

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

TOWN OF MIDDLETOWN

Naval Station Newport

ELDN 10119

* * * * *
PROCEEDINGS AT PUBLIC HEARING

Environmental Protection Department

IN RE: PUBLIC MEETING TO
DISCUSS KATY FIELD/
OLD FIREFIGHTER TRAINER
AREA AT NAVAL STATION
NEWPORT

* * * * *

Monday, November 23, 1998
5:00 p.m.
Middletown Town Hall
West Main Road
Middletown, Rhode Island

PANEL MEMBERS

Captain Jon C. Wyman, Director of Public Works
Naval Station Newport
Donald Berger, US Environmental Protection Agency
Terrence Gray, RI Department of Environmental
Management
Carole Hossom, Agency for Toxic Substances and
Disease Registry

ALSO PRESENT

George L. Andrade, Middletown Town Council President
Brian C. Lesinski, Moderator, KPMG Peat Marwick
Congressman Patrick J. Kennedy
Captain A. Cheryl Oakleaf, Naval Station Newport

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1 Monday, November 23, 1998

2 (Commencing at 5:00 P.M.)

3 COUNCIL PRESIDENT ANDRADE: If I could
4 have your attention, please. We'd like to begin.

5 First of all, I'd like to welcome all of
6 you to the Middletown Town Hall. Those of you
7 who haven't seen it, we have an agenda up front
8 which would be helpful. We have a number of
9 speakers, so we will begin.

10 I want to thank especially our friends from
11 the Navy, and, as you can see, there are a number
12 of agencies that are here to speak, and, also,
13 you have a number of people from our Middletown
14 Little League, we want to welcome them as well.

15 This is a very important public meeting
16 dealing with the Katy Field situation. We feel
17 this is a very serious situation. The Town has
18 met with the Navy, myself and Michael Embry, our
19 Town Administrator. We know that the Middletown
20 Little League, Roger Steere, the president, and
21 also Michael Condry, the vice president, have
22 also met with the Navy, however, we feel that
23 it's very, very important that we all meet
24 together here and hear the same information and

1 be able to listen to it, digest it and also to
2 ask questions, which we will be doing at the end
3 of this particular forum.

4 I want to particularly thank Congressman
5 Kennedy for helping facilitate this forum today.
6 Despite all that he does on the National level,
7 I've been involved in politics for a long time,
8 and he is very, very helpful on a local level as
9 well, whether it be helping us with getting
10 Federal money for education in the Town of
11 Middletown or whether it be to have a gun
12 buy-back program, that was very, very successful
13 in the Town of Middletown, so here is another
14 example of his concern at the local level, and we
15 have a lot of people to speak, so without further
16 ado, it is my honor and privilege to introduce
17 Congressman Patrick Kennedy.

18 CONGRESSMAN KENNEDY: Thank you very
19 much, Andy, and I appreciate your opening up the
20 Town Hall for this meeting. As you know and as
21 you mentioned in introducing me, we have met here
22 on many occasions to discuss issues of importance
23 to this community, we've discussed the impact
24 aid, which you mentioned, and we've also

1 discussed the mothball chips which we're
2 currently seeing at Pier II, but because of the
3 meetings that we've had, we got a commitment out
4 of the Navy to get them to pledge, that if
5 alternative economic development sources become
6 available for those piers, that they will take
7 that into consideration so that we don't block
8 any economic development opportunities for this
9 community.

10 The reason I mentioned those meetings that
11 we've had, Andy, is because in each of them we
12 brought together all the members of the community
13 that were involved. You came and represented the
14 local community, I represented the Federal level,
15 we have the Navy here and we have local community
16 participants. That is the kind of model that I
17 hope tonight will also follow as we move forward
18 to discuss an issue that's of great importance to
19 the people of this neighborhood, especially the
20 parents of children that have used that Katy
21 Field.

22 I just say from my part, when I first
23 became aware of the fact that this was an issue
24 of concern, I immediately wrote letters to the

1 Secretary of the Navy, I immediately contacted
2 the local Naval officials and we spoke as well,
3 and, basically, we've heard a lot of in-fighting
4 between the various Federal agencies, the
5 Environmental Protection Agency and the Navy, but
6 what we want to hear tonight is we want to hear a
7 straight story from everybody so that the public
8 in this community have an ability to really
9 discern what the true facts are regarding the
10 matter with respect to Katy Field and that we
11 don't get this matter any more blown up than it
12 already is because of a lot of people trying to
13 cover their backside. What we really want is we
14 want the information, we want the information out
15 there so that people can make their own educated
16 deduction as to what's going on at Katy Field,
17 what the risks are that are being posed and what
18 all the issues that are involved. So I asked the
19 Navy to be here tonight, I also asked for the
20 lead toxicology experts at the Environmental
21 Protection Agency's office that overlooks these
22 kind of sites to be here as well, and I'm happy
23 to report that they are here tonight. We have
24 experts here tonight ready to answer your

1 questions, and my role, as I feel is best suited,
2 is to be able to facilitate this kind of meeting,
3 and that's what just what I wanted to do tonight,
4 and I hope that by the conclusion of tonight's
5 presentations you feel that you've been well
6 served by the testimony that's been offered to
7 you by the experts.

8 What we want to do is go over the history
9 of Katy Field, we want to look and examine how it
10 was that we got to this current state of affairs
11 and we want to take this through a chronological
12 order, as well as a scientific overview, and so
13 that people themselves will be able to understand
14 what is really going on.

15 I'm pleased to see that the Navy has
16 responded to two of my requests: One, that they
17 offer ambulatory services for any family that
18 wants to have their child screened. To date, I
19 understand that no family has taken their child
20 to avail themselves of that offer that the Navy
21 has put out, but I might remark that that offer
22 still stands and any family that would like to
23 have their child screened, at the conclusion of
24 hearing tonight's testimony will be able to avail

1 themselves of that screening.

2 In addition, we saw to it that immediately
3 a fence was erected around Katy Field because,
4 given the alarming reports and the fact that at
5 that point all we had was hearsay in terms of
6 what was being reported, and, you know, barring
7 any additional information that we had, we didn't
8 want to take any chances that any more children
9 could possibly be exposed, so on erring on the
10 side of caution, we decided to really prop the
11 Navy to erect a fence, and that's just what they
12 did, and, in addition to that, they have taken
13 the additional soil samples that they look
14 forward to releasing in December, but only after
15 they release them will they begin to put them
16 through an analytical model that will tell us
17 truly what those readings will signify to all of
18 us.

19 So what I hope we get to tonight is
20 everyone's question that you ever had for those
21 who are involved, so that we can get a straight
22 answer for you and make sure that your concerns
23 are addressed.

24 I have to say, many people have said that

1 this has been a matter of a public relations
2 boondoggle on the part of the Navy, perhaps
3 that's true, perhaps we could have seen things
4 being done differently in terms of making the
5 general public aware of what the issues at stake
6 were, but I can tell you as a public official
7 there's nothing that strikes at our heart more
8 than constituents who are worried about their
9 children, because, if you think about it, there's
10 nothing that's more important to a parent than
11 their own child's safety and health. So by
12 convening this meeting tonight, I was really
13 responding to the understandable concerns from
14 parents of the neighborhood who really, after
15 having read many of these reports, were
16 justifiably concerned about their own child's
17 well-being and safety, and that is why I thought
18 this meeting tonight would be so important, to
19 maybe make it available for them so they can
20 makeup their own minds as to what threat was
21 posed to their child's health and safety.

22 So, I know we have members of the little
23 league who are here, I know we have other
24 community members who have been responding to

1 those same concerns from parents, so at this time
2 I think I'll turn it back over -- to you, Andy,
3 or are we going to have -- Captain Oakleaf will
4 take it from here.

5 I want to just say, since Captain Bogel
6 left, he has been replaced by somebody who comes
7 to this job with great qualifications, this is an
8 important job for anybody who has the command of
9 NETC, and now it's been called the Newport
10 Command because it encompasses all the Navy
11 activities here, and I might say that we look
12 forward to continuing to work with the captain in
13 her new position, but to let her know that there
14 is a community here that has enjoyed the Navy,
15 and we look forward to having the Navy as a
16 neighbor of ours, but we want to definitely clear
17 up this issue so that we can get a good start on
18 moving on to more positive subjects for the Navy
19 in the years to come, but at this time it's my
20 great pleasure to introduce Captain Oakleaf for
21 her presentation tonight on the part of the Navy.
22 Captain.

23 CAPTAIN OAKLEAF: Thank you. Thank
24 you, Congressman Kennedy and Andy as the

1 President of the Middletown Town Council. We
2 certainly appreciate the use of your spaces this
3 evening. Thank you so much.

4 I do want you to all know this evening that
5 I am responding to Congressman Kennedy, who wrote
6 me a letter a couple of weeks ago saying that,
7 hey, can we get together and talk about the
8 issues that are going on at Katy Field. I'm new
9 in this job in the Newport community. I've been
10 here for two months. Every place else that I've
11 been in the Navy for the last 25 years, it has
12 always been the Navy's responsibility to act most
13 responsible in dealing with environmental issues,
14 I have no less of the expectations for Naval
15 Station Newport, so we also will act responsibly
16 and, hopefully, show you that we have acted
17 responsibly and we do take our responsibilities
18 most seriously.

19 In this forum tonight I think the best
20 thing that we can do is look at the experts, look
21 to them, ask them the questions that are on your
22 mind as concerned parents.

23 My last remark is that as a parent myself
24 and as I have many, many families, many parents

1 and many children on the base, we would
2 deliberately do nothing to endanger our families
3 or our children, and we hope that any of the
4 issues this evening, that have been
5 misunderstandings or any of the issues that
6 haven't been made real clear can be cleared up
7 this evening, so we, hopefully, invite your very
8 serious questions in a serious matter.

9 What I'd like to do now is to introduce you
10 to Brian Lesinski. Brian is not from the
11 community and he is not from the Navy, he is an
12 independent moderator that works with KPGM Peat
13 Marwick and Brian will be the moderator this
14 evening that will introduce the panel as well as
15 take questions from the floor. Brian.

16 MR. LESINSKI: Thank you, Captain.
17 Good evening, everyone.

18 THE AUDIENCE: Good evening.

19 MR. LESINSKI: Again, as the Captain
20 mentioned, my name is Brian Lesinski. I am a
21 managing consultant with KPMG Peat Marwick and I
22 will be tonight's moderator for the question and
23 answer segment.

24 Joining us tonight, we are pleased to have

1 a distinguished panel of representatives from the
2 Navy, public health advisory and regulatory
3 environmental agencies currently working together
4 to address issues at Katy Field.

