate your time, gentlemen and gentlewomen.

New York Times, 2002 three-hour power failure at Plum Island lab, the disease center. Failure of all three backup generators raised fears and concern that the containment of infectious pathogens could have been seriously compromised.

And I also have here, The first case for lyme disease appeared 13 miles northeast of the facility of Plum Island.

I'd just like for everyone to really consider this, and this is for the safety of our San Antonio future generation. And I speak as a concerned citizen, and I thank you for your time.
Chapter 2 - Comment Documents

DHS notes the contractor’s concern regarding the safety of the NBAF operation and the risk of a release due to NBAF personnel lack of experience or human error. DHS believes that experience shows that facilities utilizing modern biocontainment technologies and safety protocols, such as would be employed in the design, construction, and operation of NBAF, would enable NBAF to be safely operated with a minimal degree of risk, regardless of the site chosen. The NBAF would be designed, constructed, and operated to ensure the maximum level of public safety and to fulfill all necessary requirements to protect the environment. Chapter 3, Section 3.14 and Appendix E of the NBAF EIS, investigates the chances of a variety of accidents that could occur with the proposed NBAF and consequences of potential accidents, including releases due to weather events. The chances of an accidental release are low. Although some “accidents” are more likely to occur than others (e.g., safety protocol not being followed), the chances of an accidental release based on human error are low in large part due to the design and implementation of biocontainment safeguards in conjunction with rigorous personnel training. For example, as described in Chapter 2, Section 2.2.2.1 of the NBAF EIS, all laboratory staff would receive thorough pre-operational training, as well as ongoing training, in the handling of hazardous infectious agents, understanding biocontainment functions of standard and special practices for each biosafety level, and understanding biocontainment equipment and laboratory characteristics. Appendix B to the EIS describes biocontainment lapses and laboratory acquired infections. Laboratory-acquired infections have not been shown to be a threat to the community at large. As set out in Chapter 3, Section 3.14.3.4 of the NBAF EIS, employees and contractors will be screened prior to employment or engagement and monitored while working, among other security measures. In addition, oversite of NBAF operations, as described in Chapter 2, Section 2.2.2.6 of the NBAF EIS, will be conducted in part by the Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC), which includes community representative participation, and the Animal Research Policy and Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (APHIS). Should the NBAF Record of Decision call for construction, and operations of the NBAF, site specific protocols would then be developed in coordination with local emergency response agencies and would consider the diversity and density of populations, including institutionalized populations, residing within the local area. The need for an evacuation under an accident conditions is considered to be a very low probability event. DHS would have site-specific standard operating procedures and emergency response plans in place prior to the initiation of research activities at the proposed NBAF. DHS believes that experience shows that facilities utilizing modern biocontainment technologies and safety protocols, such as would be employed in the design, construction, and operation of the NBAF, would enable the NBAF to be safely operated.

DHS notes the commenter’s concerns about the sustainability of funding for NBAF to ensure safe and secure operations. The U.S. Congress and the President are responsible for determining funding priorities for government programs. DHS spends funds in accordance with congressional intent. DHS would maintain the NBAF and ancillary facilities in compliance with applicable environmental, safety, and health requirements and provide for safe operation and maintenance for the life of the
DHS notes the commentor’s concern about the risk to health and safety from the NBAF operation. DHS believes that experience shows that facilities utilizing modern biocontainment technologies and safety protocols, such as would be employed in the design, construction, and operation of NBAF, would enable NBAF to be safely operated on the U.S. mainland. The NBAF would provide state-of-the-art biocontainment features and operating procedures to minimize the potential for laboratory-acquired infections and accidental releases. The risk of an accidental release of a pathogen is extremely low. Chapter 3, Sections 3.8.9, 3.10.9, 3.14, and Appendices B, D, and E of the NBAF EIS, provide a detailed analysis of the consequences from an accidental or deliberate pathogen release. Should the NBAF Record of Decision call for the design, construction, and operations of the NBAF then site specific protocols and emergency response plans would be developed, in coordination with local emergency response agencies that would consider the diversity and density of human, livestock, and wildlife populations residing within the area. DHS would have site-specific standard operating procedures and emergency response plans in place prior to the initiation of research activities at the proposed NBAF. It has been shown that modern biosafety laboratories can be safely operated in populated areas. An example is the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in downtown Atlanta, Georgia, where such facilities employ modern biocontainment technologies and safety protocols, such as would be employed in the design, construction, and operation of NBAF.
period, and this is all going on when Boston University is saying how safe this dangerous laboratory is going to be. A lot of people are saying it's even worse than we thought.

