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APALACHICOLA-CHATTAHOOCHEE-FLINT
RIVER BASIN STAKEHOLDERS MEETING

COLONEL BOB KEYSER
CORPS OF ENGINEERS

Columbus Convention and Trade Center
801 Front Avenue
Columbus, Georgia

December 5, 2002

Reported by:
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1 COLONEL BOB KEYSER: Good
2 evening. We're delighted to have
3 y'all here tonight. It's a great
4 opportunity for us, a great
5 opportunity for all of you. And I
6 believe Mr. Cavezza is here? Yes?
7 He was. He's here. Sir, please.

8 MR. CARMEN CAVEZZA: I'm Carmen
9 Cavezza. I'm the city manager for
10 Columbus Consolidated Government. I
11 just wanted to on behalf of the mayor
12 and the counsel and a lot of very
13 concerned citizens thank the Corps
14 for holding this here tonight.

15 We're happy to be the host city
16 for this. And for all of you who
17 have come to participate, welcome,
18 hope you stay in our city for
19 awhile.

20 As we speak, we've got a
21 ceremony along the river lighting up
22 all our Christmas lights. And you're
23 going to hear from a lot of people on
24 how important the river is to
25 Columbus, Georgia. So we're happy to

1 have you all here tonight.

2 COLONEL BOB KEYSER: Thank you,
3 sir. We're delighted to be back
4 here. It's been a long time since I
5 have been in Columbus. It's kind of
6 nice to be back. The last time I was
7 here was about 15-and-a-half years
8 ago. I was a captain.

9 I came over to see an old boss
10 of mine get promoted to colonel. My
11 wife and I looked at him and thought,
12 God, he's old. Either colonels are
13 getting younger, or I'm getting
14 older. It appears probably the
15 latter.

16 But it's great to be back here.
17 I'd like to -- first, I'm Colonel Bob
18 Keyser. I'm the district engineer in
19 Mobile district.

20 Our area of responsibility
21 encompasses the ACF Basin. It runs
22 all the way across through
23 Mississippi and also extends all the
24 way down through Central and South
25 America.

1 And we do "mil-con" throughout
2 -- military construction throughout
3 Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, and
4 Tennessee. We've got a pretty long
5 reach. We stay pretty busy.

6 What I have learned over the
7 first 16 months that I have been in
8 command -- I have been traveling the
9 roads a lot trying to find out what's
10 going on out within the district
11 area.

12 And I have met a lot of folks,
13 particularly in the ACF Basin I had
14 the chance to talk to them, probably
15 too much traveling. I think this is
16 my 192nd day on the road this year.

17 I walk in the door, and my
18 seven-year old says, you know, you
19 look just like the guy in the
20 picture. Probably a little too much
21 traveling. I'm hoping I'm going to
22 cut that back a bit.

23 And this is one of the vehicles
24 I want to do that through. What I'm
25 hoping we can do tonight is instead

1 of me picking up little nuggets as I
2 make the rounds, let everybody come
3 to one place and say this is what we
4 need.

5 So this is a pretty important
6 meeting, from my perspective, because
7 this will help me in determining how
8 I handle the water resources of the
9 ACF Basin.

10 First I'd like to recognize the
11 folks that I have got here with me.
12 Hiding out towards the back in the
13 room there I have got Wynne Fuller.
14 He's my chief of operations.

15 I have got Curtis Flakes, he's
16 my chief of planning; Roger Burke,
17 his assistant over here. I have got
18 Pat Robbins, my chief of staff, my
19 public affairs officer, my
20 legislative affairs, chief cook,
21 bottle washer, and everything else.

22 We've also got a number of our
23 resource managers. Eddie Sosebee is
24 here from West Point, Buck Earnest is
25 here from down at Walter F. George, I

1 think Pat Taylor from up at Lake
2 Lanier, Les Bruce from down at
3 Seminole.

4 And probably the most important
5 individual from all of your interests
6 over here is Memphis Vaughan.
7 Memphis is the chief of our water
8 management branch.

9 He's the guy who makes the
10 decisions on how do you turn the
11 knobs at the dams to decide how much
12 water we're sending on down the ACF
13 system.

14 And he's making those
15 decisions. That based on the input
16 that we give him based on known
17 needs, what's happening as far as
18 rainfall as it flows into the system.

19 What I'm hoping to find out a
20 little better tonight is what are
21 those known needs. Because every
22 time, as I mentioned, when I go out
23 on the road, I pick up a few more of
24 those needs. So Memphis is a very
25 important player.

1 We've also got a number of -- a
2 number of folks here representing
3 congressmen and senators from the
4 three-state area, and I would ask if
5 they would please stand. Thanks for
6 being here. We appreciate your
7 interest.

8 We've also got some folks here
9 -- representing all three states
10 with interest in what are the
11 requirements that are out there. I
12 do need to kind of level the playing
13 field here.

14 This is not about the water
15 compacts. I am the federal advisor
16 to the federal commissioner for the
17 water compacts. This meeting is not
18 about that.

19 That's between the three states,
20 for them to negotiate what the needs
21 are and how the water should be
22 allocated based on those states'
23 requirements.

24 What this meeting is all about
25 is until there is a compact, I'm

1 responsible for ensuring the
2 allocation of the water resources in
3 the ACF.

4 And I have got a certain amount
5 of discretion in how I exercise that
6 water management. I use that
7 discretion in helping to advise
8 Memphis in how much water do we
9 release and when do we release it.

10 So, again, this has nothing to
11 do with the water compacts. This is
12 all for the use of the Corps of
13 Engineers to determine how I can
14 utilize my discretion in water
15 management within the ACF Basin.

16 I was up in Washington
17 yesterday, spoke with General
18 Griffin, several others, the chief.
19 They were all wondering if I was
20 crazy for trying to do this.

21 Obviously, water allocation on
22 the ACF Basin has been a pretty hot
23 topic. It's been -- being negotiated
24 and worked on for eleven-to-twelve
25 years.

1 So as I drove up this way this
2 morning, I said a whole lot of
3 prayers, hoping that we would get it
4 right. And I thought about a little
5 phrase: Seek to understand first.

6 And what I'm hoping tonight is
7 going to be all about is the Corps of
8 Engineers understanding a little
9 better what some of the needs are out
10 there, and also for all of you to
11 understand what all of those needs
12 are.

13 One of the most wonderful things
14 that I have found in my travels was
15 the number of times that folks said,
16 well, I know I need this, but I
17 didn't know that he needed that, and
18 he's got a bona fide need for it.

19 So part of this is education for
20 the corps, part of this is education
21 for all of you so that everybody
22 understands where all the competing
23 needs are.

24 I'm sure you all have heard
25 before the seven purposes to the ACF

1 system, seven authorized purposes:
2 navigation, hydropower, fish and
3 wildlife, flood control, recreation,
4 water supply, water quality.

5 And I daresay that everybody in
6 this room has got a claim to the
7 water in the ACF system for one of
8 those purposes.

9 My job is to balance all those
10 seven purposes and the needs of
11 everybody that's in this room,
12 realizing a lot of those are
13 competing interests a lot of times.

14 Sometimes, I can't waiver on
15 meeting somebody's requirement,
16 sometimes I do have a little bit of
17 discretion.

18 The other thing that I have
19 found as I made the rounds is a lot
20 of folks look at this as fix my
21 problem exclusively. Well, if I look
22 at the multiple problems
23 simultaneously, there's a little
24 synergy to be had there.

25 The water that's needed to flood

1 Apalachicola Bay is the same water
2 that may be needed to support a fish
3 spawn in the lower Apalachicola
4 River. It could be. It depends on
5 the timing.

6 Until I know when that's needed,
7 it's awful tough for me to make that
8 call the right way. Oh, by the way,
9 that same water might be needed to
10 move traffic along the -- on the
11 Apalachicola and Flint Rivers.

12 And by timing all that out at
13 the same time, I could potentially
14 eliminate even a dredge because I put
15 enough water down there so the
16 navigation folks can do what they
17 need to do.

18 And I can get enough water down
19 there to flush the bay and bring the
20 nutrients in and make that ecosystem
21 work and still support the spawn in
22 the backwaters of the Apalachicola
23 River.

24 But until I get all those
25 requirements laid on the table at

1 once, it's awful tough for me to get
2 that right. So my intent tonight is
3 to be sure that I know what all the
4 requirements are.

5 Again, this is a requirements
6 meeting. This isn't a debate. This
7 isn't a forum for folks to come in
8 and tell me why I don't like what you
9 want, because that's not what we're
10 here for.

11 What we're here for is to hear
12 about what the requirements are, what
13 do people need water for. So what
14 I'll ask you to do -- and I realize
15 that some of you have put together
16 some presentations, some letters, and
17 Pat has collected those up, and we'll
18 get a chance to take a look at those
19 when we get back to the district.

20 What I'm asking for each of --
21 asking for from each of you is I'd
22 like to give you five minutes. Come
23 up and tell us what your requirements
24 are, what your wants are, what your
25 needs are, what your minimum

1 requirements are. Focus on what
2 you're after; okay?

3 Again, this is not a debate.
4 We're not here to criticize what
5 somebody else has come up and said
6 this is what my requirement is. If
7 we get to that, I'll shut the mike
8 off and I'll ask you to step back.