5 In a few moments, each panel representative
6 will provide a prepared statement.

7 Initially, the US Navy will provide site
8 history, background and a discussion of
9 corrective actions concerning Katy Field.

10 Following this, the Environmental Protection
11 Agency and the Agency for Toxic Substances and
12 Disease Registry will provide statements as well.
13 Immediately following these statements there will
14 be an open question and answer period, which will
15 last until approximately 6:25, based on that
16 clock overhead this evening. There is another
17 town meeting in these chambers tonight and we
18 must be sensitive to that.

19 Now I would like to introduce our panel
20 representatives.

21 Representing the US Navy is Captain Jon C.
22 Wyman, Director for Public Works, Naval Station
23 Newport. Captain Wyman reported for duty as the
24 Public Works Officer for Naval Station Newport in

1 July of 1995. As such, he directs the general
2 public works support, as well as construction,
3 family housing and environmental programs. He
4 was commissioned at the Officer Candidate School,
5 Newport, Rhode Island in 1976. He has served in
6 a wide variety of Civil Engineer Corps officer
7 billets, including public works, construction,
8 contracting and Seabee construction. He is a
9 Registered Professional Engineer and has a Master
10 of Engineering in Construction Management.
11 Captain Wyman is also the Navy co-chair of the
12 Restoration Advisory Board for the Newport Naval
13 Complex which is overseeing the restoration
14 activities at Katy Field.

15 Seated to your left, representing the US
16 Environmental Protection Agency is Mr. Don
17 Berger. Mr. Berger has worked at EPA as an
18 environmental engineer, on scene coordinator,
19 emergency response program manager and presently
20 as Superfund hazardous waste manager for the New
21 England region. Mr. Berger is responsible for
22 managing all federal facility cleanups as well as
23 other National Priorities Lists, as well as other
24 sites on the National Priorities List and has

1 been involved in the cleanup of hundreds of sites
2 during these 25 years with EPA. He holds a
3 Bachelor of Science and Masters of Science in
4 Chemical and Environmental Engineering from the
5 University of Massachusetts.

6 To his left, or your left, is representing
7 the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease
8 Registry, or the ATSDR, is Ms. Carole Hossom.
9 ATSDR is a public health agency of the US
10 Department of Health and Human Services, created
11 in 1980 by Superfund legislation. ATSDR's
12 mission is to prevent exposure and adverse human
13 health effects associated with exposure to
14 hazardous substances from waste sites and other
15 pollution sources.

16 Ms. Hossom has worked at ATSDR as an
17 environmental health scientist for the past eight
18 years. In that time, Ms. Hossom has worked on
19 over 50 Department of Defense Superfund sites
20 across the country. She has worked with local,
21 state and Federal regulators and health
22 departments in all ten EPA regions and with all
23 branches of the services including the Air Force,
24 Army, Navy and DLA. Before joining ATSDR,

1 Ms. Hossom worked in the medical diagnostic and
2 biotechnological field for six years researching
3 and developing medical diagnostic products.
4 Carole earned her Bachelor of Science in
5 Biochemistry and Microbiology from the University
6 of New Hampshire.

7 In addition to our panel members before
8 you -- excuse me, I have one more bio.

9 Seated to the far left is Mr. Terrence
10 Gray, Chief, Office of Waste Management at the
11 Rhode Island Department of Environmental
12 Management. As the head of that office, he
13 manages the State's Underground Storage Tank
14 Program, all the contaminated site cleanup
15 programs and the state permitting program for
16 waste management facilities. Terry has been with
17 DEM for twelve years. He has a Bachelor of
18 Science degree in Chemical Engineering from
19 Lehigh University and a Master of Science degree
20 in Environmental Engineering from Northeastern
21 University. Mr. Gray is a registered
22 professional engineer in Rhode Island and is
23 currently working on a second master's degree in
24 business administration from the University of

1 Rhode Island.

2 In addition to our panel members which I've
3 just introduced here before you, we have a number
4 of subject matter experts present from these and
5 other organizations that are involved with Katy
6 Field here this evening. These folks will be
7 called upon to answer specific questions or
8 provide supporting information to a panel
9 representative, should it be needed. Panel
10 members will have the option of deferring
11 particular questions to these individuals. In
12 the interest of time, we ask that you, the public
13 and the press, please hold all questions or
14 comments that you may have for the question and
15 answer period to follow.

16 With that, I'd like to introduce Captain
17 John C. Wyman, Director for Public Works at the
18 Naval Station Newport.

19 CAPTAIN WYMAN: Good evening,
20 everybody. I'm happy to be here this evening to
21 provide some background on Katy Field, and,
22 hopefully, we'll answer all your questions.

23 We brought some photographs and some site
24 location maps which are available in the room.

1 We've also got some handouts in the back which
2 provide our recent fact sheet about the site, as
3 our current situation evolved and a historical
4 fact sheet on the site and a little item about
5 our restoration lab report, which we encourage
6 people to participate in.

7 My statement will outline the Navy's
8 position, provide a site history, a chronology of
9 recent events, actions we've taken so far and
10 actions that are remaining.

11 Regarding the Navy position. We're
12 dedicated to protecting the health and safety of
13 all members of our community. As Captain Oakleaf
14 mentioned, we have over 1,400 Navy families in
15 our housing areas and we certainly wouldn't do
16 anything to endanger them.

17 We're committed to taking whatever action
18 may be necessary to ensure the protection of the
19 human health and environment at Newport and to
20 thoughtfully communicate the possible health
21 risks to the public.

22 Katy Field has been a recreation site since
23 1976. Our interpretation of the data from
24 several studies concluded that the site was

1 acceptable for recreational uses. The
2 Environmental Protection Agency has expressed
3 some concerns, however, so we have secured the
4 site and are performing some additional testing
5 to ensure the site is safe for recreational use.
6 We are committed to addressing the public's
7 concerns and partnership with the United States
8 Environmental Protection Agency, the Rhode Island
9 Department of Environmental Management and the
10 Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
11 and other interested groups. The focus of this
12 communication and a partnership is through our
13 Restoration Advisory Board, which has been
14 holding monthly meetings since 1996 and acts to
15 oversee and advise on policies and procedures
16 we're using for our cleanup process.

17 About the site history. Katy Field lies in
18 the northern end of Coastals Harbor Island on the
19 Navy Base on a five-and-a-half acre site adjacent
20 to Narragansett Bay. It was used as a
21 recreational area and has a picnic area with an
22 open pavilion, a playground and a baseball field.
23 Firefighter training activities were conducted on
24 the one or two acres of this site from World War

1 II to 1972. Several buildings constructed to
2 simulate ship compartments, a concrete pad with
3 burning areas, and paved areas served as the
4 principal areas of training.

5 By 1972, most of the structures associated
6 with the activity were demolished. Building 144,
7 adjacent to Taylor Drive, was the only structure
8 remaining on the site.

9 In 1976, recreational facilities, including
10 ball fields and a playground, were constructed.
11 At about that time, the child daycare center,
12 which operated at Building 144, closed. A new
13 child daycare center, which is co-located with
14 the Armed Forces YMCA had opened in 1993 and was
15 the replacement for this facility.

16 Two soil mounds in the center corner of the
17 site contain rubble from pavement and the former
18 training buildings on the site. Several studies
19 were initiated and are in various stages of
20 completion to quantify the materials beneath Katy
21 Field in the soils and groundwater, and I'll go
22 through some chronology here. It gets a little
23 tedious on the dates.

24 In 1983, an initial assessment study which

1 identifies the potential effects on the
2 environment from past activities, through records
3 searches and interviews, concluded that the site
4 need no further study. However, in 1987, during
5 work to expand the childcare center operating in
6 Building 144, oil was found in the subsurface
7 soil.

8 In 1989, the Naval Education Training
9 Center was listed on the National Priorities List
10 due mostly because of the contamination of the
11 McAllister Point Landfill and Tank Farm 1.

12 In March, 1992, a Federal Facilities
13 Agreement was signed between the Assistant
14 Secretary of the Navy, the Director of the Rhode
15 Island Department of Environmental Management and
16 the Environmental Protection Agency Regional
17 Administrator for the Newport Naval Complex.
18 This agreement details the regulatory partnership
19 and framework for completing Installation
20 Restoration Program activities for the Newport
21 Naval Complex.

22 In 1992, the Navy initiated a Phase I
23 Remedial Investigation to quantify the materials
24 in the soil and groundwater.

1 In 1994, the Navy, in partnership with the
2 Environmental Protection Agency and the Rhode
3 Island Department of Environmental Management,
4 performed additional remedial investigations and
5 produced a health risk assessment. Our
6 interpretation of the data was that health risk
7 assessment concluded that the site was acceptable
8 for recreational use.

9 Now I'll move to our more recent events,
10 this last summer.

11 In May of 1998, the Environmental
12 Protection Agency raised concerns over the issue
13 of lead after seeing a NAVALOG article which
14 highlighted our military youth activities
15 program.

16 In June, Navy consultants ran the
17 Environmental Protection Agency's lead exposure
18 model for children to address the EPA's concern
19 over the lead. The results later showed that the
20 site was found to be well within residential use
21 levels, which is a higher standard than for
22 recreational use.

23 Later in June the Navy's recreation
24 department relocated our military youth's

1 activities program from Gym 109 to Building 144
2 to free up space in the gym for new fitness
3 equipment.

4 In the middle of July the Environmental
5 Protection Agency advised the Navy that the
6 Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry
7 will be updating their 1993 public health
8 assessment.

9 In June 28th the Environmental Protection
10 Agency responded to the Navy's letter of 21 July,
11 raising concerns over reopening the military
12 youth activity center, and that the 1994 human
13 health risk assessment was not conservative
14 enough for this more extensive use. That same
15 day a Rhode Island licensed lead inspector
16 completed a lead inspection survey at Katy Field,
17 Building 144 that we had ordered to do a lead
18 survey of that property to make sure it was safe.

19 In late August, we received the results of
20 that lead survey, which found the area and the
21 building to be lead-safe according to the Rhode
22 Island Department of Health's Lead Poison
23 Prevention Program.

24 In September we provided these results to

1 the Environmental Protection Agency and the
2 status of our response through a letter.

3 In early October we received the Agency for
4 Toxic Substances and Disease Registry's draft
5 public health consultation and their request for
6 our comments based on the data in that 1994
7 study.

8 Shortly after that, we directed the
9 recreation department to prohibit access to Katy
10 Field for the children in the military youth
11 activities program until further notice. This is
12 to limit the daily activities of children in that
13 more intensive use.

