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IOWA ARMY AMMUNITION PLANT

PUBLIC MEETING

AUGUST 18, 1993

7:00 P.M.

APPEARANCES:

Mr. Derek A. Romitti  
Project Manager, Installation Restoration  
U. S. Army Environmental Center  
Installation Restoration Division  
Building E4480  
Aberdeen Proving Grounds, Maryland 21010-5401

Mr. Leon D. Baxter  
Industrial Engineer  
Iowa Army Ammunition Plant  
R.R. 1  
Middletown, Iowa 52638

Transcript of public meeting proceedings held on  
the 18th day of August, 1993, in the Council Chambers,  
City Hall, Burlington, Iowa, before M. Jane Weingart, a  
Certified Shorthand Reporter of the State of Iowa.

1 (Time: 7:00 p.m.)

2 MR. ROMITTI: It's 7 o'clock, so we're going  
3 to go ahead and get going. Welcome. My name is Derek  
4 Romitti. I want to thank you all for coming out this  
5 evening. I have a sign-in sheet at the front door. If  
6 you hadn't had a chance to sign it, please do so before  
7 you leave tonight.

8 I also have some handouts up on the front  
9 table. I have a fact sheet of what we're actually  
10 trying to accomplish here tonight; I have a comment  
11 sheet that you have a chance, you can fill it out  
12 tonight and just leave it here or give it a week's  
13 time, you can send it to the address that's on the  
14 sheet that's out to the ammo plant.

15 I also have an information sheet on RDX, the  
16 explosive compound that we found off post. If you do  
17 not accept the public water, we're asking you to sign a  
18 refusal form just for our records. It's not legally  
19 binding to you or anything, it's just for our files so  
20 we can try to keep straight who wants the water and who  
21 doesn't.

22 We also have a -- Mason and Hanger has put  
23 together an information folder on production  
24 capabilities and what is going on at the plant.

25 The agenda tonight, I'm just going to give a

1 short presentation and I'm going to open it up for  
2 questions from the floor. When you ask your question,  
3 could you please state your name first. We have a  
4 court reporter here tonight; we're just trying to keep  
5 records for the administrative file.

6 We're just going to follow along giving the  
7 background of what we found, how we plan on solving the  
8 problem.

9 I would like to introduce some key people  
10 here tonight.

11 Leon Baxter, who's the chief engineer at the  
12 plant's Protection Office.

13 Joe Shannan, who's the division manager of  
14 the plant's Environmental Safety and Health Division at  
15 Mason and Hanger.

16 Tim Howard, who's come down from our  
17 headquarters in AMCCOM in Rock Island.

18 We have Ms. Vicki Stoller is from,  
19 representative of Jim Lightfoot's office here tonight.

20 We have a couple of representatives from  
21 Rathbun water Company, John Glenn, and then Steve  
22 Sherrard.

23 Again, my name is Derek Romitti. I work for  
24 the U.S. Army's Environmental Center, and just to give  
25 you a little background, we're located in Aberdeen

1 Proving Ground in Maryland, which is about 20 miles  
2 northeast of Baltimore. We were established in 1975.  
3 Our primary function is environmental restoration and  
4 clean-up of active army installations.

5                   56106  
6                   This light is just a typical flow chart of  
7 how a normal or average environmental investigation is  
8 done. The first block is called a preliminary  
9 assessment, or a PA, and this area what we're trying to  
10 do is identify sites where possibly we might have  
11 handled, stored or disposed of a hazardous waste or  
12 hazardous constituent, and we do this by going through  
13 and reviewing the records of the plant, operational  
14 practices, interviews of current and former employees  
15 to see how things were actually performed at the plant.

16                   Then we do a site investigation, or the SI,  
17 and this is the first phase where we actually take some  
18 environmental samples.

19                   If we find anything in this site  
20 investigation phase, we move on to what is called the  
21 remedial investigation, or the RI, and in this phase  
22 what we're trying to determine is how much is present  
23 and how widespread it is, sometimes referred to as  
24 nature and extent.