9 We're not here to debate, we're
10 not here to argue, we're not here to
11 criticize anybody else. I'm here to
12 get some input.

13 So we're going to hear what
14 everybody has got to say and ask you
15 to hold it down to no more than five
16 minutes so that we're out of here
17 sometime before midnight.

18 But we're going to stay until I
19 get a chance to talk to anybody that
20 needs to talk to me. Now, if you've
21 got concerns with something that was
22 said, you can see me afterwards one
23 on one, or you can see one of my
24 staff one on one afterwards.

25 But this isn't a forum to come

1 up and debate why I don't like what
2 somebody else talked about; okay?
3 Those are the ground rules.

4 And with that, we're going to go
5 ahead -- I'm going to run down the
6 list of the folks that indicated
7 they'd like to come up and speak.
8 Please come on up to the mike.
9 Again, we'll give you five minutes.
10 First on the list is Bob Swint. Bob,
11 the floor is yours.

12 MR. BOB SWINT: My name is Bob
13 Swint.

14 COLONEL BOB KEYSER: Let me stop
15 you one second.

16 MR. BOB SWINT: Okay.

17 COLONEL BOB KEYSER: We have a
18 court reporter here, so what you
19 bring in, we'll ensure that we've got
20 everything captured accurately. That
21 was the sole purpose of bringing her
22 in here was so that we were sure that
23 we got the data right when you
24 brought it in. So, thanks.

25 MR. PAT ROBBINS: We would like

1 to remind everybody because we do
2 have a court reporter, as you did,
3 sir, when you step to the mike, just
4 please announce your name. If you
5 want to announce who you are
6 affiliated with, that's fine, as
7 well, so she can capture that data.
8 Thank you.

9 MR. BOB SWINT: My name is Bob
10 Swint. And as environmental
11 supervisor, I represent Mead-Westvaco
12 Coated Board.

13 Mead-Westvaco Coated Board now
14 manufactures coated unbleached kraft
15 paperboard known as Coated Natural
16 Kraft, for use in beverage packaging
17 and folding cartons.

18 Customers include folding carton
19 manufacturers in North America and
20 Europe, and Mead-Westvaco packaging's
21 worldwide beverage packaging
22 business.

23 Mead-Westvaco Coated Board,
24 based in Phenix City, Alabama,
25 operates two paper machines at its

1 Mahrt Mill in Cottonton, Alabama.

2 These machines produce one
3 million-plus tons of coated
4 paperboard per year. In addition,
5 Mead-Westvaco has dimension lumber
6 mills and chip mills located in
7 Greenville, Georgia and Cottonton,
8 Alabama.

9 Mead-Westvaco Coated Board
10 directly employs approximately 1300
11 people in Alabama and Georgia. The
12 economic impact of the company on the
13 two states is summarized in a study
14 prepared by Mac R. Holmes, Ph.D.,
15 research professor of economics and
16 business at Troy State University. A
17 copy of the study is included with
18 the hard copy of this statement.

19 The Mahrt Mill, which is located
20 25 miles south of Columbus on the
21 Chattahoochee River, withdraws
22 approximately 25 million gallons of
23 water from the river per day.

24 Of this, 23 million gallons per
25 day is used in the manufacturing

1 process, then treated and returned to
2 the river.

3 The remaining two million
4 gallons per day is used only for
5 cooling and is returned directly to
6 the river after passing through a
7 cooling pond.

8 In order to minimize water
9 usage, the facility utilizes process
10 water recycling and cooling towers.

11 In essence, there's no
12 consumptive use. In other words, the
13 water that is withdrawn from the
14 river is returned to the river.

15 The Mahrt Mill operates on an
16 NPDES permit, a water quality based
17 permit tied directly to instantaneous
18 water flow and water quality;
19 therefore, sustained instantaneous
20 minimum flow is essential to its
21 operation.

22 The biological oxygen demand
23 limits in the permit are seasonal.
24 Mahrt's treatment plant has 30 days
25 of holding pond capacity for holding

1 treated effluent during periods of
2 drought and low river flow
3 conditions.

4 The Mahrt facility is also
5 impacted by the operation of the
6 reservoirs on the Chattahoochee
7 River. One, hours of hydropower
8 generation directly impact the mill's
9 ability to discharge, especially
10 during periods of low river flow.

11 Two, a minimum level of 185 feet
12 above MSL must be sustained in order
13 to maintain pump suction at the
14 mill's water intake structure.

15 Number 3, the minimum river flow
16 is required in order to discharge
17 treated effluent.

18 Four, the minimum river flow is
19 required in order to maintain the
20 water quality standard of five
21 milligrams of dissolved oxygen.

22 In conclusion, maintaining
23 adequate river level for water supply
24 and maintaining adequate river flow
25 for assimilative capacity and water

1 quality on the Chattahoochee River
2 are essential to the operation of
3 Mead-Westvaco's Mahrt Mill.

4 The river flows must be
5 maintained at or above the minimums
6 proposed by the group of Middle
7 Chattahoochee water users. Thank
8 you.

9 COLONEL BOB KEYSER: Thank you.
10 Next up Mr. Alan McNair.

11 MR. ALAN McNAIR: Alan McNair
12 for Gulf County. I'm with the
13 Economic Development Commission
14 Council.

15 And I come here not with really
16 a request, but an offer to the Corps
17 of Engineers from the Gulf County
18 Board of County -- Gulf County Board
19 of County Commissioners is offering
20 to provide a permanent site along the
21 river, or sites, to be used by the
22 Corps of Engineers for the dredge of
23 river sand, and we know that --
24 whether it is ongoing or it is
25 restoration or whether it is simply

1 moving sand -- the sand that has been
2 accumulated.

3 This letter is in writing. I
4 have given it to Mr. Robbins.

5 COLONEL BOB KEYSER: Thank you
6 very much.

7 MR. ALAN McNAIR: You're
8 welcome.

9 COLONEL BOB KEYSER: Mr. Sidney
10 Cudebec.

11 MR. SIDNEY CUDEBEC: I'll pass.

12 COLONEL BOB KEYSER: Okay.
13 James Townsend.

14 MR. JAMES TOWNSEND: Good
15 evening. I'm Jim Townsend, Port St.
16 Joe, tug boat operator, contractor.
17 I'll try to summarize my little note
18 here.

19 I have come here tonight to
20 request you to try to keep the
21 channel open for navigation, pure and
22 simple.

23 I'm a marine contractor in St.
24 Joe. And I regularly work up and
25 down the river as much as possible,

1 but more often than that, I turn down
2 jobs on the river and in the upper
3 lakes because you can't get there.
4 I'm sure you've heard enough about
5 that.

6 But I understand the drought
7 problems, probably better than most.
8 I did a job on the I-10 bridge just
9 recently -- well, it was July -- and
10 I got through the project, but the
11 river wasn't ready for me to leave,
12 so I stayed until last month, two
13 weeks ago.

14 It's pretty tough on the
15 business, but I understand drought.
16 You know, it happens. And, frankly,
17 you guys have done a great job.

18 Terry Jangula's office actually
19 called my office and told me when the
20 river level was rising. It was a big
21 job, and I want to thank y'all for
22 that. The drought's going to end, I
23 hope.

24 And the folks -- you folks,
25 you're allowed to maintain the ACF.

1 At your levels that you have done,
2 you've done a commendable job. You
3 -- I understand that you've run the
4 river since about -- since the
5 1800s.

6 I hear a lot of talk from people
7 about what you do right or what you
8 do wrong, but the preservationists
9 would tell you, you know, just
10 preserve the levels. I couldn't
11 agree with them more. I'd like to
12 preserve it.

13 Keep the river up. You've done
14 a good job. If the drought ends,
15 we've got no problems. But if you
16 can open opportunities for me as a
17 contractor, like if you want to flood
18 the bay and help the portion down in
19 Apalachicola, I can come and go. Any
20 duration that I can depend on will
21 assist in that effort, and I
22 appreciate it. That's about it.

23 COLONEL BOB KEYSER: How much
24 draft do you need?

25 MR. JAMES TOWNSEND: Six foot.

1 COLONEL BOB KEYSER: Okay.

2 Thank you.

3 MR. JAMES TOWNSEND: Thank you.

4 COLONEL BOB KEYSER: John
5 Pritchett.

6 MR. JOHN PRITCHETT: I'm John
7 Pritchett. I serve on the Southwest
8 Georgia Economic Development
9 Authority and also the Quitman County
10 Economic Development Authority.

11 And I serve a region of Georgia
12 that is economically depressed with
13 few resources that we can use to help
14 the people that live in that area
15 with jobs.

16 It won't take me but about two
17 minutes to tell you I would like to
18 see us keep that channel open and
19 keep the system a viable system, not
20 only for barges, but from the
21 recreational travel that we see come
22 and go on the river.

23 I know that you know how much
24 comes up and down the river. But I
25 also live on the river, and I see

1 those folks as they come and go. And
2 I just want to speak on behalf of
3 keeping the AFC open as a
4 navigational channel. Thank you.

5 COLONEL BOB KEYSER: David
6 Dockery.

7 MR. DAVID DOCKERY: Hello. I'm
8 David Dockery. I'm with the City of
9 Gainesville Public Utilities
10 Department. Gainesville is probably
11 the largest municipality in northeast
12 Georgia. We're directly on the
13 eastern shore of Lake Sidney Lanier.