14 On the 25th of October the Navy sent
15 technical comments to the Agency for Toxic
16 Substances and Disease Registry on that public
17 health consultation.

18 On the 21st October the Agency for Toxic
19 Substances and Disease Registry briefed our
20 Restoration Advisory Board's project committee
21 and there was a limited discussion about Katy
22 Field at that time.

23 On the 27th of October I responded to the
24 Environmental Protection Agency's letter and

1 agreed to err on the side of safety and caution
2 and erected a fence to restrict access to the
3 site.

4 That same day the Associated Press story
5 runs and the next day Congressman Kennedy issued
6 his news release and sends letters to the
7 Secretary of Navy about Katy Field.

8 On the 3rd of November, a meeting of the
9 Federal agencies briefed Thomas Gibson, the
10 Deputy Staff Director, US Senate Committee on the
11 Environmental and Public Works. This group
12 together identified areas of agreement and a
13 course of action for the future of Katy Field.

14 On the 10th of November, the Environmental
15 Protection Agency, the Rhode Island Department of
16 Environmental Management, the Agency for Toxic
17 Substances and Disease Registry and Navy
18 representatives met and agreed on additional
19 sampling required to eliminate uncertainties.

20 Actions we've taken so far. On the 1st of
21 November we erected the fence to restrict access
22 of Katy Field. Late last week we took an
23 additional 36 samples on the site. The test
24 results from these samples are expected in

1 mid-December. Sampling results will also be
2 forwarded to the Agency for Toxic Substances and
3 Disease Registry. We will release the sample
4 results in raw form when they are available in
5 December with a description of what normal
6 parameters might be and update a risk assessment
7 for further soil and update a public health
8 assessment will be completed by the Spring of
9 1999, giving the Agency for Toxic Substances and
10 Disease Registry ample time to complete their
11 study in conjunction with the EPA's work.

12 We've issued press releases on the 6th and
13 17th of November and prepared fact sheets to
14 inform the community about the site.

15 We mailed the fact sheets on the 18th and
16 the 20th of November to the families of the
17 Middletown Little League, to all our Navy family
18 housing residents and to people in the recreation
19 program who use the summer youth activities
20 program.

21 The Navy health officials have concluded,
22 based on the studies to date, that testing and
23 screening for lead and metals is not medically
24 indicated due to the limited exposure of the

1 children at Katy Field. The Naval Ambulatory
2 Care Center is offering to interview and screen
3 anybody, military or civilian, who may have a
4 concern based on the use of Katy Field.

5 The Navy is coordinating with the Rhode
6 Island Medical Society to prepare a release for
7 physicians in the community so they can be versed
8 in the conditions at Katy field.

9 When the updated Agency for Toxic
10 Substances and Disease Registry public health
11 assessment is available in the spring, we will
12 issue a press release announcing the findings of
13 that study.

14 The Restoration Advisory Board will
15 continue to facilitate communication, to
16 communicate information on Katy Field and other
17 Installation Restoration program sites as a part
18 of our ongoing mission. The Restoration Advisory
19 Board meets the third Wednesday of each month at
20 our Officer's Club and the community involvement
21 is encouraged.

22 We would like to thank Congressman Kennedy
23 and the Environmental Protection Agency, the
24 Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry

1 and the Rhode Island Department of Environmental
2 Management in the Town of Middletown for allowing
3 this opportunity for open discussion. Thank you
4 very much.

5 MR. LESINSKI: Thank you, Captain.
6 I'd now like to introduce Donald Berger from the
7 Environmental Protection Agency.

8 MR. BERGER: Good Evening. Can you
9 all hear me? I'll try and keep this as brief as
10 I can because I know you're here to ask questions
11 rather than hear me talk.

12 As the Captain described to you, you've
13 heard the progress on the site over the year
14 since 1989, when the site was listed on the
15 National Priorities List, which is the trigger
16 for EPA's involvement in the cleanup of this
17 site. Suffice it to say, I hope you got the
18 message, that progress is being made on this site
19 in terms of identifying the extent and magnitude
20 of contamination, but it is just that, we don't
21 have a definitive picture yet, evidenced by the
22 fact that the Navy was out there as late as last
23 week taking samples. So I want to make sure and
24 emphasize the fact that, although we are working

1 on this site, on Katy Field in particular, part
2 of your concern is valid, and I want to validate
3 it because we don't know, we don't have all of
4 the data, and the toxicologist from ATSDR and the
5 State Department of Environmental Management and
6 a lot of the experts that we all have here in the
7 room with us, that know about this than certainly
8 I do, can explain that to you when you ask your
9 questions about it.

10 I do also want to say that during the
11 period from 1994 up until fairly recently, in
12 April or May of this calendar year, we had some
13 concerns and some questions about the risk
14 assessment that we were working jointly with the
15 Navy and the State of Rhode Island, DEM on, we
16 never considered the health implications of any
17 significance in terms of risk to children on this
18 site. Had we ever suspected a risk, we would
19 have acted promptly, swiftly and very definitely
20 to take care of that risk as best we thought
21 possible, so we were not concerned about it. The
22 concern was not just the lead, which the Captain
23 mentioned, but the volatile organics, the heavy
24 hydrocarbon aromatics, the heavy metals, to put

1 them in categories of different sites of
2 different chemicals, and all of those components,
3 all of the components of the contamination at
4 Katy Field were weighed in our decision when we
5 made the agency's determination, that at that
6 time there was no significant risk based upon the
7 use at that time, and only in April or so of
8 1998, March or April, May of '98 did we become
9 concerned, and purely as a result of the
10 intensified potential exposure to children on
11 that site based upon the use at that time,
12 beginning in the Spring of 1998. As I said,
13 although we agreed the probability of the risk
14 was low, the intensified use of the site as a
15 playground caused EPA to raise the, quote
16 unquote, "caution flag," primarily because we
17 didn't have enough data, as I said, initially.
18 There are, although we've made progress on the
19 site, there are still data gaps and there's still
20 unknowns, and until we are confident, it's the
21 agency's position, that if we're going to make a
22 mistake, particularly when it comes to
23 determining risks to children, we're going to err
24 on the side of caution. There's no question

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1 about that. If we're going to make a mistake,
2 it's for the preservation of the health of the
3 children that could be exposed to anything that's
4 on that site. Anything less than that would be a
5 breach of our responsibility to you, to
6 Congressman Kennedy, to everyone else that's
7 interested in this site.

8 If after the data that the Navy has
9 collected over the sampling -- rather, that the
10 Navy has collected over the last couple of weeks,
11 if after that data has back in, I believe,
12 mid-December, we find that the contamination is
13 not -- well, I forget what I was going to say.
14 If when that data comes back and we find that
15 there was no risk, that that data, in essence,
16 shows that the site is clean, then the worst we
17 could be accused of is being overly-cautious when
18 it comes to protecting children's health, and
19 that's the position in which I feel comfortable
20 and my agency wants to be in.

21 So our position, basically, is until these
22 data gaps are filled and analysis is complete,
23 that the site should be kept closed, I don't
24 think that's a surprise to anyone, or we're also

1 asking that the Navy provide visitors and
2 families and anyone else who thinks they could be
3 exposed to contamination from that site
4 understand what the contaminants are and what the
5 future plans are from the site. We also intend
6 to have regular, regular meetings with the Navy,
7 the ATSDR and the Health Department to follow-up
8 on this sampling and make sure that we have the
9 best groups of toxicologists and pharmacologists
10 and health experts looking at this data and
11 making sure, that if we do make a mistake, it's
12 not the wrong kind of a mistake.

13 I do want to thank Congressman Kennedy for
14 his involvement in this and putting this
15 together, I thank the Navy for their cooperation,
16 and that's it.

17 MR. LESINSKI: Thank you, Mr. Berger.
18 I'd now like to introduce Carole Hossom from the
19 Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry.

20 MS. HOSSOM: Good evening. ATSDR is
21 an easier way to remember the Agency for Toxic
22 Substances and Disease Registry. A tongue
23 twister if I ever heard one.

24 ATSDR is part of the public health service.

1 We're based in Atlanta, Georgia. We're a sister
2 agency for the Center for Disease Control, and in
3 addition to headquarters, we have ten regional
4 offices across the country.

5 With me this evening is Louise House and
6 Beth Timm out off our Region 1 office in Boston.
7 Additionally, Buck Grissom, our toxicologist from
8 headquarters is here.

9 Basically, based on all the available
10 information to date, ATSDR believes that it is
11 unlikely that children who played at Katy Field
12 will experience any health problems from playing
13 in that area. In reviewing the information,
14 ATSDR felt that certain areas needed to be better
15 defined, that is why we requested additional
16 samples be taken, to ensure that the area is
17 safe, and the Navy has collected those samples
18 last week.

19 When the sampling data is available in
20 December, ATSDR will review that information and
21 will put our analysis and our conclusions and
22 recommendations in a document called a Health
23 Consultation that we will release to the public,
24 to the Navy, to EPA and the State Health

1 Department and State Environmental.

2 We expect that our consultation will be
3 available the first part of 1999, after the data
4 has been analyzed, and that's basically our
5 position. Thank you.

6 MR. LESINSKI: Thank you, Carole. Our
7 last panel representative will be Terrence Gray
8 from the Rhode Island Department of Environmental
9 Management.

10 MR. GRAY: Good evening. As you've
11 heard, there's a long and detailed history to
12 this site. I'm not up here to repeat that. What
13 I did want to do is just give you a couple of
14 pieces of information. One, is the State role in
15 the cleanup and investigation of this site, but
16 also to give you the State's position on where
17 things stand now and where they're going in the
18 future.

19 As many of you know, DEM has been actively
20 involved in the investigation and cleanup of NETC
21 since the mid-Eighties. Our relationship with
22 the Navy and EPA was formulized in this Federal
23 Facility Agreement that we spoke about earlier,
24 in 1992. This site is one of eleven sites on the

1 base that are covered by that agreement. Because
2 of the history of this site, our main concerns
3 have been related to the use of the property as a
4 daycare facility, this goes back until the early
5 Nineties. Closure of the daycare and the risk
6 assessments that were conducted in 1991 and 1994
7 alleviated our immediate concern about the
8 condition of the property. We have since focused
9 our efforts on collecting the data or ensuring
10 that the data is collected as necessary for the
11 long-term cleanup decisions that need to be made
12 at the site. In order to ensure an adequate
13 cleanup, DEM has always taken the position which
14 is most protective, the most conservative
15 position, which is to make the property safe for
16 unrestricted land use.