25                   Once we determine that, we move on to the  
feasibility study, and in this study what we're trying

1 to do is evaluate different technologies that we can  
2 use to clean up this contamination. Once that best one  
3 is determined, we put that in what is called a proposed  
4 plan, we put it out for public review, and what we're  
5 saying is, This is what we believe is the most  
6 cost-effective and the most advanced and best  
7 technology we have to meet the goals of clean-up, and  
8 then that is open for public comment.

9 And once that period closes, we go to the  
10 record of decision, or what is called a ROD, in which  
11 the EPA, the State, the community and the Army agrees  
12 on that final clean-up, and then the remediation takes  
13 place or the actual clean-up takes place.

14 Now, any time during this phase if there's a  
15 need, if there is a threat to human health or the  
16 environment, we can perform an interim action which  
17 says we don't have the time to do all these other  
18 actions; we know we have a problem, let's go in and try  
19 to mitigate the problem.

20 Now, the current status in our program, we  
21 completed a preliminary assessment and a site  
22 investigation phase in February of '92. The remedial  
23 investigation we split out into two separate field  
24 investigations based on the large number of sites that  
25 we're looking at. We've investigated 43 different

1 sites, we've taken nearly 7,000 environmental samples,  
2 which includes soil, groundwater, surface water and  
3 sediment samples. That report will be due this October  
4 to both the State of Iowa and Region 17 EPA.

5 Once that record report is submitted and  
6 commented on, our feasibility study to evaluate those  
7 technologies to clean up the site that is due in March  
8 of '94 and then our plan will go out for public comment  
9 and then our actual record of decision, which is our  
10 decided upon clean-up criteria, is scheduled for  
11 January of '95.

12 The major findings from the remedial  
13 investigation. What we found were that surface waters  
14 at the installation boundary contained an elevated  
15 number of explosives, primarily RDX, which is just an  
16 abbreviation for research development explosive, so  
17 what we wanted to do is, was to determine if there was  
18 any impact for any of these people living along the  
19 surface water streams off those. What we tried to do,  
20 we tried to get a mix-up of shallow and deep water for  
21 wells. The problem was, there weren't too many deep  
22 wells. Among these wells we only had one. That well  
23 was at 800 feet.

24 Of the six initial wells that we tested, two  
25 of them contained RDX above the health advisory -- and

1 I'll explain what the health advisory is here in a  
2 minute. So, based on that information we have did an  
3 extensive off-post sampling effort in which we sampled  
4 an additional 54 homes. Of those 54, we found three  
5 more that contained RDX above the health advisory, so  
6 that makes for a total of five.

7 Now, as an interim measure just to keep  
8 people from being exposed to this water, we are  
9 currently offering or providing bottled water to all  
10 five of the residents.

11 Just a little background. There is a handout  
12 up here on RDX, but just to try to explain what it is,  
13 is a crystalline solid that's used as a high-energy  
14 explosive in the manufacture of munitions. It is a  
15 nitroaromatic compound.

16 The health advisory for RDX was generated by  
17 both by the Army and the EPA's Office of Drinking  
18 Water, which says that if you are exposed to drinking  
19 water only, the health advisory would be set at 10  
20 parts per billion. I know these are hard numbers to  
21 kind of understand. What we try to use as a reference  
22 is one part per billion is equal to one drop of water  
23 in an Olympic-size swimming pool.

24 The two part per billion criteria that's up  
25 there includes other pathways for exposure, not just

1 drinking. If you're using it for showering there's a  
2 possibility of inhalation or dermal contact or skin  
3 contact, so there are additional safety factors built  
4 in, and that's why the level is at 2.

5           What we want to try to do here tonight, for  
6 those folks who already have a contract to sign up with  
7 water with Rathbun Water Company, we, the Army, would  
8 propose to reimburse your \$350 hook-up fee. I  
9 understand that is just to set the meter pit in your  
10 yard. You're still required to run a connection from  
11 that pit to your house, so what we're also proposing is  
12 once you make that connection, once you complete that  
13 work from the meter pit to the house, then you would  
14 submit that bill to us and then we will reimburse you  
15 that cost that you incurred for that also. And then  
16 you as the homeowner are responsible for the monthly  
17 bills and the water usage fees.