14 As a utility, we serve about
15 36,000 water accounts, approximately
16 a hundred thousand population
17 served. We also provide wastewater
18 treatment for about 6,000 accounts.

19 I'm just here today to present
20 some of our projected numbers on the
21 water withdrawal that we'll be
22 needing from Lake Sidney Lanier for
23 the next few years.

24 We're currently using an average
25 of about 20 million gallons per day,

1 with a peaking factor of 26 million
2 gallons per day. Right now we're
3 returning 8.6 million gallons per day
4 back to Lake Sidney Lanier.

5 Projections indicate that by the
6 year 2010, we'll average 29.5 million
7 gallons per day withdrawal, with a
8 peak of 21 -- I'm sorry, 41.3. We'll
9 be returning 15 million gallons per
10 day.

11 By the year 2015, we'll be using
12 37.7 million gallons per day, with a
13 peak of -- that's the average -- with
14 a peak of 52.8. We'll be returning
15 18.5 MGD to the Chattahoochee.

16 By 2020, we project that we will
17 be using 42.2 million gallons per day
18 average, with a peak of 67.5. We'll
19 be returning 22 million gallons per
20 day.

21 We would urge the Corps to
22 consider the needs of those entities
23 that use Lake Sidney Lanier as a
24 drinking water source. We appreciate
25 this opportunity to make a comment

1 and thank you for considering the
2 City of Gainesville's needs.

3 COLONEL BOB KEYSER: Thank you.
4 Billy Houston.

5 MR. BILLY HOUSTON: My name is
6 Billy V. Houston. My position is
7 director of development for the
8 Eufaula/Barbour County Chamber of
9 Commerce. And, today, Roy Crow and I
10 are representing also Mayor Jay Jaxon
11 of the City of Eufaula.

12 I appreciate this opportunity
13 that the Corps of Engineers is giving
14 to address the tremendous impact that
15 the Walter F. George Reservoir, Lake
16 Eufaula, has on the economy of
17 Eufaula/Barbour County, and the
18 southeastern part of Alabama.

19 The Walter F. George Reservoir,
20 Lake Eufaula, was originally created
21 by the Rivers and Harbor Act of 1946,
22 which was a vision of many
23 outstanding leaders of that time.

24 The project begin in 1962 and
25 was completed in the late '60s to

1 early '70s. The vision of these
2 leaders was rewarded as this new
3 waterway created a new economic
4 stimulus around the lake area.

5 The creation of lake shore
6 property stimulated property sales
7 along the lake and the development of
8 new subdivisions within close
9 proximity of the lake.

10 This has resulted in millions of
11 dollars being invested in real
12 estate, and the property values of
13 our region are high because of this
14 lake property.

15 Any change in the lake flow,
16 channel direction, or depth could
17 have serious consequences to the
18 hundreds of people that have invested
19 in this property.

20 The creation of the Walter F.
21 George Reservoir, Lake Eufaula, has
22 also created a new recreation area
23 for over 558,760 people who live
24 within 50 miles of the lake.

25 This has a very positive effect

1 for the region's economy, and the
2 dependency of this business is
3 extremely important for the economic
4 future of Eufaula/Barbour County.

5 This is substantiated by
6 Eufaula's completion of Eufaula's
7 2020 Strategic Plan for 15-to-20
8 years.

9 Please review on Page 6 and 7 of
10 the 2020 document under Strategic
11 Issues, Number 3, Building a
12 Sustainable Economy, Tourism.

13 Eufaula will be a tourist
14 destination within the state and the
15 region. Tourism, including heritage
16 tourism and nature-based tourism and
17 the recreational tourism, will be a
18 major economic development focus.

19 Goal Number 1: Protect,
20 preserve, and sustain Eufaula's
21 natural resources with particular
22 emphasis and attention on the
23 community's greatest natural
24 resource, Lake Chattahoochee -- Lake
25 Eufaula, the Chattahoochee River.

1 Goal Number 2: Maximize Lake
2 Eufaula's potential as a tourist
3 attraction, job creator, and revenue
4 producer.

5 Another indicator of the
6 importance of the lake as an economic
7 stimulus for the area is the usage of
8 the lake facilities.

9 These statistics are from the
10 Corps of Engineers' 1999 web site
11 Value to the Nation with focus
12 strictly on the use of the Walter F.
13 George Reservoir, Lake Eufaula.

14 Annually, 2,649,000 people use
15 boating on the lake. There are 29
16 boat ramps, four active marinas,
17 which have 512 marina slips.
18 Columbus, Georgia and the town of
19 Georgetown are planning new marinas.

20 Camping annually was 57,747 in
21 673 camp sites. Fishing annually,
22 two million people. And Lake Eufaula
23 is known nationally as the bass
24 capital of the world.

25 Lake Eufaula hosts numerous

1 professional and amateur fishing
2 tournaments throughout the year.
3 Fishing tournaments in 2002 had an
4 economic impact of well over 3.5
5 million dollars in the local
6 economy.

7 Sight-seeing, 1,126,000 people;
8 picnicking, 1,324,000 people. This
9 is, thus, a total of over six million
10 people that use the lake annually.
11 This is big business.

12 The development of the lake has
13 given rise to manufacturing concerns
14 and their investing capital in our
15 area, creating jobs for over a
16 thousand people.

17 Some of these companies mandate
18 -- manufacturing companies fishing
19 -- manufacture fishing lures,
20 Techsonic Industries with its famous
21 lines of Hummingbird depth finders,
22 depth sounders, and guidance systems
23 for sport fishing.

24 Tom Mann's Fish World and
25 Southern Plastics are engaged in the

1 manufacturing of fishing lures and
2 baits. There are many small bait and
3 tackle shops all around the reservoir
4 whose livelihood depends on the draw
5 of the lake.

6 I am constantly selling our
7 area, and I strongly believe that due
8 to the increase in transportation
9 cost that barge transportation,
10 assuming the river's availability,
11 will have a future in our economic
12 growth.

13 I know James McGill of Phenix
14 City and I have been in contact with
15 the Alabama Docks Authority about
16 this possibility of the use of dock
17 facilities in both of our areas.

18 Lakepoint Resort State Park is a
19 leading tourist attraction in our
20 community. With its convention
21 center and motel accommodations,
22 marina service with 172 slips, and
23 best camping facilities around, and a
24 competitive 18-hole golf course, it
25 draws the tourist and business

1 convention and meeting trade. Plus
2 it's the headquarters for the popular
3 Alabama Bass Trail.

4 In 2003, it is scheduled for a
5 14-million dollar renovation by the
6 State of Alabama. This park also
7 draws heavily from the Atlanta area
8 which gives us millions of
9 opportunities of future potential
10 people on the lake.

11 Thus, this valuable asset,
12 Lakepoint State Park, needs the
13 current river channel and flow.
14 Other regional lodging facilities
15 receive a considerable portion of
16 that from visitors to Lake Eufaula.

17 Including Lake Point, there are
18 over 500 rooms in the Eufaula area,
19 and they generated over four million
20 dollars in gross revenue in 2002 with
21 366,000 collected in lodging tax by
22 the City of Eufaula.

23 Yes, the Walter F. George
24 Reservoir, Lake Eufaula, has been a
25 major benefactor of the

1 Eufaula/Barbour County past economy,
2 and it plays a tremendous part in our
3 present economy, and is a strategic
4 part in our future economy. Thank
5 you.

6 COLONEL BOB KEYSER: Thank you.
7 Roy Crow.

8 MR. ROY CROW: I'm Roy Crow from
9 Eufaula, Alabama. My purpose this
10 evening is to express my concern
11 concerning the proposal to cease
12 dredging on the river.

13 As the previous presenter just
14 said, the City of Eufaula recently
15 completed a 20-year strategic plan.
16 And I served as chairman of the
17 planning group responsible for
18 preparing the economic development
19 portion of that plan.

20 Lake Eufaula is currently a
21 viable part and vital part of our
22 local economy. Our 20-year plan, as
23 previously was stated, it's Number 1
24 goal is to protect, preserve, and
25 sustain Eufaula's greatest natural

1 resource, Lake Eufaula, Walter F.
2 George.

3 Maintaining a navigatable
4 channel from Lake Eufaula to
5 Apalachicola Bay is critical, we
6 think, in maintaining this plan.

7 I have a letter from the City of
8 Eufaula's Mayor Jay Jaxon in which he
9 speaks to and gives information
10 concerning some of the economic data
11 which I'll present to you, and thank
12 you for this opportunity.

13 COLONEL BOB KEYSER: Thank you.
14 Billy Beasley.

15 MR. BILLY BEASLEY: I'm Billy
16 Beasley. I'm a state representative
17 for the State of Alabama. I
18 represent Barbour County and Russell
19 County and part of Bulloch County.

20 I won't reiterate what's already
21 been said, but I just want to stand
22 in support of Mead Corporation and
23 their natural resources for
24 employment in Russell County and also
25 to support the efforts of the City of

1 Eufaula and Lake Eufaula and Walter
2 F. George and Lakepoint and Barbour
3 County.

4 It's essential for the economies
5 of both of our counties. And the
6 constant water flow that is needed on
7 the Chattahoochee will benefit all of
8 us. Thank you, very much.