17 The Department of Environmental Management
18 and the Department of Health support the Navy's
19 recent actions at EPA direction to restrict
20 access to the site and we agree that additional
21 data collection is necessary. Our position is
22 that Katy Field should remain closed until all
23 questions on health issues are definitively
24 answered and a plan is put in place to get the

1 final comprehensive cleanup of the site.

2 Once again, I'd like to thank Congressman
3 Kennedy for the opportunity to answer any
4 questions that you may have. I would, also, like
5 to thank all the other agencies that are
6 represented tonight for the opportunity to give
7 you the State's position. Thank you.

8 MR. LESINSKI: I'd like to thank all
9 our panel representatives for their introductory
10 remarks. At this point I'd like to open up the
11 question and answer portion of tonight's meeting.
12 Before I do so, as I mentioned, we will go to go
13 approximately 6:25, based on the clock overhead,
14 and I would like to review some ground rules, a
15 format for how we will operate tonight.

16 First, if you wish to make a question or
17 ask a question or provide a comment, please raise
18 your hand and I will identify you. Once
19 recognized, please proceed to the microphone up
20 front here, or, if you choose, if you can bellow
21 loud enough or get that point across, you may
22 choose to do it from your seat and ask your
23 question. When you're finished, I will direct
24 the question to the appropriate panel

1 representative to provide a response or defer to
2 a subject matter expert out in the audience.

3 Following the response, other panelists
4 will have an opportunity to provide additional
5 response, clarification or additional
6 information.

7 Please remember to speak slowly, state your
8 name and address for the record, as we are
9 recording it this evening.

10 Please keep your questions and comments
11 focused and brief to allow for maximum response
12 time. In the interest of time and to allow all
13 interested parties an opportunity to ask
14 questions tonight, we have allocated
15 approximately three minutes for each question and
16 response. Should we approach this limit, I will
17 announce that there is approximately one minute
18 left, and, again, I will announce when there's 30
19 seconds left, this will allow for summarization
20 and wrap up. When this time has expired, I will
21 intervene and move to the next question. If the
22 question is not answered fully due to time
23 constraints, please wait until the completion of
24 the meeting and you can seek further

1 clarification from one of our panel
2 representatives. The organizations before you
3 this evening have provided facts sheets and other
4 information on points of contact or places to get
5 additional information and those are located in
6 the back of the room.

7 Please be courteous to each speaker and
8 panel member, allowing them to complete their
9 response in full.

10 And, lastly, because we are preparing a
11 transcript this evening, we may ask you to pause
12 momentarily for our reporter, should that be
13 necessary.

14 I would now like to open up our question
15 and answer period. It looks like we've got just
16 about 40 minutes, as we had planned, and people
17 can now raise their hands and I'll just pick them
18 randomly. Sir.

19 MR. BART: Good evening. My name is
20 Roger Bart. I am a captain retired. In fact, I
21 retired the year that Captain Wyman joined the
22 Navy, so you know how old I am. And I closed up
23 the base here, and I can only say that I was
24 surprised that everyone didn't know that that's

1 been a recreation center because it has been for
2 a long while and it has been for years. I think
3 my sons and grandchildren probably ate hot dogs
4 that fell on the ground down there. But what I'd
5 like to ask is, I guess my question is that as of
6 April EPA voiced concerns about this facility and
7 about the dangers that existed there, and I know
8 that EPA has the power to order this base closed,
9 it's done it, this area closed, it's done it in
10 past, why didn't they act immediately if they
11 were so concerned?

12 MR. LESINSKI: Mr. Berger.

13 MR. BERGER: Why didn't we order them
14 immediately to close it, sir?

15 MR. BART: Yes, Katy Field.

16 MR. BERGER: Well, telling you that we
17 considered doing that is true, but it's probably
18 not as direct as I should be about it. They
19 consider, in fact, there are people in this room
20 from EPA that actually worked on developing the
21 order, which we never issued, but aside from
22 that, there's degrees to which any governmental
23 agency will go, any regulatory agency will go,
24 hopefully, reason degrees to which anybody goes

1 when they take an enforcement action against
2 anyone, police department, against the community,
3 one Federal agency against another, and basically
4 what I'm trying to say is that in this case,
5 although we were concerned about the health
6 implications and the intensified use, which we
7 perceived it to be an intensified use, which you
8 refer to it always having been used, it wasn't
9 something that needed to be dealt with tomorrow,
10 we just wanted it done quickly, and if we didn't
11 get cooperation, it would have been issued, an
12 order would have been issued.

13 MR. LESINSKI: A follow-up response to
14 that.

15 CONGRESSMAN KENNEDY: Roger, I think
16 you've hit the nub of this. Obviously, we all
17 want to err on the side of caution, but really we
18 didn't -- the EPA, none of the added tests were
19 ordered until this past November 10th, okay, ten
20 days ago, so for the EPA to come here tonight and
21 say that they wanted to be on the side of caution
22 but that they didn't even mandate that additional
23 tests be taken, if they were so concerned about
24 areas that had not been fully tested, it seems to

1 me the first obligation of EPA should have been
2 to get with Navy and get about ordering tests
3 right away, say, listen, we've got a concern,
4 this has been used a great deal, we want to lay
5 that, barring -- until those tests are done,
6 let's prohibit use of the field, okay.

7 Now, for public officials like me, for us
8 to learn about this through the --

9 MR. LESINSKI: Thirty seconds.

10 CONGRESSMAN KENNEDY: -- press, to me,
11 I think it was an alarmist kind of way.
12 Obviously, we have an obligation to err on the
13 side of caution and put the fence up and do
14 everything that we should do. I'm just saying in
15 retrospect I think it probably could have been
16 done differently.

17 MR. LESINSKI: Okay. Thank you. I'd
18 like to move onto the next question. Ma'am.

19 MS. PITTSLEY: Virginia Pittsley,
20 Portsmouth, Rhode Island. Ms. Hossom, this is
21 for you. You seem to indicate that the concern
22 was not great for health risks because of limited
23 exposure, but what I think many people are not
24 aware of is that there was a day camp conducted

1 on that site from the middle of June until the
2 end of August. My son attended from 7:30 in the
3 morning until five o'clock in the evening and I
4 don't consider that casual use. Am I wrong, is
5 that casual exposure?

6 MR. LESINSKI: ATSDR.

7 MS. HOSSOM: I think that ATSDR feels
8 that it's, from the information that we have,
9 there is no need for alarm. I think there's a
10 little information that we need to ensure that
11 it's safe, but we are pretty comfortable that the
12 likelihood of anything coming back is low.

13 MS. PITTSLEY: And, additionally, what
14 do you consider low, a probability of 5 percent,
15 10 percent?

16 MS. HOSSOM: You know, we don't deal
17 with, you know, 5 percent, 10 percent.
18 Basically, we're here tonight in order to
19 alleviate some of your concerns. There's no
20 indication that people will have any health
21 problems from what's out there based on the
22 information that we have. There are a few areas
23 that we wanted to be better defined, that's why
24 we requested additional information.

1 MR. LESINSKI: Would any other panel
2 members like to respond to that?

3 (NO RESPONSE)

4 MR. LESINSKI: If not, I'll move on to
5 the next question. The corner.

6 CONGRESSMAN KENNEDY: Yes, I'd like to
7 have the microphone.

8 MR. LESINSKI: Okay. One minute,
9 please.

10 CONGRESSMAN KENNEDY: I think it's
11 important for everybody to know that the real
12 information is going to come this December, when
13 those latest tests that have just been done come
14 back, all right, and I'd like to just make sure
15 we get a rapid evaluation of that by ATSDR so
16 that you all can have your concerns and doubts
17 laid to rest. It sounds good tonight, but I
18 think we all should wait until we get that
19 information, since those tests seem to have been
20 the most in-depth tests taken to date, and I'm
21 confident we'll get them to conclude that they
22 will get us that information ASAP.

23 MR. LESINSKI: Okay. Back to you.

24 MS. GALLAGHER: My name is Sarah

1 Gallagher and I reside in Tiverton, Rhode Island.
2 I worked as a camp counselor for MYA this summer.
3 My daughter attended camp with you, so,
4 naturally, as soon as I found out there was a
5 problem, I had her screened. The first screening
6 came back with positive levels of lead, arsenic
7 and manganese, which also have been found on the
8 site. Her arsenic levels were high enough that
9 she displayed symptoms of arsenic poisoning, she
10 had migraines, anorexic tendencies and also
11 consistent vomiting, which our doctor believes
12 are directly related to the arsenic poisoning.

13 MR. LESINSKI: I'd like to defer that
14 to ATSDR, please.

15 MS. HOSSOM: I think Dr. Buck Grissom
16 from headquarters would like to answer that.

17 DR. GRISSOM: Arsenic, lead, manganese
18 are natural constituents of the environment.
19 Manganese is available in pediatric vitamins in
20 fairly high levels, milligram levels. Sources of
21 arsenic can come from anywhere. We didn't see
22 any significant levels at the site. The lead
23 could have come from any number of sources, so
24 detecting these doesn't indicate that a trip to

1 the daycare center could have been a problem.
2 The daycare center is well vegetated, there are
3 some areas of elevated lead, they're currently
4 being investigated, and after they're
5 investigated, we will be evaluating the data.

6 MS. GALLAGHER: I agree with that. I
7 understand the arsenic can be found in seafood,
8 in your water, et cetera. However, my doctor
9 felt that her symptoms displayed a high enough
10 level of the arsenic to consider it poisoning,
11 and for her to have symptoms, that's more than
12 your acceptable level of arsenic.

13 DR. GRISSOM: To evaluate the arsenic,
14 just the arsenic level can be misleading.
15 Arsenic comes, the more complex form comes from
16 seafood, particularly shellfish. Also, the urine
17 needs to be adjusted for dilution or
18 concentration, so the levels can be very high,
19 can come from seafood, which is relatively
20 nontoxic. The urine can be concentrated which
21 will give a misleading high. The test would have
22 had to have included adjustments for those two
23 items.

24 MS. GALLAGHER: My question does not

1 regard the levels. As it is, we do not have any
2 normal levels to work with. We have not been
3 given, my doctor still has not gotten an answer
4 as to what a normal safe level of arsenic would
5 be in her system, which is a problem. We need to
6 know, so we can, therefore, treat her
7 appropriately, but nobody is willing to give us
8 the appropriate answer, that's number one
9 problem.