18           For the folks who have not yet signed up with  
19 Rathbun but as a result of tonight are thinking about  
20 it or may want to, the only thing you have to do, you  
21 can contact Rathbun directly. We have some folks here  
22 tonight who have all the forms if you want to sign up  
23 tonight. You don't have to worry about paying the  
24 hook-up fee, we'll just pay them directly, and then the  
25 same situation applies. Once you've completed the



1 connection from the meter pit to the house, you just --  
2 you just send us the bill, we'll reimburse you, and  
3 then you will be responsible for the monthly fees from  
4 there.

5 I apologize for the map. I don't have very  
6 many good maps here. I have a small red line here to  
7 the lower end I'm trying to show there's a small, it's  
8 an unnamed tributary from line 3A. From that area all  
9 the way to the eastern edge here, which is Spring  
10 Creek, all the way down to the south to the Skunk  
11 River, if you live in that entire area below the plant  
12 -- I'm sorry I don't have a better map of the area of  
13 the plant -- then you'll be eligible for this hook-up.

14 And the reason is, we found the RDX  
15 contamination where I show on that stream on that red  
16 line at that extreme and on the surface water as far as  
17 Spring Creek, nothing further east, nothing farther  
18 west, and of course once you get to the Skunk River  
19 there's nothing that's going to go past the Skunk River  
20 to influence from the Skunk River, it's just going to  
21 carry straight to the Mississippi.

22 We're giving you one week's time, and I wish  
23 I could give more time. The situation right now, as  
24 many of you probably already know, that Rathbun has  
25 already started trenching the lines, and once they

1 complete that trench work and complete these, they will  
2 have to get a new contract, the cost of hook-up will  
3 increase, so we're looking at one week's window.

4 If you want to notify them directly that you  
5 want hooked up to this water they have a 1-800 number,  
6 it's 1-800-233-8849. Or, you can sign up here tonight.  
7 We have the guys here tonight that have all the forms,  
8 more than willing to sign you up here tonight.

9 I'll leave that up for a second if you want  
10 to write that down.

11 Now, once you complete the work, the  
12 connection from the meter pit to the house, we're  
13 asking you to send the bill to Mason and Hanger, who is  
14 the operating contractor at the plant, send it to the  
15 Controller Division. Now, I can't specifically tell  
16 you that every dollar amount that you send -- I don't  
17 want to be getting a bill for \$10,000 here for a  
18 50-foot line, so I mean the bills submitted are going  
19 to have to be reasonable.

20 We have two separate people at the plant, one  
21 in the Contracts Division, one in Controller, who are  
22 going to be reviewing the requests. If you want to get  
23 a couple of estimates first, that's up to you, that's  
24 fine.

25 We'll put that back up if you don't have that

1 down.

2 We have three information repositories that  
3 we keep final copies of all of our documents that we're  
4 doing for the environmental work out at the plant. We  
5 got one up here at the Burlington Library, at Danville  
6 City Hall, and then the third copy is the official  
7 record which goes in the Ad Min Building out at the  
8 plant, which is building 100-101. These documents are  
9 available for public review at any time. Any time we  
10 have a new submittal that we complete, we send copies  
11 to these locations. You're more than willing to make  
12 comments to them to contact us if you have questions or  
13 concerns.

14 Also, you can contact me directly. As I  
15 said, I'm stationed at Aberdeen Proving Ground in  
16 Maryland. My phone number is Area Code 410, 671-1507.  
17 Or you can contact the Public Affairs Office there,  
18 which is at 410-671-2556, that is on any of the  
19 environmental concerns that you might have. If it's  
20 not related to the plant, we can try to find something  
21 out for you if we can. You can contact the plant's  
22 Public Affairs Office, Mr. Larry Johnson, or you can  
23 contact the Plant Protection Office, Mr. Leon Baxter.

24 That's all I have for the formal  
25 presentation. I'll open it up for questions. Just all

1 that I ask is that you state your name, please, for the  
2 official record if you want to ask a question. And if  
3 you need the numbers and the addresses, we'll put them  
4 up here again, however you want to -- the 1-800 was  
5 233-8845.