9 COLONEL BOB KEYSER: Thank you,
10 sir. Bob Kent. Bob Kent?

11 MR. BOB KERR: Is that Bobby
12 Kerr?

13 COLONEL BOB KEYSER: I'm sorry.
14 Bob Kerr. I should have brought my
15 glasses.

16 MR. BOB KERR: I'll yield.
17 Thanks.

18 COLONEL BOB KEYSER: Billy
19 Turner.

20 MR. BILLY TURNER: I'm Billy
21 Turner, president of Columbus Water
22 Works, which is the operating agency
23 for the Columbus Board of Water
24 Commissioners, the hundred year old
25 executive department of the Columbus,

1 Muscogee County Government.

2 Columbus Water Works' specific
3 responsibilities is the provision of
4 water and wastewater services for our
5 community.

6 Our award winning system serves
7 all of Columbus, Muscogee County;
8 and, in addition, we have contracts.
9 We serve Harris and Talbot County in
10 Georgia and Phenix City in Alabama.

11 These broad water and wastewater
12 responsibilities extend our interests
13 beyond our intake and discharge
14 points to the whole of the watershed
15 and to the education of the public in
16 all matters related to water
17 environment.

18 Let me be more specific. Our
19 water intake is located on Lake
20 Eufaula -- Lake Oliver, a reservoir
21 currently going through relicensing
22 by the Georgia Power Company under
23 the Federal Energy Regulatory
24 Commission processes.

25 Columbus Water Works and Georgia

1 Power recently settled out of court a
2 legal action concerning our water
3 withdrawals. This is after it was
4 heard in the federal court but before
5 it was heard -- where it had been
6 remanded to the state court.

7 This agreement allows Columbus
8 Water Works to withdraw any amount of
9 water and provides for a nominal
10 payment to Georgia Power for each
11 million gallons of water withdrawn
12 above an annual average usage of 45
13 million gallons a day.

14 Currently, Columbus Water Works
15 holds a Georgia Department of Natural
16 Resources water withdrawal permit of
17 90 million gallons a day.

18 In way of comparison, 90 million
19 gallons a day is less than two
20 percent of the average annual daily
21 flow of the river at Columbus, which
22 is about 7300 CFS.

23 And it's less than 20 percent of
24 the instantaneous minimum of 800 CFS
25 released at Lake Oliver Dam.

1 Turning to wastewater, Columbus
2 Water Works operates three national
3 pollution discharge elimination
4 system, NPDES, permitted facilities.

5 These are the Uptown Park and
6 South Commons water resource
7 facilities for the treatment of
8 combined sewer overflows and the
9 south Columbus water resources
10 facility for treatment of wastewater
11 from the area.

12 The NPDES permits for these
13 wastewater facilities are total
14 maximum daily load based permits
15 which depends on the level of the
16 river flow maintained.

17 Current flow, supported by
18 Georgia Power Company operations, is
19 a minimum average daily level of 1160
20 CFS.

21 To my knowledge, this was the
22 first TMDL based permit in Georgia
23 and one of the early ones in the
24 nation. This was made possible by
25 the comprehensive watershed study

1 undertaken under Columbus Water
2 Works' leadership, with participation
3 of USEPA, Georgia Environmental
4 Protection Division, Alabama
5 Department of Environmental
6 Management, Georgia Power Company,
7 and Mead-Westvaco, with numerous
8 public partners.

9 And we have enclosed a CD that
10 contains details of this study of the
11 80-mile stretch of the river plus its
12 major tributaries.

13 Up to now, these have been facts
14 about the present, but we have
15 concerns about our future relating to
16 the flows and quality of the river's
17 critical systems.

18 Failure of Atlanta to meet water
19 quality requirements that protect the
20 river and their increasing
21 consumptive use of water makes us
22 wary of what the long-term future
23 holds.

24 Heavy algae bloom on West Point
25 Lake in the droughts of 1986 to 1989

1 provides a basis of concern for the
2 water quality in the middle
3 Chattahoochee River.

4 While a ban of phosphate
5 detergents and improved treatment in
6 the Atlanta area have reduced the
7 algae problem, the impact of increase
8 growth and storm water runoff will
9 require the most diligent of efforts
10 on everyone's part to sustain the
11 river's good and natural quality.

12 Of even greater concern is
13 consumptive use of water in Atlanta
14 which is the difference between water
15 withdrawn and water returned to the
16 stream.

17 Currently, about one-fourth of
18 the four million people living in
19 metro Atlanta use septic tanks as
20 their method of handling wastewater.

21 This means that about 150
22 million gallons per day is consumed
23 and not returned to the stream. In
24 addition, the current water
25 withdrawals in metro Atlanta are

1 about 500 gallons a day but projected
2 to reach about 1150 MGD in 2030.

3 On dry days, possibly as much as
4 50 percent more of this water is used
5 for yard watering and other ways,
6 which causes it to be consumed and
7 not returned to the river.

8 These consumptive uses do and
9 can result in the loss of several
10 hundred cubic feet per second in
11 downstream river flow.

12 In a drought, this may be
13 critical to the health of the river
14 and the citizens of Columbus. For
15 this reason, we applaud the Corps for
16 its efforts to better identify this
17 impact of consumptive use by the
18 development of the unimpaired flow of
19 the Chattahoochee River as part of
20 the ACF/ACT Compact studies.

21 This work puts a better focus on
22 the impact of all of man's changes to
23 the natural river and can result in
24 improved management to meet all of
25 the river users' needs.

1 In closing, I'd like to focus on
2 three needs. First, the river flows
3 must be maintained at a sustained
4 level.

5 These sustained levels at the
6 Columbus, Georgia USGS gauge have
7 been identified by Alabama and
8 Georgia ACF negotiators by models,
9 discussions, and compromise as 800
10 CFS instantaneous minimum, 1350
11 average daily minimum, and 1850
12 minimum seven-day average.

13 A group of middle Chattahoochee
14 River water users have indicated
15 their support for these levels of
16 minimum flow at Columbus, Georgia, as
17 well as the 2,000 average daily
18 minimum flow at the Columbia, Alabama
19 gauge.

20 Secondly, the maintenance of a
21 navigatable channel from Columbus to
22 the Gulf of Mexico is both historic
23 and of current concern as we look to
24 our city's future.

25 Recently, Columbus was receiving

1 a 25-ton shipment from Austria. It
2 took 20 days for the shipment to
3 travel from Austria to Savannah, and
4 28 days from Savannah to Columbus.

5 It would have been more
6 efficient if our port were operative
7 so that receipt could have been more
8 direct and quicker.

9 Third and last, it is imperative
10 that the public obtain a more
11 in-depth knowledge about these
12 important water issues, and we pledge
13 our support and request your help in
14 mutual efforts to provide a broader
15 basis for this important
16 understanding. Thank you.

17 COLONEL BOB KEYSER: Thank you.
18 Rebecca Martin.

19 MS. REBECCA MARTIN: Rebecca
20 Martin, Tri-Rivers, speaking on
21 behalf of navigation users.

22 When this process began over a
23 decade ago, navigation users
24 understood that they were going to
25 have to make compromises, as

1 everybody else is on the system.

2 We know the system is stressed,
3 and we know that navigation cannot
4 continue at the expense of other
5 interests.

6 One of the most commonly heard
7 arguments for the deauthorization of
8 the project is that there's too
9 little barge traffic to justify the
10 expense.

11 There's been a continual
12 downturn in barge traffic because of
13 the unreliability of the channel. If
14 adequate channel depths could be
15 guaranteed, even a portion of the
16 year, users would return to the
17 system.

18 Before the drought of the 1980s,
19 the ACF carried over a million tons
20 of cargo annually. Today, even if
21 industries no longer use the ACF for
22 their transportation needs, access to
23 the inland waterway helps keep rail
24 and truck rates lower.

25 During the current drought,

1 rail and truck rates have increased
2 almost 30 percent in parts of this
3 region just because access to the
4 channel has been denied.

5 Another argument is the
6 environmental degradation on the
7 Apalachicola River. It has created
8 an unsightly mess, and it has
9 contributed to the loss of riverine
10 habitat.

11 But we do believe that there are
12 solutions that can be easily
13 implemented that don't undermine the
14 interest of others.

15 Navigation interests support the
16 implementation of a navigation season
17 where commercial barge traffic can
18 travel during high flows during the
19 year and suspend water releases
20 during the summer.

21 This would help keep lake levels
22 high for recreation and help with
23 Florida's natural hydrograph and
24 recreational traffic to traverse the
25 system to the Gulf of Mexico year

1 round.

2 Navigation is one of the
3 original authorizing purposes in 1945
4 and arguments over barges has
5 continued now for 30 years. It's
6 still an authorized purpose.

7 And it's time that we try and
8 focus our efforts, sincere efforts,
9 to try to find mutually beneficial
10 solutions, and we feel that they are
11 there. Thank you very much.

12 COLONEL BOB KEYSER: Thank you.
13 John Blanchard.

14 MR. JOHN BLANCHARD: I'm John
15 Blanchard. I'm the director of
16 nature conservancies for the
17 northwest Florida program. Thank you
18 for the opportunity to address you
19 like this.