10 Number two being, I'm not questioning the
11 levels, but what I am questioning was her
12 symptoms.

13 DR. GRISSOM: The level in urine
14 varies among the authority to setback, but in
15 undigested urine it could be to 100 microgram per
16 liter, I think that's right.

17 MS. GALLAGHER: That is considered an
18 acceptable amount, 100 micrograms?

19 DR. GRISSOM: That is an acceptable
20 level, but, again, in order to evaluate it, just
21 that level doesn't indicate much anything because
22 we don't know which form of arsenic nor do we
23 know the delusional concentration, so it has to
24 be evaluated further to determine whether there's

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1 a problem or not.

2 MS. GALLAGHER: Will there be normal
3 levels publicized within the next -- can we have
4 a date as to when we can have a specific normal
5 level available to the physicians in this area?

6 DR. GRISSOM: The physician should
7 call ATSDR. We have physicians, as well as
8 toxicologists, they can explain which test should
9 be run and how they should be run and then
10 interpretation of the data once the correct
11 information has been collected.

12 MR. LESINSKI: At this point we'll
13 allow 30 more seconds and then we'll move onto
14 the next question.

15 MS. HOUSE: I am Louise House and I'm
16 the senior regional rep from Boston here and I
17 just wanted to make you aware of a pediatric
18 clinic that we have a cooperative agreement with,
19 an occupational and environmental clinic out in
20 Cambridge, so after this meeting, let's touch
21 base and I will take your name and we can talk
22 more about it, but there is a pediatric clinic
23 that's available.

24 CONGRESSMAN KENNEDY: Can we identify

1 the doctor so everybody knows.

2 MS. HOUSE: That was Dr. Buck Grissom,
3 he is from Atlanta headquarters and he is a
4 toxicologist and he works with us.

5 CONGRESSMAN KENNEDY: Head
6 toxicologist. So he's an expert in the field, so
7 maybe we'll get Louise to get her phone number so
8 that your physician can contact the doctor so
9 that you can get the right information, because
10 your doctor might be looking at this and it seems
11 high, but the doctor might not have the
12 experience that this doctor has, so he maybe can
13 check it with this doctor to make sure it's not
14 out of the norm.

15 MS. GALLAGHER: My main concern is not
16 with her level but with her symptoms and the
17 problems we were having with her health. We were
18 taking her while camp was still in session, we
19 took her to the doctors for migraines, and at
20 that time we had no explanation, and at eight
21 years old she shouldn't be having that type of
22 migraine.

23 MR. LESINSKI: I'd just like to
24 interject here at this point. I just want to

1 move it along so we can have an opportunity for
2 other questions.

3 CONGRESSMAN KENNEDY: I think this is
4 an important question. I would just like to
5 reemphasize what Louise said, that there is a
6 pediatric clinic, I am confident that will be
7 totally free of charge for your child and you to
8 go and utilize, if not, we should make it free of
9 charge, and it seems to me any parent who has a
10 question like this, where if the child is
11 exhibiting any symptoms that their physician
12 feels can be related to this, you know, I can't
13 imagine where they can't get the necessary
14 expertise made available to them, and if you need
15 more information about how to get your child to
16 get up to visit that pediatric clinic and what,
17 and if you need any coverage in terms of health
18 insurance coverage, we'll work to make sure you
19 get that for free.

20 MR. LESINSKI: A response.

21 CAPTAIN WYMAN: We talked earlier
22 today, and Steve Sorgen here is from the Navy
23 Environmental Health Activity and we'll make sure
24 you get those normal parameters first thing in

1 the morning and then you can follow-up with the
2 pediatric clinic.

3 MS. GALLAGHER: Thanks.

4 MR. LESINSKI: Sir.

5 MS. RUTLEDGE: My name is Gayle
6 Rutledge. I was also a summer camp counselor at
7 MIA Activities Camp for seven years
8 approximately, and during that time between 60
9 and 70 children on a daily basis, all summer long
10 played on those facilities, not only on the ball
11 field, but on the shore where the contaminants
12 were eroding from underneath the soil that
13 covered them, so what are you going to do to
14 contact all those children over all those years
15 and the staff that work there? Are you going to
16 reach out to all those people?

17 MR. LESINSKI: Captain Wyman.

18 CAPTAIN WYMAN: Well, that's a good
19 question, and we've talked about how to find all
20 the people that have used the site. I think the
21 first thing to do is look at the data to see if
22 there's any problems with the site and
23 characterize it accurately, to see the level of
24 exposure that might have happened. The data that

1 we have now doesn't indicate that there should be
2 a problem, but with the new data that we collect,
3 we'll do that. As to how to find all those
4 people, that's a different problem, we'll have to
5 work on it.

6 CONGRESSMAN KENNEDY: I think it's
7 worth saying, this thing has been blown up big
8 time. I just want to reiterate, there's no
9 reason why people shouldn't have been concerned
10 when they read what they read in the newspaper,
11 but you have the head toxicologist, you have the
12 ATSDR, you have the EPA, the ones that started
13 this whole thing, say that they want to minimize
14 the alarm that comes from this, so let's get the
15 information before we assume we've got an
16 epidemic on our hands where we need to get out to
17 people and reach out to them and say, listen, you
18 may have been exposed. To what? That's what we
19 need to find out. So let's get the information,
20 let's get the test results, find out what it was
21 underneath that soil and find out if it's a harm,
22 and if it is a harm, then you can guaranty every
23 single person who's ever been exposed to it has a
24 right to get notified, but let's do first things

1 first, let's find out what's there before we
2 alarm anyone else unnecessarily, let's get the
3 real information. You have the very people who
4 said there was cause for alarm to begin with now
5 saying that based upon their initial review, that
6 maybe that shouldn't have been such a cause for
7 alarm. So, you know, I appreciate people feeling
8 concerned about what they may have been exposed
9 to, but you have everyone right now starting to
10 back pedal, okay, that means we need to get the
11 information, so that you have, but let's deal
12 with facts here, let's try to lower the temper
13 here, because I think, unfortunately, the temper
14 has been raised considerably by this thing having
15 been, you know, pushed out there without proper
16 scientific evidence.

17 MR. LESINSKI: Sir.

18 MR. GLASKOW: Yes. My name is Richard
19 Glaskow, and I'm a resident here, but I was also
20 in Vietnam from '68 to '70, and this, I guess
21 it's called orange, agent orange, and excuse me
22 for the speech impediment, agent orange never
23 existed until we finally threw it out of the
24 Government. My question, or my concern is, is

1 there an independent agency that is also doing
2 testing, no disrespect to anybody at the table,
3 but an independent agency that is also going to
4 be a check and balance or a follow-up on those
5 people who are doing the testing now?

6 MR. LESINSKI: Captain Wyman.

7 CAPTAIN WYMAN: I guess there are
8 numerous agencies involved and there are checks
9 and balances there, they include the
10 Environmental Protection Agency, who has the
11 overwatching mission on cleanup sites, there's
12 the Rhode Island Department of Environmental
13 Management who also has a role in monitoring the
14 cleanup sites and the Navy, and we work together,
15 and I think we're fairly independent, and we
16 generally work very closely with the data and we
17 make data-driven decisions. There is another
18 avenue, the other avenues are our Restoration
19 Advisory Board, which is a group of 20 community
20 members, who have access to all the documents,
21 anybody has access to all the documents, they're
22 in the public library on Aquidneck Island. We
23 meet once a month. There's also a group on the,
24 I think it's part --

1 CONGRESSMAN KENNEDY: Those members
2 who are a member of the Restoration Advisory
3 Board, why don't you stand up.

4 (SO DONE)

5 CONGRESSMAN KENNEDY: Okay, these are
6 all residents of your community who meet on a
7 regular basis with the Navy when they do these
8 tests and have the opportunity to voice the
9 concerns of the community if you feel the Navy
10 isn't doing the job they should do.

11 CAPTAIN WYMAN: The other group that
12 we have is a technical assistance grant, that's
13 provided by the EPA, but it's given to an
14 independent contractor who's working with the
15 Aquidneck Island Planning Commission, and I can't
16 think of the name of the company right now, but
17 he comes to all our meetings, he reviews all our
18 documents, he's very independent, he has a lot of
19 interest, because he is independent, he asks us
20 all very good questions, so in that vein, there's
21 lots of different agencies and I'm not sure how
22 much more independent you get, really from the
23 technical advisory group consultants help us.

24 CONGRESSMAN KENNEDY: I just want to

1 address, agent orange and the Persian Gulf
2 Syndrome are very real, it took a lot of veterans
3 to push that issue and push it hard, the Pentagon
4 was renascent to ever address it, so I definitely
5 hear what you're saying, and I appreciate your
6 concern. And we might add, we're going to have
7 to test not only your kids, but your kids
8 children to make sure we get an accurate
9 determination of whose families had veterans in
10 Vietnam, because this won't fully manifest itself
11 for generations the full effect of agent orange,
12 and, unfortunately, that would not have happened
13 had you not had public outcry that demanded, like
14 this, demanded full answers from the Department
15 of Pentagon.

16 MR. LESINSKI: Yes.

17 MS. CYR: Florence Cyr from
18 Middletown. I hear about the playground, the
19 daycare center. Where the Middletown Little
20 League played was on a dust ball, the whole site
21 was all dirt, dry, the kids would run, dirt would
22 be flying. Has the area been tested, that one
23 area, from the home plate from first, second to
24 third, the pitcher's mound, that area, not the

1 grass in the back, I want to know where my son
2 was playing right there?

3 CAPTAIN WYMAN: That's one of the
4 areas that we specifically took tests for last
5 week, and there are a couple from that area
6 earlier on, but we took more in that area just to
7 be sure, but we're very confident that that's
8 all, clean fill was brought in and then
9 additional sand was brought in, it's not part of
10 the site.

11 MS. CYR: Now, every year, you know it
12 rains, we get wind, the wind goes, you blow all
13 that sand around, do they keep putting more
14 topsoil to cover it every time we lose it or do
15 we keep going down and down? Because when I walk
16 on it to get my kid off of first base or on the
17 edge, he would going into like a little slump.
18 It wasn't hard, it was soft, mushy.

19 CAPTAIN WYMAN: I don't know how we
20 managed that field, but we'll get an answer to
21 that.

22 CONGRESSMAN KENNEDY: The new tests
23 don't only take on surface levels but also
24 subsurface levels, that is something that these

1 tests are doing now that weren't doing
2 previously, so they'll get the real deep stuff
3 and find out what's there, and those tests will
4 be made available, I understand, in December, but
5 they have to go through some evaluation process
6 so the people are shown what it means, but you
7 can be sure that I -- make sure you leave us your
8 name, anybody who wants to make sure those tests
9 are released, so that you get the information
10 ASAP.