Similar safety questions have been raised by 200 incidents in 2002: the discovery of lethal anthrax outside a high-security laboratory at the military's premiere bio-defense laboratory, the Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious at Fort Dietrick in Maryland lead the sampling throughout the institute. Investigators found three different strains of anthrax bacteria outside the sealed-up laboratories, indicating at least that many leaks, according to an Army report.

I also have what are called bio-safety bytes from SunshineProject.org/biodefense. I'm going to be covering about three of these bytes. One is called, The U.S. Army builds bio-defense lab, neglects to inspect it. The U.S. Army-funded BSL-3 facility at Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee holds biological and chemical weapons agents and is preparing to produce ricin.

While the facility's physically a BSL-3 lab, it is said to operate at BSL-2 containment, obviating the need for NEPA environmental review. The
facility activities and agents held, however, suggests
that BSL-3 containment is already needed for safe
operation.

In December 2003, the OR&L Institutional
Bio-Safety Committee considered lab safety and resolved
that it remains comfortable of the review and
inspections of the chem bio-facility conducted by the
CDC and the Army. In fact, the lab had not been
inspected by the Army for three years, and CDC hadn't
visited for more than four.

No bio-safety meetings at Rockefeller
University. The sky-rocketing bio-defense budget, now
exceeding that of Manhattan Project, adjusted for
inflation, is rapidly increasing research on biological
weapons agents, including risky genetic engineering
projects. Despite this and the increasingly evident
chronic institutionalized problems with IBCs across the
country, the Bush administration maintains that
comprehensive laboratory safety and disclosure law is
unnecessary. It says that an alleged culture of
responsibility among institutional bio-safety
communities will protect Americans and the world from
its bio-defense research.

The IBC system lacks legal teeth and
can't adequately handle the jobs it presently has. How
then can it possibly rise to the change -- charge of ensuring health safety and good judgement in the conduct of duly use biological weapons research?

Thank you for your time.

MS. COGHILL: Thank you. We have accommodated all the folks that signed up to speak for this evening's meeting. What we'd like to do is, in the event that there's someone here who didn't sign in and who would like to speak, we would like to offer that up to the person to come to the microphone at this point in time.

Okay. We are running ahead of schedule. What we'd like to do is take a break until 9 o'clock and then we'll reopen the meeting in the event that someone who would like to speak, just got off work, or just arrived, so we can obviously give them an opportunity to provide their comments. Thank you.

(Recess from 8:36 to 9:08 p.m.)

MS. COGHILL: Okay. At this point, we'd just like to check in with everybody and see if there's anyone else who'd like to make comments. No one else has signed in but we just wanted to just double check.

Yes, ma'am.

MARY ALICE CISNEROS: Thank you. My name is Mary Alice Cisneros, and I am a City Councilwoman on...
the City Council. Today is Thursday, we have our City Council. We start at 9:00, and we finished on or about 6:30 this evening, so I have come after our meetings to be sure that you know that you have City Council support.

I know you heard from another City Councilwoman Delicia Herrera, earlier today, and the reason that some of the others didn't come is because we had a long day today. But I wanted to represent the City and the Mayor this evening.

This is not my part of my district. I have more of a central district represented, but Delicia Herrera, this is her area out here, and the Texas Research Park would be part of her district as well and so she was our representative here.

But I wanted you to know from me that you have city and government of all levels support for this project here in San Antonio. And we have the facility ready, and we would welcome that support. And we appreciate all the time that you have given us today and this public hearing and the many individuals that have come to speak on behalf of San Antonio and the project here.

So thank you again. I just wanted to make sure that I addressed you and be able to tell you...
you have support here in San Antonio. Thank you for the
opportunity.

MS. COGHILL: Thank you very much.

Is there anyone else at this point in time? All right. I'd like to turn the meeting back over to Jamie Johnson.

MR. JOHNSON: Well, thank you, everyone, for your comments tonight and earlier today if you were with us this afternoon. And again, I do appreciate people taking time out of busy schedules to come to these meetings. It's been great to be here to get comments on the Draft EIS and input from members of the public, stakeholders, and all the officials here.

So we continue to want your comments. If you think of comments that you didn't make tonight, again, as I said earlier we are open for public comments 'til August 25th, and make your comments by then. It will be addressed to and responded in the final EIS, which, again, will come out later this fall.

So I will leave you with the final slide here, the various mechanisms that you can make comments on. We have people in the back to answer questions. So with that, I will officially adjourn the meeting, and again, thank you, everyone, for coming.