20 I want to speak for the critters
21 who couldn't make it here today, for
22 the nature conservancies' businesses
23 who are vital to the river's
24 protection.

25 I want to make a plea for

1 maintaining the adequate river flows
2 to -- and the variability required to
3 maintain species in that river in
4 Florida and in Georgia and Alabama.

5 Specifically, I'd also like to
6 mention the fact that we would like
7 to -- when we were preparing the
8 draft on this for you, to request a
9 study to develop a fish passage
10 around the Jim Woodruff Dam, over the
11 Jim Woodruff Dam.

12 And -- let's see. I had
13 something else here. Most
14 importantly, if you could help us
15 develop the data that could show what
16 the navigation possibilities would be
17 on river, the Apalachicola River, in
18 the absence of dredging so that we
19 can see exactly at what time of year
20 how large the channel would be
21 maintained in the absence of
22 dredging.

23 It's our contention that --
24 because you probably could
25 accommodate most recreational and

1 most commercial traffic, certainly
2 not barge traffic, but most
3 commercial and recreational traffic
4 on the river with just the natural
5 flows from the river, a natural
6 channel without dredging.

7 One of the key issues is trying
8 to demonstrate that with good data.
9 And I think the Corps of Engineers
10 probably has the capability of
11 developing that data. That's it.
12 Thanks.

13 COLONEL BOB KEYSER: Can you
14 quantify -- you indicated you're
15 looking for maintaining river flows
16 and some variable flows?

17 MR. JOHN BLANCHARD: Well,
18 certainly --

19 COLONEL BOB KEYSER: Do you have
20 any quantities to stick to that?

21 MR. JOHN BLANCHARD: Well,
22 certainly there are a lot of --
23 that's fairly complex. And when
24 you're talking about variable flows,
25 the qualities are as described,

1 variable.

2 So I think what I'm speaking of
3 is maintaining the seasonality to the
4 flows that accommodate the fish spawn
5 season, the natural seasonality of
6 the river, maintaining natural
7 fluctuations.

8 I think it's really impossible
9 to give, as we discovered through so
10 many years of studying this ACF, to
11 give numbers that are hard numbers
12 about what flows should be on that
13 river.

14 At low flows, there probably are
15 some numbers that could be
16 developed. But at high flow periods
17 of time, those go out the window. So
18 -- well, we've certainly got
19 hydrologists that would like to --
20 that can help provide those numbers,
21 but I don't have them available right
22 now. It's not going to give you the
23 CFS numbers and things like that.

24 What we're talking about is
25 maintaining natural seasonality of

1 the flow, duration of flows, that
2 sort of thing.

3 COLONEL BOB KEYSER: Okay. If
4 you could, if your folks could get us
5 those numbers that they've got --

6 MR. JOHN BLANCHARD: Sure.
7 We've provided copies like that in
8 the past, sir, not to the Corps of
9 Engineers, but in other negotiation.
10 We can get you a copy of that for
11 sure.

12 COLONEL BOB KEYSER: Please.

13 MR. JOHN BLANCAHRD: You bet.

14 COLONEL BOB KEYSER: Chris
15 Hobby.

16 MR. CHRIS HOBBY: Good evening.
17 My name is Chris Hobby. I'm from the
18 City of Bainbridge, Georgia. The
19 community I represent is quite simply
20 a river town.

21 The Flint River literally comes
22 through the heart of our community
23 and is one of the defining elements
24 of what Bainbridge is.

25 So much of Bainbridge is tied to

1 the Flint River and to the greater
2 Apalachicola, Chattahoochee, and
3 Flint system.

4 Whether you're talking about the
5 Georgia Ports Authority facility that
6 gave us the title of Georgia's first
7 inland port, or the various
8 industries that are located in the
9 plants along the banks of the river
10 because they wanted the option of
11 receiving raw goods or shipping of
12 finished product by barge, or the
13 industries that have wanted to locate
14 in Bainbridge, but have chosen not to
15 because of the lack of reliable
16 navigation or the floods of 1994 and
17 1998 that inflicted great hardship as
18 the river demonstrated its might and
19 showed the need for better river
20 management practices, it becomes
21 obvious that the river and Bainbridge
22 are in many ways synonymous.

23 It is vital to our local economy
24 that the ACF be maintained and
25 allowed to function. The lack of

1 dependable navigation from Bainbridge
2 to the Gulf has already harmed our
3 local economy.

4 If this system ceases to exist,
5 the result would be catastrophic.
6 Not only would barge traffic be
7 eliminated, but recreational traffic,
8 we believe, would also be greatly
9 impacted.

10 This would harm our existing
11 bass fishing, tourism industry, and
12 do great harm to the current
13 municipal marina that we have under
14 construction.

15 When built out, this facility
16 will represent a three million dollar
17 investment by our community and will
18 be the only marina or fueling point
19 within 25 miles of Bainbridge.

20 The facility will, upon
21 completion, provide 48 boat slips,
22 launching facilities, vehicle
23 parking, fuel, and supplies to the
24 3.5 million annual visitors to Lake
25 Seminole.

1 However, if we lose the ability
2 to take a pleasure craft from
3 Bainbridge to the Gulf, we will lose
4 a large portion of our anticipated
5 customer base, and, thus, our project
6 will be greatly undermined.

7 Just to close, I'll say -- I'll
8 reemphasize this system is so
9 important to our community and the
10 economic stability of our community.
11 If Bainbridge is going to be
12 successful, Flint River and the ACF
13 system has to be functional. Thank
14 you very much.

15 COLONEL BOB KEYSER: Thank you.
16 Ted Hoehn.

17 MR. TED HOEHN: Ted Hoehn from
18 the Florida Fish and Wildlife
19 Conservation Commission. Colonel
20 Keyser, thank you very much for
21 having this meeting today with
22 everyone here.

23 I think it's very important that
24 a lot of the upstream users hear what
25 downstream states have and vice versa

1 because I think a lot of what has
2 been happening recently has been
3 miscommunication and misunderstanding
4 of needs, as you previously said.

5 We sent you a letter November
6 12th, our assistant executive
7 director, Vic Heller, which I believe
8 provided you, or should provide you,
9 a lot of our concerns for the river
10 and the bay.

11 And, also, there is alternatives
12 that you need to consider while
13 you're balancing priorities. Many of
14 these alternatives deal with the
15 specific flows during the springtime
16 spawn. Yes, you have to balance
17 priorities.

18 We absolutely understand that
19 this is a rainfall driven system, and
20 we get a lot of what comes in from
21 upstream.

22 I would like to also clear up
23 something that may be a misconception
24 from various conversations that I
25 have heard you give or have had with

1 people on the river.

2 The first of which is that
3 perhaps if we can balance flows for
4 navigation and fisheries and the bay
5 with these pulses, that will work
6 out.

7 Those pulses for navigation
8 windows are incredibly harmful to the
9 system. Whether they occur in
10 spring, whether they occur in summer,
11 or even in the fall, they are harmful
12 to the ecology of the river and bay.

13 I would also offer that because
14 of the way you have to operationally
15 manage the water to provide those
16 flows, you are also, in fact,
17 impacting the reservoirs upstream by
18 drawing them down at the very times
19 that they have high recreational
20 use.

21 We have continued, and for many
22 years, to voice our opposition and
23 objections to navigation windows. We
24 continue to do that.

25 What I would offer also is with

1 regard to navigation is the river,
2 dredge channel or not, does not have
3 adequate water based on the rainfall
4 to provide the nine foot by 100 foot
5 channel all year, every year. One
6 year, I believe, it's been able to do
7 that.

8 Navigation interests, as we've
9 already heard, need to start
10 considering moving things when
11 they've got water. I can't stress
12 that enough.

13 There isn't enough water in the
14 summertime to provide a nine-foot
15 channel, even if you dredge. There
16 will be for recreational users to
17 traverse up and down. I had -- I
18 almost got swamped in my commission
19 boat this summer at 5500 CFS.

20 John Blanchard also spoke about
21 the need for variability. We do need
22 variability in the system. We need
23 the highs and we need the lows.

24 When it rains, we want to share
25 in the wealth that the system has.

1 At the same time, when the rain isn't
2 there, when we're in drought,
3 Florida, the Apalachicola River and
4 bay do not want to shoulder the
5 burden of the load of flows while
6 upstream users have gotten high
7 reservoirs.

8 We need to share in the pain.
9 We recognize again this is a rainfall
10 driven system, but we need to work on
11 that a little bit better.

12 Finally, as I said, we need the
13 variability. Constant flows are not
14 good for the system. If we get
15 constant flows year end and year out,
16 the system will be damaged. It will
17 be an ecological disaster.

18 If you don't have a copy of our
19 November 12th letter, I'll be more
20 than happy to provide you another
21 copy. And if you have any questions,
22 I'll be more than happy to answer
23 them.

24 COLONEL BOB KEYSER: Curtis, do
25 we have a copy that?

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MR. CURTIS FLAKES: Yes.

MR. PAT ROBBINS: I have it with me.

COLONEL BOB KEYSER: Okay. Thanks. Herb Nadler.

MR. HERMAN NADLER: My name is Herman Nadler with the Southeastern Power Administration. The Southeastern Power Administration is the federal agency which has the responsibility to market electric power generated to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for hydroelectric projects of Buford, West Point, Walter F. George, and Jim Woodruff, in the Apalachicola Flint basin.