11 MS. CYR: Okay.

12 MR. LESINSKI: We'll move along to the
13 next question here. Again, let me reiterate,
14 too, there will be sufficient time afterwards to
15 get names and addresses for people. We are
16 breaking slightly early so that can happen.
17 Let's go back there.

18 MS. MONIZ: My name is Suzanne Moniz.
19 I live here in Middletown myself. And my son,
20 who is eight years old, also experienced some
21 symptoms during the little league season, and due
22 for some testing for some other reasons, some
23 evidence came up that there may have been some
24 chemical exposure, and I'm just wondering, there

1 has been a partial listing of chemicals in the
2 newspaper, but are we looking for a more detailed
3 list to see, and then after the little league
4 season was over, his symptoms have disappeared,
5 so we do have the results from his blood test
6 that were during the season.

7 CONGRESSMAN KENNEDY: So maybe we'll
8 have the ATSDR go through the list of chemicals
9 that you tested for and what the level amounts
10 are that are requisite to have an effect on
11 children that are playing there. Can someone
12 talk about that, Louise, or?

13 MS. HOSSOM: Dr. Grissom. Let me have
14 someone.

15 CONGRESSMAN KENNEDY: Are you
16 deferring your question?

17 MS. HOUSE: It's a little more
18 complicated. We have a whole pile of them.

19 CONGRESSMAN KENNEDY: I've got a list
20 here of the ones that I've been given and they're
21 level amounts. Maybe you can give us a thumbnail
22 sketch as an expert what this means, just to
23 allay some concerns.

24 CAPTAIN OAKLEAF: This will take an

1 hour to do.

2 MS. MONIZ: Actually, I would like to
3 get a listing of them so we can do a comparison.
4 I was hoping that it was going to be provided in
5 the packet.

6 CAPTAIN WYMAN: We'll get you the list
7 before you leave tonight.

8 MR. LESINSKI: At the end we can wrap
9 up and we can provide that type of information.
10 I'll move on to another question.

11 CONGRESSMAN KENNEDY: No, let the lady
12 ask the question. What is it that you want?

13 MS. MONIZ: Well, the second part
14 would also be like the means of contact with the
15 chemicals. I know after my son played little
16 league he had to go in the bathtub, he was
17 covered from head to toe. I found that field to
18 be rather windy during the time he played there,
19 and also times it was very, very wet and
20 saturated, where one of our practices was
21 canceled because it was so flooded, so, also, we
22 wonder if it's from wet soil being on them or
23 from breathing in the dry soils, or, I mean, he
24 had it in his ears, up his nose, everywhere when

1 we were finished playing, he's just a regular
2 eight-year-old boy, but now thinking back I can
3 remember these things.

4 CONGRESSMAN KENNEDY: Right. It seems
5 to me we want ATSDR to give a thumbnail sketch
6 for people based upon what is out there.

7 First of all, we don't know what's out
8 there because the last tests that were done, that
9 caused this alarm did not measure very highly on
10 their Richter scale in terms of harmful, okay.
11 The only thing that registered was, oh, my God,
12 this is being used even more and more and more
13 and we've got to watch and make sure that we can
14 maybe test this again, and then all of a sudden
15 the lights went off. So what we should do now is
16 get these test results back, find out what's out
17 there, and then if what's out there is in
18 sufficient a quantity where if child is playing
19 and getting covered themselves, okay, what risks
20 would that pose, and that doesn't seem to me like
21 too difficult a question to have the experts
22 answer, and we'll have them correlate the
23 evidence from the tests with the age group and
24 the high level of activity that took place there

1 and let them determine what the cause will be for
2 those children, if there's any cause, given what
3 they've shown to be the results from the tests.

4 MS. MONIZ: Thank you.

5 MR. LESINSKI: Okay, sir.

6 CAPTAIN WYMAN: Just to follow up on
7 that, a very quick follow up. In the near future
8 we will be working with the Navy, environmental
9 health people and the ATSDR to come up with a
10 little more technical arrangement, with a release
11 to get the physicians so that they can answer
12 your questions just like that, and if parents
13 would be interested in that, more details, you
14 know, what is the level, or what kind of contact
15 might be a problem and those sort of things so
16 the physicians would know how to answer your
17 questions. We should be putting that out within
18 the next couple of weeks.

19 CONGRESSMAN KENNEDY: We already had
20 Louise tonight mention to you that there's a
21 pediatric clinic up in Boston that is already
22 ready to make themselves available, so your
23 physician, if you should consult a physician, so
24 we'll make sure that gets out there ASAP.

1 MR. LESINSKI: Terry, do you have a
2 comment?

3 MR. GRAY: I would just like to defer
4 a little follow to Dr. Vanderslice from the Rhode
5 Island Department of Health.

6 DR. VANDERSLICE: The Health
7 Department recognizes that routine pediatric
8 screening for lead is appropriate. Right now we
9 require that all children get screened at least
10 once a year for lead poisoning. I brought along
11 a letter that you can bring to your physician, it
12 talks about the levels of lead we found at Katy
13 Field, it also talks about the background rate of
14 lead poisoning in the State. We think that the
15 first step is for parents of small children to go
16 to their pediatrician, talk to them about it,
17 have them do the screening. The Navy has
18 offered, for those of you who don't have care,
19 that they can provide that screening as well. So
20 if you'd like a letter to your physician that
21 talks about these recommendations for screening
22 and follow-up, come see me after the meeting, I
23 will be happy to talk to you and give you the
24 information.

1 MR. LESINSKI: Thank you. Come up.

2 MR. CONDRY: Yes. Thank you. My name
3 is Michael Condry, Middletown, Middletown Little
4 League Vice President.

5 First of all, thank you all for coming
6 tonight and trying to help ease some of the
7 concerns of our community, our little league
8 parents, and, also, thank you to the Navy to
9 allow us to use the field, we appreciate that.
10 However, I think one of the things I'm concerned
11 with as a parent and also as a league officer is
12 that when the people came here tonight, do they
13 feel comfortable when they leave here tonight.
14 You mentioned the additional tests. I think as a
15 parent I'm concerned now. Do I feel comfortable,
16 do I want to run out to the doctor, do I want to
17 use the Navy facility or would I like to have a
18 facility in a neutral area, where my own
19 physician or something that allows us to go and
20 take the test and get results and feel a little
21 more comfortable. What I'd like to propose, if
22 possible, is to have a meeting in January, which
23 will, the same setup, discuss the results. Make
24 us feel at ease. There's nothing, like you said,

1 the main concern is the children here, and
2 whether anybody is trying to hide anything or
3 whether the tests aren't showing what they're
4 supposed to, that's not important right now. The
5 important thing is it to make everybody relax and
6 go about their business and enjoy what's coming
7 up in the holidays and come back and play
8 baseball next year. So thank you for all that
9 you've done so far, but, please, make these
10 people feel at ease when they leave here tonight.
11 I think that's what we're here for. Thank you
12 very much.

13 MR. LESINSKI: I'd like to open up, if
14 there's a response from our panel members on
15 that.

16 MR. BERGER: I'm thinking out loud
17 here. First of all, yes, we will do that,
18 there's no question we'll do that, we'll come
19 here for as often, for as long as you want, if it
20 helps to allay any concerns. Go back to what I
21 said before, we didn't raise the flag of a health
22 threat, we raised a caution flag that we can't
23 guaranty that there isn't one, that doesn't mean
24 there is one. Sometimes when the Government

1 overreacts to something, people think the worst,
2 I guess that's human nature, editorial comment.

3 In answer to your question, though, can we
4 get the results of the risk assessment by the end
5 of January, or is that -- can we do it faster
6 than that?

7 MS. HANNA: Yes. If the Navy gets it,
8 we can comment on it.

9 MR. BERGER: When is the fastest we
10 can have an answer to that?

11 MR. LESINSKI: Would you please stand
12 up and identify yourself for the record.

13 MS. HANNA: Cindy Hanna with EPA, Risk
14 Assessment. I would be reviewing the risk
15 assessment, so that as soon as the Navy could get
16 the risk assessment to us, I mean within a week
17 or so.

18 MR. BERGER: Right after the week of
19 January 1st?

20 MS. HANNA: Yes, sure.

21 MR. BERGER: Pick a day. You pick a
22 day, we'll be here.

23 CONGRESSMAN KENNEDY: Okay. My office
24 will organize it. We'll organize it like we did

1 this one. You'll hear from me, we will a do
2 another forum just like this, and we'll do it
3 sometime, as soon as we can, the beginning of
4 January, okay.

5 MR. LESINSKI: All the way in back.
6 Ma'am.

7 MS. GOWEL: Tina Gowel. You say that
8 the only thing that you really need to be worried
9 about is lead, the possibility of lead. There's
10 a parent over there, there's another parent over
11 there that have had their children tested. I
12 want to take my children to their own family
13 physician, as I know every parent here does, we
14 don't want to go to the Navy, and we do
15 appreciate you letting us use Katy Field, but if
16 there hadn't been a field taken us away from us
17 in Middletown, then our children wouldn't have
18 had to play on that field, so next year the Town
19 of Middletown runs into the same trouble with our
20 minor leagues, so maybe the Town Council can look
21 into doing something for us for that so that we
22 don't have the same problem come next year.

23 As far as the testing, I'd like to know
24 exactly what my doctor needs to be testing for,

1 and I know that you say you're going to give us
2 that information, but a month or two months,
3 three months down the road, why can't we go and
4 get tested tomorrow or next week if we know what
5 they're supposed to be looking for.

6 CONGRESSMAN KENNEDY: Come on up,
7 Doctor. Come up on.

8 MR. LESINSKI: State your name for the
9 record.

10 DR. GRISSOM: Buck Grissom. There is
11 the (inaudible) case studies in environmental
12 medicine and its training and education provided
13 specifically for physicians that evaluate
14 exposures to environmental contaminants, such as
15 arsenic or lead or some of the volatile organic
16 compounds, it's available from the agency, they
17 get continuing medical education for this, and it
18 goes into some detail as to what we should be
19 looking for, what tests should be run and
20 specific information that will aid them in making
21 the diagnosis. The arsenic and lead of these
22 other contaminants are only visible. This is the
23 case study environmental medicine for arsenic, so
24 I have one if anybody wants to see it. Arsenic

1 can be seen in medical testing for two, three,
2 maybe four days, it doesn't store in the body, so
3 in order to evaluate the exposure, it requires
4 that the test be run reasonably soon after the
5 exposure. For lead, it can be seen in the blood
6 for two, maybe three months, it's also excreted,
7 but it does store in the body, it stores in the
8 bones; however, evaluating that is not something
9 that can be done one year after exposure or six
10 months after exposure, because they don't stay in
11 the body indefinitely and aren't visible for a
12 long period of time.