(Proceedings ended at 9:11 p.m.)
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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

NATIONAL BIO AND AGRO-DEFENSE FACILITY

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

(NBAF DRAFT EIS)

PUBLIC MEETING

DATE:  AUGUST 11, 2008
7:00 p.m.

SAYBROOK POINT INN
TWO BRIDGE STREET
OLD SAYBROOK, CONNECTICUT  06475

Catherine Coghill, Moderator

PANEL MEMBERS:
Mr. James Johnson, U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security
Dr. Luis Rodriguez, U.S. Department of Agriculture
Mr. Chuck Pergler, Tetra Tech, Inc.

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night. So thank you again for coming.

THE MODERATOR: This concludes the presentation portion of the agenda. So we are now at the question-and-answer period. As a reminder, we'd like to ask if anyone has any questions, to please come forward to the microphone so everybody can hear the question, and please be sure to face the panel so our court reporter can accurately record what you're asking. At this point in time, is there anyone who has a question based on the presentation that was provided this evening?

(No response.)

THE MODERATOR: Okay. We'll open up the floor to formal comments. And there's no one at this point in time who has a formal comment that they would like to make. Has anyone changed their mind, at this point in time, on whether or not they would like to make a comment? What we'll do is we'll take a ten-minute break, and we will see if anyone else signs up or comes in later to the meeting to sign up to speak, and we'll reconvene and make sure that we accommodate those folks who would like to talk. Thanks.

(Recess taken at 7:40 p.m. until 7:58 p.m.)

THE MODERATOR: Good evening. I
understand there is one, Joe, who would like to make a comment.

MR. WENDEROTH: There always has to be somebody, so. I had a question for Mr. Pergler. You mentioned something about ozone as a concern as you go forward, and something that you're looking at with respect to Plum Island. And we don't produce any ozone on the Island. I know it may be -- not a containment zone area for Suffolk County, but do you anticipate the new facility producing ozone in some fashion that would be a concern?

MR. PERGLER: Very minor amounts. We were just talking about the analysis. This is a NEPA artifact, and I don't intend to denigrate cumulative impacts. But it's always a challenge to look at cumulative impacts because it, at times, if not presented properly, can skew people's impression of what the direct impacts are from a facility. And certainly in the case where we pointed out the four moderate categories, with the exception of visual, all the rest, again, were cumulative impacts, where NBAF may have just very minor, incremental -- or increases to the pollutant, or whatever the criteria is, but yet...
it's given quite a bit of attention in analysis, and it's always a subjective sort of thing, because to get cumulative data is always a challenge, too.

THE MODERATOR: Does that answer your question?

MR. WENDEROTH: Yes, I think so.

THE MODERATOR: Make sure you speak into the microphone.

MR. WENDEROTH: I guess what you're doing, is you're checking the box, basically, to make sure that you've accounted for it down the road in a fashion.

MR. PERGLER: Well, checking a box is good, as long as you understand that it is a very analytical process to get that box checked. It's not something that we take trivially. We take it seriously.

MR. WENDEROTH: Right. Okay.

THE MODERATOR: Would you like to provide your name for the record?

MR. WENDEROTH: Sure. It's Charles Wenderoth.

THE MODERATOR: Okay. Is there anyone else who would like to provide a comment at this point in time in the evening?
(No response.)

THE MODERATOR: What I would like to do is turn it back over to Jamie, then.

MR. JOHNSON: Last chance for comments. No comments. What we'd like to do, the meeting portion is from eight to ten, so we'd like to go ahead, and we'll take another break, in case people come in. We'll keep the court reporter here for a little while. Again, we thank people for coming. We also invite folks, tomorrow night we'll be in New York. Again, if you think of a comment later, please submit it by August 25th.

So if that's all right, we'll go ahead and take another break for twenty-five, thirty minutes. We'll unofficially adjourn the meeting for another twenty-five minutes. If anybody else has come in, we can get their comments. If you decide to leave, thank you for coming. Again, feel free to make your comments, if not tonight, at some other point in time. So thank you.

(Recess taken at 8:02 p.m. until 8:26 p.m.)

THE MODERATOR: All right. Folks, I understand that there is someone here who would like to make a comment. So we're going to go ahead and convene so I can accommodate this person. Just
as a reminder, the guidelines, and we are setting this forward because we’re making it fair for everyone at every site, if you can please keep your comments to three minutes, that would be great. To the person who would like to speak, come forward to the microphone.

MS. CZARZASTY: Thank you for hearing me. I'm Nancy Czarzasty. I'm a local resident here in Old Saybrook. I apologize for coming in at the last minute here. We didn't realize this was the forum tonight.