Generation from these projects has helped more than 190 municipalities and cooperatives both located in Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Florida, South Carolina, and North Carolina.

This equates to over 3.5 million electric meters. Revenue collected from the sale of this generation is

1 used to repay, with interest, the
2 costs to the federal investment to --
3 that have been assigned to the
4 hydropower purpose.

5 This typically accounts for a
6 very high percentage of project
7 costs. Operation of these projects,
8 hydraulically, electrically, are
9 financially integrated.

10 Southeastern Power
11 Administration would be very
12 concerned about operational changes
13 which have -- which would impact the
14 ability to utilize project stores, or
15 impose any operational restraints or
16 timing restrictions under generation
17 resource.

18 Changes in operation to a single
19 project can adversely impact an
20 entire system. Such changes could
21 dramatically affect production at the
22 projects, which in turn may
23 jeopardize the ability of the
24 government to satisfy contractual
25 obligations.

1 The continued meeting of
2 contractual obligations is imperative
3 -- it is imperative as this provides
4 for the revenue stream utilized in
5 fulfilling the repayment obligations
6 allocated to the hydropower purpose.

7 Any modifications to project
8 operations which diminish the
9 generation resource must be
10 accompanied by an equitable reduction
11 in the costs assigned to the
12 hydropower purpose, or compensation
13 must be received from the benefitting
14 parties.

15 COLONEL BOB KEYSER: Thank you.
16 Roy Fowler.

17 MR. ROY FOWLER: Thank you,
18 sir. My name is Roy Fowler. I'm
19 with the of the Cobb County Water
20 Authority. We're a political
21 subdivision of the State of Georgia
22 with regional wholesales of taking
23 waters from both the ACT and the
24 ACF.

25 A lot of us come prepared to

1 speak for ten or fifteen minutes, and
2 you've asked us to speak for five.
3 This is the most efficient line of
4 the Army I have ever been in.

5 We are a regional wholesaler.
6 We serve currently a population of
7 more than 700,000 people and will
8 supply some 1.2 million people by
9 2050.

10 That's using less than half of a
11 percent of the available water in the
12 ACF Basin the water authority has
13 sponsored research and development of
14 detailed economic information showing
15 water supply to be the highest and
16 best use of Lanier with minimal loss
17 of power benefits and no
18 environmental degradation.

19 It involved the first ever
20 comprehensive national economic
21 development analysis and several cost
22 remaining benefits cost allocation
23 update applying federal principles
24 and guidelines in current federal
25 planning policies and procedures for

1 an existing federal reservoir in the
2 United States.

3 The study conducted to not only
4 evaluate relative benefits of
5 Lanier's purposes, authorized or not,
6 but more importantly, the
7 sustainability of the implications of
8 potential reallocation.

9 Being the regional natural
10 resource asset manager, and I say
11 this with all sincerity, I share in
12 your pain. I thought your outreach
13 on the invitation to tonight's
14 meeting hit all the key points. We
15 know all the balls you are juggling.

16 Our basic position is with
17 conjunctive use and conjunctive
18 benefit, all authorized purposes can
19 be met. We're just going to have to
20 think in a new millennium approach to
21 accomplish that.

22 Once again, thanks for the
23 opportunity.

24 COLONEL BOB KEYSER: Donnie
25 Miniham.

1 MR. DONNIE MINCHEW: Minchew.

2 COLONEL BOB KEYSER: Yes. Sorry
3 about that.

4 MR. DONALD MINCHEW: I'm Donald
5 Minchew, city manager of the City of
6 Wewahitchka, Florida in Gulf County
7 located in the Apalachicola River
8 basin.

9 My commissioners have instructed
10 me to become before y'all tonight and
11 ask for several things to be
12 considered.

13 One of our priorities is still
14 the removal of the spoil that was
15 left on the river because it is still
16 sloughing back off into our
17 backwaters.

18 Our opening of the sloughs, we
19 were told they would be opened. It's
20 still not been completed. Our spring
21 spawn has been affected for the last
22 several years because of primarily
23 barge windows.

24 Our fish population has
25 decreased substantially. The drought

1 condition has decreased the fish.
2 Over 60 percent of our bait and
3 tackle shops are closed.

4 These are the major issues that
5 you might want to see with the river
6 and with the Corps of Engineers. And
7 County Commissioner Carmen McLemore
8 welcomes the Corps to have a meeting
9 in Gulf County if they would like to
10 do so.

11 COLONEL BOB KEYSER: Thank you.
12 David McLain.

13 MR. DAVID McLAIN: Thank you,
14 Colonel. I'm David McLain,
15 Apalachicola Bay Riverkeeper. And we
16 very much value the opportunity to
17 come up and speak to you and to the
18 others tonight.

19 The Apalachicola Bay/River, as
20 most folks in this room accept it is
21 an outstanding resource, outstanding
22 Florida water classified as a
23 National Estuarine Research Reserve,
24 so at the federal level, and a United
25 Nations Biosphere Preserve, so it's a

1 unique treasure for all of us.

2 Recognizing it's plain quality,
3 or fresh water flows in the
4 Apalachicola River and Bay, were a
5 life and death issue, really, for our
6 basin.

7 Apalachicola Bay and
8 Riverkeepers sought the -- and
9 obtained the endorsement from the six
10 riparian counties in Florida that
11 border on that river to be able to
12 speak to and assess the proposals,
13 any proposals for water allocation.

14 Accordingly, in response to your
15 request that we present quantified
16 information regarding the essential
17 water needs for our area -- I think
18 that's what you told us when you were
19 with us back in August on the bay --
20 and our attempts have been to do
21 that.

22 The essential water requirements
23 are best represented, in our view, in
24 the 50-year record of the flow regime
25 that the Chattahoochee gave to

1 Florida.

2 What we have there is a
3 historical record of what has
4 sustained the river and the bay over
5 time, over a 50-year period of time.

6 And I have those, and those have
7 been presented to Joanne outside and
8 have been labeled for you to see it.
9 Now, representative of those are the
10 monthly variations such as Ted Hoehn
11 and John Blanchard have spoken to,
12 the period -- this would be from what
13 we talked about when you were down in
14 the bay area that we talked about
15 before.

16 And that's sort of a flow regime
17 in delivering the fresh water
18 variations that are required. I want
19 to stop my time because there are
20 other folks from our area that are
21 the people most directly affected --
22 our elected two commissioners from
23 Franklin County that I want to be
24 sure they have time to speak to this
25 issue.

1 So I'll stop with that. The
2 dollar values that are associated
3 with our billion-dollar seafood
4 industry that are grown out of the
5 estuary that has to be maintained in
6 life, they can talk to. Thank you.

7 COLONEL BOB KEYSER: Thank you.
8 Jim Howard.

9 MR. JIM HOWARD: I appreciate
10 this opportunity to speak to you
11 tonight. I'm here tonight
12 representing the Alabama Bass
13 Federation and it's 3,000 members and
14 probably speaking for most of the
15 22,000 bass members of the State of
16 Alabama.

17 Looking at things broadly, first
18 we would have two expectations, I
19 guess, of your organization. One, I
20 understand in Florida you can't
21 control what goes on in Atlanta,
22 which we know is a source of a lot of
23 problems here.

24 But we would ask that you take
25 no actions that would promote the

1 rampant growth that is taking place
2 in Atlanta and the surrounding area
3 because of the dire consequences on
4 our resources here.

5 And, secondly, we hope you
6 continue to arise above local
7 political power interests with
8 concern only about their own needs
9 and not the needs of others.

10 That being said, I'm speaking to
11 dredging and water management
12 separately -- you cannot really
13 separate those two -- and just hit a
14 few high points of our concerns as
15 the bass fishing community.

16 One, in terms of water
17 management, we think the single use
18 management of water, meaning flows
19 particularly, it's got to be a thing
20 of the past.

21 I think we can no longer flush
22 water through our dams for single
23 uses at a time when that is not even
24 reasonable, some people have said
25 because of the low water flows, not

1 considering other uses that can occur
2 with that water. I think the time
3 has passed for that sort of thing.

4 The growing demands on this
5 resource in the future is huge and I
6 don't think we can tolerate it.

7 Secondly, and we've heard a
8 little bit tonight already, we would
9 ask that you consult with the
10 fisheries management people, or maybe
11 them with you, to make sure that we
12 have these high water situations or
13 stable water situations in the times
14 of the year when they do us the most
15 good in terms of our maintaining our
16 fisheries and resources, particularly
17 the spawning times.

18 Concerning dredging, we've heard
19 it tonight -- I take it it's
20 imperative that we maintain dredging
21 on these rivers. Obviously, it was
22 designed originally for navigational
23 -- commercial and navigational
24 purposes, but it is greatly exceeded
25 by actual recreational uses now.

1 And we need that program to
2 continue because if you are out of
3 the dredging business, you might be
4 out of the safety business, for
5 example, on Lake Eufaula where we
6 depend on the Corps to maintain our
7 buoys to tell people where to go to
8 keep from getting killed on that
9 lake.

10 Even the people in smaller
11 boats, if we get dredging -- we talk
12 about barges and stuff. And even the
13 smaller boats will have access
14 problems if dredging is ceased in the
15 entire system, including the sloughs
16 that some of the folks have already
17 hit on.