13 MS. GOWEL: What about the
14 petroleum-based chemicals that were used, the
15 gasoline in the soil?

16 DR. GRISSOM: Those are --

17 MR. LESINSKI: You've got another
18 minute.

19 DR. GRISSOM: Those are only visible
20 for a few hours. The volatile chemicals are
21 rapidly lost in the body through inhalation, they
22 don't stay in the body very long at all, so it's
23 going to require same day, as matter of fact,
24 depending on the level of exposure, the

1 evaluation has to be made very quickly, but
2 because they're lost in the body so rapidly, it's
3 hard to evaluate those in terms of the effects
4 that are likely to be seen. From gasoline, the
5 most acute effects are neurological, headache,
6 not feeling so good, but it's transient, it comes
7 and goes.

8 CAPTAIN WYMAN: Dr. Vanderslice from
9 the Rhode Island Department of Health would like
10 to follow up.

11 DR. VANDERSLICE: I would just like to
12 say that right now the surface soils and the
13 chemical exposures appear not much different than
14 any other place in Rhode Island, so I think
15 medical testing is very appropriate for lead,
16 we're requiring that for the state as a whole,
17 because we have a real lead poisoning problem in
18 the state and that's not unique to Katy Field or
19 any other place, so I think that lead is a good
20 place to start. I had this letter for your
21 physician that talks about the results, and then
22 if we get back the test results in this next
23 round of samplings that identify something of
24 concern that we didn't see before, I think that's

1 the appropriate time to get ATSDR involved,
2 working with your physician and talking about
3 additional tests that might be needed, but given
4 the current level of information, I think the
5 lead tests were appropriate and I don't think
6 additional tests are needed unless the child is
7 asymptomatic and the doc has a reason to question
8 them further.

9 CONGRESSMAN KENNEDY: A few more
10 questions.

11 MR. SORGAN: I would like to echo
12 that. My name is Steve Sorgan. I work at the
13 Navy Environmental Health Center down in Norfolk,
14 Virginia, and we're a public health organization
15 within the Navy who reviews all of the Navy risk
16 assessment for environmental cleanup, and in
17 reviewing the information from Katy Field, the
18 levels of the materials on the site would not
19 indicate that there's any need to do medical
20 testing; however, because of the problems with
21 lead poisoning in the State of Rhode Island, we
22 also would recommend that all of you have your
23 children tested for lead in accordance with the
24 state regulation, so I would just like to echo

1 that, but at this point we don't have any
2 indication that the level of materials that
3 remain at Katy Field are a problem. The key is,
4 this new information will be added to the
5 information that we already have and it will
6 confirm that we do not have a problem, but it
7 will tell us something new that we don't know and
8 haven't known in the past.

9 MR. LESINSKI: We're going to have
10 time for two more questions. This a very brief
11 follow-up.

12 CONGRESSMAN KENNEDY: The woman in the
13 back.

14 MS. COTTRELL: I'd like to address a
15 question to Captain Wyman.

16 MR. LESINSKI: Your name, please,
17 ma'am.

18 MS. COTTRELL: Margaret Cottrell. I'm
19 a resident of Middletown. You went over a period
20 of time when they closed the daycare center and
21 went to the YMCA. What year did they close that
22 daycare center?

23 CAPTAIN WYMAN: We think they closed
24 it in 1994. It was about the same time as the

1 assessment came out, but it was on the same time
2 that the building was done.

3 MS. COTTRELL: Okay. Thank you.

4 MR. LESINSKI: We've got time for one
5 more question. Ma'am.

6 MS. ENOS: I'm Elizabeth Enos and I'm
7 on the Restoration Advisory Board as a community
8 member from Newport, Rhode Island, and I would
9 just like to say that I think the Navy has bent
10 over backwards to really involve the community in
11 their cleanup at all of the Navy sites. All of
12 the information is available in the Middletown,
13 Portsmouth and Newport library, on the documents
14 that we have been studying and the meetings are
15 open and ads are posted before each meeting, and
16 I suggest perhaps more members from the
17 community, if you really want to follow this
18 closely, I believe that the Navy has made a
19 sincere effort to do the right thing. They have
20 done this and they'll follow through this evening
21 to address the concerns, and we're very fortunate
22 that they have been a good neighbor.

23 MR. LESINSKI: Some follow-up?

24 CONGRESSMAN KENNEDY: Why don't you

1 get another question in there.

2 MR. LESINSKI: Okay, one more question
3 in. Ma'am.

4 MS. SAUNDERS: Diana Saunders,
5 Middletown resident. According to this paper
6 that you handed out to us tonight, in '93 and '94
7 you found the pesticides, the polynuclear
8 aromatic hydrocarbons, whatever that stuff is.
9 Now, when our little league went to that field to
10 use it, to our knowledge, none of these things
11 were told to us, so we sent our kids to these
12 daycare centers, we sent our kids to these little
13 league fields, nobody told us about these
14 products being on them. We have the right to
15 know whether or not we want to use that field.
16 Why were we not notified until four years after
17 the first test about these things?

18 MR. LESINSKI: Captain Wyman.

19 CAPTAIN WYMAN: That's another good
20 question. Just the fact that the materials were
21 there doesn't mean that there's a significant
22 concentration to cause any kind of a health
23 problem. In our interpretation of the data it
24 showed that it wasn't a significant risk for

1 recreational use and so there was no need to put
2 the word out and cause a lot of concern. These
3 chemicals are, like the doctor said, are in the
4 environment all over the place and we will do
5 some more studies now, but at the time we didn't
6 think there was sufficient concern with the
7 limited amount of exposure to warrant putting up
8 signs.

9 MS. SAUNDERS: Doesn't that give us
10 the right to choose whether we want to expose our
11 children? You knew they were there. We have the
12 right to choose that.

13 CONGRESSMAN KENNEDY: Let's answer the
14 lady's question.

15 MS. MONIZ: I just wanted to add and
16 ask the gentleman from the EPA, that you had said
17 earlier in May you were concerned. Our kids
18 didn't start playing little league until the end
19 of May, beginning of July, and we were never
20 told. We weren't given the choice of saying, no,
21 we don't want our kids to play on a site, we may
22 or may not have. I have all the articles from
23 the paper, and from what everyone has said
24 tonight, everyone contradicts what they said

1 earlier to the media, that they heard in the
2 news, that you just said earlier that there
3 weren't high lead levels and in the newspaper
4 they said they were 20 times higher than the
5 residential, and you just said that they weren't,
6 that they were residentially safe. So I just
7 want, I guess, just some clarification of what
8 actually is the story, if there can be someone
9 that can writeup a whole script of the truth and
10 what our kids should and shouldn't be exposed to.

11 MR. LESINSKI: Mr. Berger, a response.

12 MR. BERGER: I wish, if we had done
13 things differently kind of an answer, we probably
14 could have had this meeting four or five months
15 ago and you still would be asking the same
16 questions, perhaps.

17 MS. MONIZ: Our kids wouldn't have
18 played on the field.

19 MR. BERGER: Everything is
20 retrospective. Let me answer your question. If
21 we had told you four months ago that there's
22 probably polynuclear aromatics, don't feel bad, I
23 can't say them either, if we told you they were
24 there, your next question would be "so what."

1 No, you misunderstand me. "What does that mean?"
2 Semantics is important here.

3 MS. MONIZ: Wouldn't that have given
4 you the --

5 MR. BERGER: And we could not tell you
6 what that means at the time, and we still can't
7 until we look at this new data, and, also, in
8 taking into account what lead is there, what
9 other chemicals are there, all of them acting
10 together can produce an effect where each one
11 individually would not, so this is a science to
12 do this, and we can't give you that answer
13 without the rest of this data.

14 MS. MONIZ: But we're feeling like
15 we're guinea pigs in your lab experiment, and we
16 should have been told. If you knew in May there
17 was a problem, we should have been told so our
18 kids -- I don't want my son to be a lab rat. He
19 sleeps with a baseball glove that's probably
20 covered in filth every night of the year. How am
21 I supposed to know he's not sleeping with a lead
22 contaminated glove?

23 MS. HOSSOM: I would like to address
24 that. I think from the samples that were

1 collected, there was some 60 odd samples that
2 were collected for lead and one of those 60 came
3 back with an elevated lead level. So I think
4 from ATSDR's perspective, it's a chance
5 occurrence that someone could come in contact
6 with that one area after they've been playing all
7 over the field, playing in the swing set, having
8 a picnic there, it's a very rare thing for
9 someone to contact with that one spot where that
10 sample is collected. So I think your concerns
11 are warranted because there's been a lot of
12 miscommunication, a lot of misinformation, the
13 press has misquoted, I think the lack of
14 information that's been sent out from an
15 educational standpoint and a public relations
16 standpoint, your concerns are understandable, but
17 I think to put it in perspective, I think it's a
18 chance occurrence that anybody can come in
19 contact with that one sample, and based on how
20 everybody spends more time in moving around, I
21 think, you know, you need to put it in
22 perspective that it's a very odd occurrence and
23 that the chance of people having health effects
24 from that one sample is very, very rare and very

1 unlikely.

2 MS. MONIZ: Right. I work in the
3 medical field, that it's a rare chance that I'll
4 come in contact with certain communicable
5 diseases, but we treat everyone with severe
6 caution for that once chance. We should have
7 been told. That's all I have.

8 MR. LESINSKI: I would like to limit
9 it to minute more.

10 MR. SORGAN: I would like to amplify
11 just a little bit more, too. I know when you
12 hear things like polynuclear aromatic
13 hydrocarbons, those are really scary sounding
14 things, but just to help you put things in
15 perspective a little bit, is that these are the
16 kinds of things that you get from combustion,
17 from burning and from burning fuels, the kind of
18 fuels that are in your car, and probably the most
19 common places that you will encounter these
20 things is asphalt. If you test the soil around
21 an asphalt tennis court, you're going to find
22 polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons, the same ones,
23 different concentrations possibly, but the same
24 ones that you have at Katy Field. And the other

1 thing that you need to know, too, is that for
2 many years we use lead gas in cars. If you test
3 many of the soils around your school yards, and
4 they're along highways, you will find lead in
5 those soils. Again, it may not be the same
6 level, but these are things that we get, we as
7 adults and our children are exposed to
8 constantly. Our exposures are not going to come
9 from a single source. What we have to do is
10 separate what comes from Katy Field or other
11 environmental exposures or our background
12 exposure, and that's what we're going to be
13 trying to do with our additional samplings.