6 MS. VICKI MADDOX: I think most of us are  
7 confused about your map showing the I.A.A.P. We don't  
8 understand who qualifies and where is that in relation  
9 to the county.

10 MR. ROMITTI: Where do you live?

11 MS. VICKI MADDOX: Skunk River Access Road.  
12 I'm about as close to the plant as anybody in here.

13 MR. ROMITTI: You live --

14 MS. VICKI MADDOX: Right now your water is  
15 all over my cornfield.

16 MR. ROMITTI: You live on the plant side of  
17 the Skunk River?

18 MS. VICKI MADDOX: I own Long Creek.

19 MR. ROMITTI: Well, we sampled eight  
20 different places along Long Creek and did not find any  
21 explosives.

22 MS. VICKI MADDOX: Well, your well sampler  
23 has been under about eight feet of water for the last  
24 six months, so if you sampled it you had to do it by  
25 boat.

1 MR. ROMITTI: We sampled Long Creek, like I  
2 said, along eight different locations. The boundary is  
3 in the far west extreme of the plant, all the way over  
4 to the far east, southeastern extreme of the plant,  
5 which is Spring Creek, all the way down to the Skunk  
6 River. If you live on the other side of the Skunk  
7 River, nothing from the plant is going across that  
8 river.

9 MS. VICKI MADDOX: Then you're including,  
10 then, over there, the town of Augusta?

11 MR. ROMITTI: Yes, Augusta is included in  
12 this. You are eligible, everyone in Augusta is  
13 eligible for this hook-up.

14 Excuse me, Ma'am, could you I get your name?

15 MS. VICKI MADDOX: Vicki Maddox, M-A-D-D-O-X.

16 MR. ROMITTI: Thank you.

17 MS. VICKI MADDOX: Yes, Sir.

18 MR. JERRY PLEASANT: Jerry Pleasant. I was  
19 wondering if you had any record of what the RDX was  
20 when it was -- that creek down there was running blood  
21 red?

22 MR. ROMITTI: I assume you're talking back in  
23 the '50s?

24 MR. JERRY PLEASANT: Late '50s.

25 MR. ROMITTI: Normally, and we're not seeing

1 any kind of levels that we're talking nowadays. It  
2 usually takes in the range of 20 to 30 thousand, that's  
3 parts per million.

4 What happens is the RDX is actually a yellow  
5 tint color, but it's then broken down by sunlight and  
6 the sunlight is what causes the red color, so the  
7 levels we're seeing now discharged at the boundary, the  
8 highest number we saw was 18 parts per billion, so the  
9 number you saw back in the '50s or in the '60s were in  
10 the magnitude of 10 thousand times higher.

11 Is there anyone else?

12 MR. KEVIN WOOLDRIDGE: Does this relieve you  
13 of all responsibility of our wells if we water  
14 livestock with it?

15 MR. ROMITTI: No, Sir, it doesn't. We  
16 contacted the State, the State is not requiring anyone  
17 to cap their well. We've never done, here anyway, any  
18 studies on livestock and use of RDX in their water, but  
19 we've done some deer studies out at Joliet. We haven't  
20 found any uptake at all in deer.

21 They are actually supposedly trying to plan a  
22 livestock study at Cornhusker. We're having a problem  
23 -- I'm sorry, Cornhusker Army Ammunition Plant, which  
24 is in Nebraska. What they are going to try to do is  
25 put a radiation link to the RDX so they can try to use

1 it as a tracer once it enters the cattle system to find  
2 out where it's concentrating, and they're having some  
3 problems generating that radioactive element, but it is  
4 being planned.

5 Your name, Sir?

6 MR. CLYDE SCHERER: Clyde Scherer. Them  
7 wells on the south boundary --

8 MR. ROMITTI: Yes, Sir.

9 MR. CLYDE SCHERER: -- how do they test out  
10 that they drilled there?

11 MR. ROMITTI: The only well that we found any  
12 kind of contamination in was the one that's located  
13 just adjacent to Brush Creek, and there's approximately  
14 seven other wells along that southern boundary and we  
15 did not find explosives in any of those wells.