18 We would ask -- probably not
19 you, I guess. But I'd like to ask
20 you what we probably ask our
21 legislative friends, to help you
22 encompass recreational values to
23 however degree in the assessments and
24 management strategies they have in
25 the past.

1 We fully know that benefit cost
2 analysis in most of these systems are
3 based highly on navigation for
4 commercial purposes. We think that
5 that needs to be reevaluated,
6 although it is there.

7 The recreational values in many
8 cases far exceed that and needs to be
9 a part of those management strategy
10 determinations. I guess if we looked
11 at the future, we see enough
12 increasing pressures on the resource,
13 but we see increasing pressures on
14 the people.

15 And our society needs these
16 resources for recreational outlets,
17 and that needs to be foremost in our
18 mind to look to our future and our
19 kids' future to make sure we don't do
20 something that takes away the
21 opportunities to have individual and
22 family recreation pursuits in the
23 future.

24 Finally, with respect to the
25 protection of the ACF ecosystem, we

1 think we need to be looking at the
2 21st Century and what it brings, and
3 not the 18th Century. Thank you.

4 COLONEL BOB KEYSER: Thank you.
5 Just as a general note. I'm up here
6 scribbling some notes of things that
7 I'm finding out for the first time or
8 are a little different twist than
9 what I heard previously.

10 And what I'd like to do once we
11 get through all of the statements, I
12 would like to do little dialogue with
13 all of you to talk about some of the
14 specifics and some of the challenges
15 that we wrestle with.

16 One of the points that was just
17 brought up was with respect to
18 economic values. One of the
19 challenges that we've got that when
20 we assess a project for the Corps of
21 Engineers, we assess it based on
22 national benefits solely.

23 What does this do nationally,
24 without regard for what it means
25 locally or what it means regionally?

1 And, also, we haven't come to grips
2 with how do you put a dollar value on
3 environmental benefits.

4 When I was down traveling along
5 the Apalachicola Bay, we were looking
6 at an island that has been created
7 with dredge material, and it was a
8 habitat for brown pelicans. I
9 believe that's what we saw out
10 there.

11 And we stopped and we were
12 talking and I said the challenge that
13 we've got -- this is a good thing to
14 have created this habitat.

15 The problem is, is that as I
16 assess that project in terms of the
17 economic viability of it, how do you
18 put a dollar value on the fact that
19 that brown pelican is sitting there?

20 And that's one of the things
21 that we haven't come to grips with.
22 We haven't done that nationally. We
23 certainly haven't done it locally.

24 But that's part of the dialogue
25 that we need to have because that

1 needs to start fitting into that
2 equation.

3 We've heard about the
4 billion-dollar oyster industry in
5 Apalachicola. I have heard about the
6 economics at Lake Lanier. I have
7 heard about the economic impacts at
8 LaGrange when I made visits there.

9 But those are local or regional
10 benefits which don't plug into our
11 equations. That's part of what we
12 need to address, is how do you
13 consider what the local benefits
14 are?

15 It does make a difference
16 whether that industry is in the City
17 of Apalachicola or it leaves there
18 and goes to some place in Louisiana.
19 It makes a difference. It certainly
20 makes a difference locally.

21 But from the Corps' perspective
22 on a national basis, that doesn't
23 matter because the industry still
24 continues. It just moves some place
25 else within the country.

1 So that's part of what I'd like
2 to talk a little bit about as we
3 finish up with the statements. But
4 we've got a way to go with that.
5 Carmen Cavezza.

6 MR. CARMEN CAVEZZA: I'll
7 waive.

8 COLONEL BOB KEYSER: Thank you,
9 sir. Sam Phiegar.

10 MR. SAM PHIEGAR: Thank you,
11 Colonel. You did very well with that
12 last name. My name is Sam Phiegar.
13 I'm a professional engineer, coastal
14 engineer, and I get to play around
15 with the Corps of Engineers on a lot
16 of projects all across the country.

17 I have practiced for 20 years
18 focusing in the recreational marine
19 world on waterfront projects across
20 the United States and overseas.

21 And you raised a question a
22 minute ago, and I'll reiterate it for
23 you. It was how do you consider what
24 the economic benefits are? I can
25 address that slightly from the

1 standpoint of recreational boating.

2 That's what my point is here.

3 Working on the waterfront
4 projects across the country, I have
5 recognized the intrinsic value of
6 recreational boating for families and
7 individuals alike.

8 The national pro boating
9 campaign that was started by the
10 National Marine Manufacturers
11 Association in making significant
12 strides in promoting the industry
13 beyond what it probably already was.

14 The economy is not severely
15 altered in the manufacturing side of
16 the recreational boating world, and
17 the marina side is actually growing.

18 The number of registered boaters
19 in the country is sharply rising.
20 The number of participants is
21 increasing, and yet recreational
22 boating is threatened by numerous
23 factors in different areas of the
24 country.

25 That can be endangered species

1 where it is necessary to protect
2 those, special geographic areas that
3 aren't necessarily adaptable to
4 marinas. So the good locations are
5 going away. There are fewer safe
6 harbors.

7 But available water and water
8 depth should not be one that allows
9 the industry to be impacted when it
10 can be managed by dredging, once you
11 can consider the economic benefits as
12 you raised before.

13 Yet this is a concern on the
14 Alabama River, the entire eastern
15 seaboard intercoastal waterway, and
16 the Chattahoochee ACF system.

17 So the point being, on the ACF
18 system, the adequate depth is needed
19 for more than just the commercial
20 industry.

21 And a few pertinent facts. I
22 know you're interested in facts.
23 I'll give you a few. There's
24 approximately 90 boat ramp lanes at
25 over 60 sites along the ACF system.

1 There's over 600 boat slips,
2 approximately 15 marinas.

3 There's several additional
4 facilities that are being
5 considered. I heard the gentleman
6 from Bainbridge mention that, as well
7 as the City of Columbus is studying
8 one as well.

9 On any given day in the season,
10 this can translate to over 3200
11 boaters on the water on any given
12 day.

13 Within the counties that are
14 directly bordering the ACF alone,
15 there's over 40,000 registered
16 boats. So clearly, nationally, as
17 well as within the ACF, recreational
18 boating is popular.

19 And the destination status of
20 cities along the waterways are
21 increasing, as the gentleman from
22 Eufaula spoke to where a boater can
23 now leave anywhere in the world and
24 come visit Columbus, Georgia, if they
25 had one on the Chattahoochee, as long

1 as there is adequate navigational
2 depth.

3 Accordingly, Columbus embarked
4 in a program to evaluate the
5 feasibility of a marina several years
6 ago here at the headwaters.

7 The results of that study were,
8 basically, whether there's a
9 significant enough demand for wet
10 slips, dry storage, and ramp lanes
11 currently.

12 The marina project right now is
13 in the permitting processes through
14 all the state approvals and it's at
15 the final stages of the Corps'
16 authorization.

17 So recognizing that the Corps
18 relies on benefit cost ratios, the
19 benefits of recreational boating, I
20 feel, must be considered, or should
21 be considered. Maybe that's a more
22 palatable phrase.

23 Direct, indirect, and induced
24 economic benefits are real and they
25 are measurable with recreational

1 boating. Are they with the pelican's
2 habitat used by -- or that was
3 created by dredged spoil, I don't
4 know the answer to that, but they are
5 from the standpoint of recreational
6 boating.

7 I'll give you a few examples.
8 Broward County in Florida, the direct
9 or indirect benefits from marine
10 facilities in that one county alone
11 earn from 1.5 billion dollars a
12 year.

13 Now, we know this is not Fort
14 Lauderdale or Broward County. But
15 the registered boat population that I
16 mentioned before along the ACF is
17 40,000. The registered boat
18 population in Broward County is
19 42,000, so it's a similar boat
20 population.

21 I'm not trying to make the giant
22 leap to 1.5 billion dollars in
23 economic impact, but individual
24 marina benefits have been evaluated
25 all over the country. There's

1 several numerical models that have
2 been employed to get the formal
3 number.

4 Primary and secondary impacts
5 have ranged on individual marinas,
6 one marina, anywhere from 1.8 to 5
7 million dollars per year, with job
8 creations from 20 to over 60. And
9 these numbers are just for small to
10 moderate-sized facilities.

11 Obviously, there's always site
12 dependant factors that go into the
13 analysis. But the fact is, the
14 analyses do exist.

15 Applying those ratios to the
16 ACF, you could be looking at 20-to-40
17 million dollars a year in direct
18 impacts alone which can be, in my
19 belief, termed as benefits in the BC
20 ratio process.

21 So what does all this mean? It
22 means the benefits, true economic
23 dollars of a navigational
24 Chattahoochee River that includes
25 countless residents from Columbus,

1 south, to Apalachicola.
2 40,000 registered boaters, and
3 escalating, demand for marina slips,
4 and over 3,000 daily users strongly
5 suggest that if it's possible, that
6 the Corps consider recreational
7 benefits when considering a
8 navigational project. Thank you for
9 your time.

10 COLONEL BOB KEYSER: Thank you.
11 Oscar Jackson.

12 MR. OSCAR JACKSON: My name is
13 Oscar Jackson. I'm a layman on the
14 Georgia Governor's Advisory Council
15 representing southwest Georgia and
16 Lake Seminole. I'm also a chairman
17 of the South Georgia Chamber of
18 Commerce Water Resources Commission.