14 MR. LESINSKI: At this point --

15 CONGRESSMAN KENNEDY: There's another
16 person.

17 MR. LESINSKI: I'll take one more, one
18 more question.

19 MS. GOWEL: Sir, would you also say
20 that about PCBs, are they comparable to?

21 MR. SORGAN: Yes, ma'am, indeed, I
22 would. PCBs are everywhere in the environment.
23 They've been tested and found even in core
24 samples at the North Pole. They are very wildly

1 disseminated. Believe it or not, they're, again,
2 they're very persistent in the environment, once
3 they're there, they stay a long time and they're
4 able to travel a long distance because of this. ✓

5 THE AUDIENCE: PCB stays in the soil?

6 MR. SORGAN: Yes, they stay in the
7 soil.

8 MS. GOWEL: When they had to do
9 construction over, they tested for PCB in more
10 than two feet of topsoil.

11 MR. SORGAN: There's more to the PCB
12 story and I'll be happy to talk to you a little
13 bit about PCBs after the meeting, so I am a
14 resource for you.

15 CONGRESSMAN KENNEDY: I think we got a
16 little bit more time.

17 MR. LESINSKI: I was told 6:25.

18 CONGRESSMAN KENNEDY: It's all right.
19 In the way back. Who wants to go?

20 DIANE: My name is Diane, I live in
21 Newport, and my daughter attended the daycare
22 from 7:30 to 5:00, and I just feel a little
23 uneasy about the situation. It's just, it's
24 overwhelming just waiting for the results, and I

1 probably should have my daughter tested, she was
2 there from June to August, so I think I need to
3 have her tested, but I didn't know if I should
4 wait for the screening, you know, whatever you
5 have, I wasn't sure really what. I'm going to
6 have her tested. I'm not going to wait.

7 CONGRESSMAN KENNEDY: Okay.

8 MR. LESINSKI: Any comment? I would
9 like to see if there is any panel response to
10 that before I move onto the next question.

11 MS. HOSSOM: Yes. Actually, I think,
12 no, from a scientific standpoint, I think there's
13 no indication that anything will show up, but as
14 a parent I understand your concern in having your
15 kid tested would show the condition of what that
16 child has been exposed to. I think you also need
17 to understand that that is the first step, then
18 you need to find out what that child was exposed
19 to and how did they get, whatever chemical was
20 found, how did get that. We learned that some
21 vitamins contain certain chemicals, like
22 manganese, that seafood that we eat contains high
23 level of the arsenic, so I think it's the first
24 step, I think sampling is the first step, and the

1 second step is if the results come back with
2 elevated levels, whatever that means, then the
3 investigation continues on how that child was
4 exposed.

5 DIANE: When did the first article
6 come out?

7 MS. MONIZ: I have it right here. The
8 first article was October 28th.

9 DIANE: Okay. I think, I mean, that's
10 the first.

11 CONGRESSMAN KENNEDY: Okay. Another
12 question over here.

13 MS. SCHULTZ: My name is Taylor
14 Schultz and I live in Newport, also, and my
15 concern is I was a summer camp counselor over
16 there this past summer and I'm pregnant and was
17 pregnant throughout the whole camp, and I just
18 would like to know, you know, what type of effect
19 this might have on a developing baby. You know,
20 I don't know if you can give me a name of a
21 pediatrician or who I need to contact to find if
22 I need to be tested or if they can test the baby
23 or what I need to do.

24 MR. LESINSKI: ATSDR.

1 MS. HOUSE: Hi. Again, after this
2 meeting, if you want to give me your name and I
3 will put you in contact with somebody. We have
4 an agreement with a bunch of associations for
5 occupational environmental health clinics, and we
6 have actually nine of them in this region, so
7 we're very fortunate, so we can give you a list
8 of people that you could get in touch with and
9 they can answer those kinds of questions for you,
10 because that's their area of expertise, they're
11 very familiar with chemicals and the sequelae and
12 how they effect you and your child and I'll be
13 glad to help you out.

14 CONGRESSMAN KENNEDY: Who else?

15 MR. LESINSKI: Let me make one
16 suggestion at the end, before we wrap up, if all
17 the subject matter experts would kind of
18 congregate down this end, if people do have
19 questions or they want information, please come
20 forward and contact those people, I know they
21 made statements that they will get in touch with
22 you, but why don't they all come up over here.

23 CONGRESSMAN KENNEDY: Also, everyone
24 is free to contact my office because I'm in

1 contact with all of these individuals, so if you
2 fail to get their number specifically, don't feel
3 that you can't just call me and I'll make sure
4 that it works out for you, in terms of getting
5 the necessary information. Other final
6 questions?

7 MR. BART: Roger Bart. I'm Roger
8 Bark, a retired Navy captain, and I don't care
9 who answers this, but it's certainly been in the
10 papers, the implication that Katy Field is a
11 Superfund site. I think that this ought to be
12 clarified. Katy Field is not a Superfund site
13 and I think people ought to be aware of that.

14 CONGRESSMAN KENNEDY: Well, let me
15 just -- go ahead.

16 MR. BERGER: It is not the Superfund
17 site, but it is a very significant part of it,
18 and it is the subject of a subsequent remedial
19 action. In other words, some day there will be a
20 cleanup there, there will be an expensive,
21 substantive, long-term cleanup of the subsurface
22 contamination that's there.

23 MR. BART: Well, let me ask you one
24 question.

1 MR. BERGER: So in every way, shape
2 and form in my way of definition, it is a clearly
3 a major part of a Superfund.

4 MR. BART: Would it have been a
5 Superfund site on its own? Would the Navy base
6 have been a Superfund site on the Navy station,
7 as it's now called, NETC, just on the basis of
8 Katy Field? The Captain said it was on the base
9 basis of McAllister Point.

10 MR. BERGER: I'm going to give you an
11 answer followed up by an I think, because you
12 can't just kick the dirt and look at that. There
13 is a scientific basis by which we determine
14 whether the site qualifies for the NTL list, but
15 my understanding is Katy Field in and of itself
16 would qualify.

17 MR. LESINSKI: Terry Gray, some
18 follow-up.

19 MR. GRAY: I just wanted to add one
20 thing from a state perspective. This site in the
21 subsurface below the surface is contaminated, and
22 if it didn't on its own rank as a Superfund site,
23 the Department of Environmental Management would
24 compel a very similar investigation and cleanup,

1 so one way or another this site was going to be
2 addressed.

3 CONGRESSMAN KENNEDY: Okay.

4 MR. LESINSKI: I think at this point
5 I'm going to turn the podium back over to
6 Representative Kennedy for some closing remarks.
7 Thank you.

8 CONGRESSMAN KENNEDY: Well, let's hear
9 it for Brian for being a great moderator tonight.

10 (ROUND OF APPLAUSE)

11 CONGRESSMAN KENNEDY: Especially for
12 his putting up with me, "right here, no, no, ask
13 another question." We appreciate that.

14 Let me just say in conclusion, hindsight is
15 20/20, if we were do to things differently, I
16 know EPA would have acted differently, Navy would
17 have acted differently. If you look at this from
18 a public relations point, it was an utter
19 disaster on both EPA's part and the Navy's part.
20 There are too many things that beg questioning,
21 the move of the childcare center at exactly the
22 same time that the initial review in '94 was
23 done. I mean, it would beg the question why did
24 they move the childcare center was because they

1 found something, and then if they did, why didn't
2 they notify anyone else. There are too many
3 questions like that that beg answers. I think
4 tonight we got some of the answers. There are
5 too many things that correspond, unfortunately,
6 to create an atmosphere here, just like the
7 Superfund question. I mean, the fact of the
8 matter is, as itself, the Katy Field needs to be
9 cleaned up, but when you talk about it as a
10 Superfund site, boy, you've got everyone's alarms
11 going off. When you correspond it as a Superfund
12 site and then -- say it's not a Superfund site,
13 let's just say you test the field, you come up
14 with tests that even the EPA say, well, in
15 instances of people can use this, but unless it's
16 really high use, maybe they shouldn't, maybe we
17 should test it some more. Does that sound like a
18 Superfund site to you? It doesn't to me, not in
19 the order that we've read about in the newspaper.
20 Do we need to get more answers? You bet. But
21 you can clearly see tonight where there's been a
22 lot of, you know, high velocity rhetoric about
23 this and that hasn't helped parents, because if
24 you're a parent, you're worried about your child,

1 you're going to take the worst case scenario,
2 that's where it wasn't helpful to the public
3 interest, but all I can say now is we're on
4 track, we've gotten the tests done, okay, the
5 tests are going to be looked through and
6 confirmed, and anything that identifies a red
7 flag, okay, if they find more lead levels that
8 are unusually low, or let's say they find high
9 levels of other contaminants, you can bet that
10 when we meet again in the beginning of January,
11 you'll know about every last one, all right, so,
12 and then tonight we heard from people who would
13 be willing to put in you touch with physicians
14 that know about this, so if your physician isn't
15 familiar with how to test or what these tests
16 mean, you can put them in touch with someone who
17 knows how to help them discern what it is that
18 they're testing. So all I can say is I think
19 tonight, in conclusion, we're all on the right
20 track now, so people can feel some sense that
21 there isn't a big unknown anymore, all we need to
22 know is what the latest test results reveal, and
23 when that comes in, you can be sure that we're
24 going to come back, and not only educate you to

1 what those test results reveal, but what you
2 should do now that you have those test results,
3 if they reveal anything that you should do, okay.

4 So I would just encourage all of you who
5 have any final questions that you haven't been
6 able to get answered by these panelists, if you
7 don't get them answered before you leave here
8 tonight, you can be in touch with my office and
9 you can be sure I will get them answered on your
10 behalf.

11 I thank you all for coming tonight. I look
12 forward to seeing you in January.

13 (HEARING CONCLUDED AT 6:40 P.M.)

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
PROVIDENCE, SC.

I, REBECCA J. FORTE, do hereby certify that I am expressly approved as a person qualified and authorized to take depositions pursuant to Rules of Civil Procedure of this Court, especially, but without restriction thereto, under Rules; that transcript contains a true record of proceedings.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I hereunto set my hand this
24th day of November, 1998.



REBECCA J. FORTE
Notary Public
Shorthand Reporter
My Commission Expires 7/15/2001

6/98D

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