16 MR. CLYDE SCHERER: Yeah, there's two that I  
17 know of on that corner right there, down further, clear  
18 at the south boundary, down south, there, there's one  
19 right in there and then there's one over there to that  
20 first roadway that you got back in there.

21 MR. ROMITTI: We have several wells down in  
22 there.

23 MR. CLYDE SCHERER: Yeah, I know. There's  
24 another one on over further by that Brush Creek. You  
25 got one over there, on the right side of Brush,

1 correct?

2 MR. ROMITTI: Yes, Sir, that's the one where  
3 we did find RDX.

4 MR. CLYDE SCHERER: That's where you found --

5 MR. ROMITTI: Some RDX.

6 MR. CLYDE SCHERER: -- some nitrate?

7 MR. ROMITTI: Yes, yes, Sir, it's  
8 nitroaromatic compound.

9 MR. CLYDE SCHERER: That's the one that used  
10 to run red in the late '50s.

11 MR. ROMITTI: Yes, right, that was prior to  
12 any kind of treatment at the plant. Now there's a  
13 series of carbon filter treatments that are used at the  
14 plant. The water is tested daily prior to any  
15 discharge.

16 MR. CLYDE SCHERER: But that's the only one  
17 you found anything in, then?

18 MR. ROMITTI: Yes, Sir, at the boundary,  
19 that's correct.

20 MR. CLYDE SCHERER: At the boundary, that's  
21 what I mean.

22 MR. ROMITTI: Yes, yes. We took  
23 approximately six samples along Spring Creek. We found  
24 one at the boundary, we had a hit for RDX there.

25 We had eight samples along Brush Creek. We



1 did have our highest hit for RDX at the surface water  
2 boundary there at Brush Creek.

3 We had eight samples along Long Creek, where  
4 we did not find anything, and we took four samples at  
5 that westernmost boundary or surface water stream, that  
6 unnamed tributary, and we had a hit for RDX there. And  
7 that number was 6.9 parts per billion.

8 MR. CLYDE SCHERER: How deep are them wells  
9 on the south now?

10 MR. ROMITTI: We have some deep and some  
11 shallow wells. The shallower wells range from 30 to 46  
12 feet, and then we have just a few of the deeper wells  
13 that run an average of 80 to 110 feet.

14 MR. CLYDE SCHERER: If your wells are deeper  
15 than that, our wells, would they be apt to pick it up?

16 MR. ROMITTI: Well, most of the wells we have  
17 are shallow wells, and the shallow wells are right  
18 along the surface water streams. That's what we were  
19 trying to gauge, if there was actually a connection  
20 between that surface water and the groundwater and then  
21 a potential for any impact off those.

22 MR. CLYDE SCHERER: If it's over 100 feet,  
23 then you should be pretty safe, wouldn't you?

24 MR. ROMITTI: That's what we were hoping to  
25 see, because we have a pretty good divide to the upper

1 to the lower off of here.

2 MR. BAXTER: The one on the southern boundary  
3 up there tested, tested, the deep, the person that has  
4 a deep well --

5 MR. ROMITTI: Of the initial six residential  
6 wells that we tested, the one that was 800 feet did not  
7 have any contamination in it whatsoever, that's what  
8 Leon was trying to say, but the two we did have hits on  
9 were all shallow, 30 to 45 feet.

10 Yes, Ma'am.

11 MS. JANICE DUKE: How much of a percentage is  
12 this carcinogen, RDX, is it causing, cancer-causing?

13 MR. ROMITTI: It's listed as a Class C  
14 carcinogen, which means it is a possible or probable.  
15 There is not enough data to support it being a human  
16 carcinogen, but there was at one laboratory test  
17 where it showed some carcinogen possibilities in female  
18 mice, so they list it as a Class C, which is a  
19 possible.

20 The classes can range from A, which is a  
21 definite, and then B, which is classified as a  
22 carcinogen to animals but not to humans, and then C and  
23 then D, which means noncarcinogenic.

24 MR. KEVIN WOOLDRIDGE: Are they still going  
25 to mark these wells if people sign up for Rathbun

1 water?