My comment is that I'm concerned, being a representative of the local community, of where this was actually published for the information to be contained about what is publicized for Plum Island, not on the public comment section. But as to prior to that, what was the proposal for, what was happening? The ad that I read was in a very minor paper here in town, and if I hadn't pursued it on the website, I would have had absolutely no idea what anyone was speaking of.

I've spoken with several people in my community, amongst the school systems, amongst neighbors. I'm very active in our community, and no one had any idea what we were coming here for.
tonight, that that is an issue at hand. So I do appreciate the fact that you're looking for public input.

My concern is that the public hasn't been notified truly as to what the proposal actually is, and I think there's a lot of valuable input here for residents to gain. Douglas Smith here has told me that he's going to tell me which of the papers that this was advertised in. I'm hoping that there is some sort of article or something, and maybe even another potential time for residents to come and put in their comments. I don't believe that the residents here in the community have been informed about what this actual proposal is.

I do have two other questions, and Doug also is going to find those people, and just so they're recorded. My question is regarding waste, the hazardous waste that comes off of the island. The first question being, I understand that we will be sterilizing all of the waste coming off of the island, and I want to know to what measure we're calling sterile. Sterile is a very relative term. I'd like to know what we're using as that measure of sterile.

As discussed in Section 3.13.2.2 of the NBAF EIS, the pretreatment processes that would be used to sterilize potentially infectious wastes generated at the NBAF must meet the requirements of Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories (BMBL). The NBAF is obligated to use a definition of sterile that is no less stringent than the BMBL definition. According to the BMBL, "Any item, device, or solution is considered to be sterile when it is completely free of all living microorganisms and viruses. The definition is categorical and absolute (i.e., an item is either sterile or it is not)....A sterilization procedure is one that kills all microorganisms, including high numbers of bacterial endospores. From an operational standpoint, a sterilization procedure cannot be categorically defined. Rather, the procedure is defined as a process, after which the probability of a microorganism surviving on an item subjected to treatment is less than one in one million (10^-6). This is referred to as the 'sterility assurance level.'

Section 3.13.2.2 of the NBAF EIS discusses the disposition of sanitary sewer wastes, waste solids, and carcass/pathological wastes generated by the operation of the NBAF no matter where the NBAF is located. Section 3.13.3 (No Action Alternative) presents information on the disposition of waste liquids and solids at the current Plum Island Animal Disease Center (PIADC) location, and Section 3.13.7 presents information on the disposition of waste liquids and solids if the proposed NBAF is built at the Plum Island Site. Unlike the other candidate sites, Plum Island has its own wastewater treatment plant. As discussed in Section 3.13.7.3, the PIADC wastewater treatment plant may need to be expanded, or a new wastewater treatment plant may need to be built and permitted to accommodate proposed NBAF peak loads. Waste solids generated by PIADC currently undergo onsite treatment or they are transported to appropriately permitted offsite facilities. (PIADC currently operates three incinerators.) If the NBAF is built at the Plum Island location, these incinerators may be closed and additional waste solids may be transported to offsite locations after onsite pretreatment. Table 3.13.2.2-3 summarizes the pretreatment technologies that could be used to sterilize and, or decontaminate waste solids generated at the NBAF.
My second question and comment that Doug is going to have someone answer for me is regarding the waste. Once we have these hazards sterilized, I understand they're to go into the municipal waste system. I'd like to know what the municipal waste system from Plum Island is. Thank you.

THE MODERATOR: Thank you very much. Is there anyone else who would like to make a comment?

(No response.)

THE MODERATOR: Well, the meeting has been advertised until this evening, and so at this point in time, I'd like to turn it over to Jamie, and we will still be here to accommodate, if there's folks that will come in the door and would like to speak.

MR. JOHNSON: Thank you for your questions and comments. What we'll do is officially adjourn the meeting, and these folks will be here the next hour in case people come in or want to submit their comments, to accommodate anybody who has come in late. So again, thank you for coming. With that, we will adjourn the hearing.
(Hearing adjourned at 8:33 p.m.)
REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

I, SANDRA DESCHAINE, RPR No. 805293,
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That the foregoing proceedings were taken
before me at the time and place therein set forth,
That the foregoing is a true and correct
transcript of my shorthand notes so taken.
I further certify that I am not a relative or
employee of any of the parties, nor financially
interested in the action.
I declare under the penalty of perjury under
the laws of California that the foregoing is true
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Dated the day of , 2008

SANDRA DESCHAINE, RPR No. 805293