2 MR. ROMITTI: The residential wells, Sir?

3 MR. KEVIN WOOLDRIGE: No, that you have  
4 inside the plant.

5 MR. ROMITTI: This doesn't preclude us from  
6 -- we still have 40 some sites that we're looking at on  
7 post to clean up. We're still going to do that  
8 clean-up, and as part of the clean-up requirement there  
9 is a monitoring requirement based on the clean-up level  
10 as agreed upon between us, the State and the EPA. It  
11 can range as far as 30 years for the clean-up  
12 requirement.

13 There's also a provision, we have an  
14 inter-agency agreement with the EPA which says that  
15 they must approve everything that we propose. That  
16 requirement also states that there will be a document  
17 review every five years. That says, well, maybe we'll  
18 get some new data that says that the level we cleaned  
19 to was not protective enough and they could require us  
20 to go back and reclean that site again.

21 MR. MERVIN SMITH: Mervin Smith. I have a  
22 55-foot well right on the river, and I was wondering,  
23 could we get that checked to find out if it would be,  
24 to use it at all for like watering the garden or  
25 washing the car, stuff like that?

1 MR. ROMITTI: Yes, Sir, actually we had  
2 planned to get into Augusta earlier this year, but the  
3 weather hasn't been too cooperative with us.

4 As I said, the boundary wells were all showed  
5 pretty much clean except for the surface water streams  
6 at the southwest and southeast portion of the plant, so  
7 we tried to concentrate our efforts on homes located  
8 close to those water sheds. We were planning to do the  
9 Augusta area next, and I'm hoping to do that in October  
10 with the assistance from the District Corps of  
11 Engineers.

12 Yes, Sir.

13 MR. JERRY PLEASANT: Jerry Pleasant. I was  
14 wondering if you do all this clean-up work and  
15 everything and then if there is no more carcinogens  
16 underground and you decide to have your own well again,  
17 are you still obligated to take the Rathbun water that  
18 you signed up or can you shut your meter off and not  
19 take it?

20 MR. ROMITTI: That would have to be a  
21 question I would have to defer to the water company. I  
22 don't have any requirement, I cannot make you hook up  
23 to the water. I don't have any influence on that.

24 If you want to answer that, John.

25 MR. JOHN GLENN: John Glenn. We have -- If

1 you sign up, there is the one requirement we have that  
2 you would pay a bill for at least five years, and after  
3 that five-year period if you wanted to drop the  
4 service, you can do so.

5 MR. ROMITTI: If you have any other  
6 questions, or if you don't want to ask a question here  
7 tonight, you can write the questions down on the  
8 comment sheet, and then send it in to Leon Baxter at  
9 the plant. The address is on the comment sheet. If  
10 you want to leave your name, we can get back to you  
11 personally if you would like, or if you wish to have  
12 another public meeting, you can also let us know if  
13 there's more information that you would like.

14 If there aren't any more questions, I'm going  
15 to go ahead and adjourn the meeting for tonight, and I  
16 thank you all for coming out tonight. Thank you.

17 MR. JOHN GLENN: You might have -- Is there  
18 anybody here that's interested in signing up?

19

20 (End of proceedings, 7:30 p.m.)

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25

## 1 CERTIFICATE OF SHORTHAND REPORTER

2 I, M. Jane Weingart, a Certified Shorthand  
3 Reporter of the State of Iowa, hereby certify that I  
4 acted as the reporter for the taking of the foregoing  
5 public meeting on the 18th day of August, 1993, and  
6 that I reported the proceedings in machine shorthand  
7 correctly and have had the same transcribed under my  
8 direction into typewriting.

9 I further certify that the foregoing transcript  
10 of proceedings consisting of 21 pages constitutes a  
11 true and correct transcript of my shorthand notes as  
12 taken by me on the date indicated.

13 I further certify that I am not related to nor  
14 employed by any of the parties or their attorneys in  
15 any way.

16 Dated this 7th day of September, 1993.

17

18

19

M. Jane Weingart C.S.R.

20

M. Jane Weingart  
Certified Shorthand Reporter

21

22

Original delivered to: Mr. Leon D. Baxter  
No copies delivered.

23

The Attendance Sheet for the meeting is attached  
hereto.

24

25