19 I think one of the finest things
20 that's ever happened to south
21 Georgia, southwest Georgia in
22 particular -- and I speak from my
23 grandparents that came into that area
24 while the Indians were still there.

25 But I think one of the finest

1 things that's happened was the
2 development of the ACF. Secondly, I
3 think the Corps of Engineers with the
4 restrictions that have been placed on
5 it have done a magnificent job in
6 regulating the ACF.

7 And, Colonel, I want to salute
8 you, sir, for the job that you --
9 your organization has done. I have
10 passed out some material, a brief
11 description of it. I have got video
12 clips that go back to 1989 to verify
13 my remarks on it.

14 And, Colonel, I would be honored
15 to give you a copy of this tape so
16 that you can put it in a drawer and
17 when your commanding officers and
18 cohorts ask if this was successful,
19 you will tell them it was, and you've
20 got the proof of it.

21 And the only thing I ask of you,
22 sir, is you will read my material and
23 look at the 40-minute tape. You will
24 get a lot of education of what has
25 transpired on the ACF and the reason

1 for my comments.

2 And the only thing that I ask
3 for you to do is for you to look at
4 it, or let somebody else. Thank you,
5 sir.

6 COLONEL BOB KEYSER: Johnny,
7 Wacaser.

8 MR. JOHNNY WACASER: Close
9 enough. My name is Johnny Wacaser.
10 I work for Ergon Asphalt in
11 Bainbridge, Georgia on the Flint
12 River.

13 Our plant was built in 1957 for
14 the sole purpose of utilizing inland
15 barge traffic. Our last barge
16 received was in May of 2000.

17 Due to the severe drought we've
18 all been experiencing, we had to
19 install a rail spur as a stop-gap
20 measure at the plant.

21 And this was just a stop-gap
22 measure until we could resume barge
23 traffic. We've moved a hundred
24 thousand ton per year of product.
25 This is 42 barges a year. These are

1 seven-foot-six draft barges which
2 would require about an eight-foot
3 channel.

4 It costs us six dollars a ton
5 more to use rail compared to barge.
6 Ergon owns its own boats and barges
7 in the whole premise of making
8 Bainbridge a viable business for
9 using Ergon barges to supply it.

10 Our railroad negotiating teams
11 informed us that the railroad is
12 extremely eager to renew the freight
13 contract which expires in 2003.

14 Their plans is to pass along a
15 huge rate price increase. They are
16 banking on Ergon not having any
17 alternate means of supply.

18 Profit margins are very slim in
19 the asphalt business. And it's now
20 costing at least \$600,000 more to use
21 rail service exclusively.

22 Assuming we survive a large
23 increase in freight cost, this extra
24 cost will have to be passed along to
25 the taxpayers of Georgia, Florida,

1 and Alabama in the form of higher
2 taxes or reduced services.

3 The federal government and the
4 Corps of Engineers made a commitment
5 to the Tri-State area to provide that
6 river navigation. And we at Ergon
7 feel like the Corps should and will
8 do everything in its power to honor
9 that commitment. Thank you.

10 COLONEL BOB KEYSER: Thank you.
11 C. P. Redding.

12 MR. C. P. REDDING: Thank you,
13 Colonel, for the opportunity to
14 present our case tonight.

15 I'm C. P. Redding. I'm chairman
16 of the Quitman County Commission, and
17 I'm also chairman of the Quitman
18 County Development of Parks.

19 I'm on the board of directors of
20 the Southwest Georgia Economic
21 Development Board. I'm on the board
22 of directors of the Southwest Georgia
23 Tri-County Chamber of Commerce.

24 I serve -- I'm on the board of
25 directors of Columbus Technical

1 College. I want to tell you tonight
2 that we cannot afford for this lake
3 to be decommissioned. Quitman County
4 is one of the poorest counties in the
5 State of Georgia. Out of the five
6 poorest, we're Number 4.

7 And I'd like to read this letter
8 to you, if I could. Quitman County
9 is one of the five poorest counties
10 in the State of Georgia. 85 percent
11 of the people in this county wake up
12 on a dirt road every day.

13 40 percent of the people do not
14 even own a car. Our student drop-out
15 rate is tremendous. I could go on
16 and on. At present, due to a
17 tremendous amount of help, we should
18 catch up to the 20th Century sometime
19 before the end of the 21st Century.

20 We have a couple of projects in
21 the works in this area. One of them
22 is a six million dollar marina on
23 land dedicated by the Corps of
24 Engineers for this purpose.

25 We have a conceptive plan. We

1 have been working with the Corps to
2 get that commissioned to complete
3 that project, and we appreciate
4 anything you could do for us in that
5 area to get it to where we could
6 complete that project.

7 Another project, a welcome
8 center, will be developed adjacent to
9 the causeway between Eufaula and
10 Georgetown, Georgia on US Highway
11 82.

12 This project will be part of a
13 critical -- to the continued growth
14 of the area as mentioned earlier.
15 Should Walter F. George be
16 decommissioned, it would be a
17 disaster for our area.

18 At the present time, we can step
19 out our back door, board a
20 watercraft, and travel anywhere in
21 the world. Please consider the
22 economics of this move and the
23 possible negative conditions it would
24 create for those in Quitman County.

25 In the event should we ever need

1 barge traffic, it would not be
2 available. The barge traffic that we
3 have now is most important to this
4 area. We cannot afford to lose it.

5 We are asking that you consider
6 our needs. We would ask also if you
7 would please help us in our quest to
8 come into the 21st Century.

9 If you wake up every day of your
10 life on concrete, with all the
11 amenities of the world, it's hard to
12 understand, but we appeal to you to
13 realize that there are people that
14 still wake up on a dirt road every
15 day and have to scratch for a
16 living. Thank you very much.

17 COLONEL BOB KEYSER: Thank you.
18 Buddy Cox.

19 MR. BUDDY COX: Colonel Keyser,
20 I think everybody can hear me if I
21 stand here. My name is Buddy Cox.
22 I'm one of the lawyers that's been
23 representing the State of Alabama in
24 connection with the ACT-ACF
25 negotiations, filed the original

1 lawsuit on behalf of the State of
2 Alabama against the Corps of
3 Engineers and one of your
4 predecessors in June of 1990.

5 And I thank you for this
6 opportunity, for the opportunity to
7 get together. As a representative of
8 the state, I would like to invite you
9 to participate actively as a part of
10 the federal team in the negotiations
11 that are going on.

12 You are the person that balances
13 everything. We've had a great deal
14 of help from Memphis and Roger and
15 their people working on their staff.
16 But I would encourage you to become
17 an active participant.

18 Two of the three states are
19 going to change their governors.
20 There's going to be some movement on,
21 there's going to be decisions being
22 made, the principal -- the first of
23 which is going to be whether and how
24 long to extend the negotiating period
25 for the ACT and ACF compacts.

1 I continue to believe that the
2 compact negotiation process provides
3 the only way that these diverse
4 interests can be discussed and can be
5 resolved in a manner that makes your
6 life and the states' lives easier,
7 and we thank you for this
8 opportunity.

9 COLONEL BOB KEYSER: Thank you.
10 And I appreciate your encouragement.
11 I would point out that I basically
12 serve at the whim of the federal
13 commissioner -- I shouldn't say the
14 whim, at the direction of the federal
15 commissioner.

16 Basically, we are his technical
17 advisors. So there's a -- there's
18 pretty much a fine line there as to
19 how far out in front I ought to be.

20 We do provide the technical
21 advice, hence, why folks like Memphis
22 and Roger are decisively engaged in
23 providing him the advice.

24 I have got to be careful that
25 I'm not out in front saying, well,

1 this is what you ought to do because
2 that's not my call.

3 I should review his decision and
4 give him advice on how that applies
5 to the federal law and whether
6 there's any required changes, based
7 on an agreement among the three
8 states.

9 But I understand your position,
10 and I stay tied in pretty closely
11 with Memphis and Roger and those
12 folks. But, again, I serve in that
13 capacity, solely to advise the
14 federal commissioner.

15 MR. BUDDY COX: And we
16 understand that. We just welcome
17 more dialogue from the federal
18 agencies to the states and not wait
19 until after the states have reached
20 an agreement, as it appears to be the
21 Department of Justice's position.

22 I think that's wrong, and I
23 don't think that's in line with the
24 spirit of the compact --

25 COLONEL BOB KEYSER: Okay.

1 MR. BUDDY COX: -- or the
2 negotiating process.

3 COLONEL BOB KEYSER: Harry
4 Hall.

5 MR. HARRY HALL: Harry. My name
6 is Harry Hall. I represent two
7 organizations. The Georgia B.A.S.S.
8 Federation, it holds about 3,000
9 members and 110 chapters here in
10 Georgia; and the Georgia Soil and
11 Water Conservation Commission of
12 which I'm a supervisor in this
13 county.

14 My efforts -- I want to thank
15 Billy Houston. He was talking about
16 the economic impact that we have, and
17 in this coming year, I will take two
18 five-day bass tournaments to Eufaula
19 where we'll probably put over half a
20 million dollars into the community.
21 So the economic development is very
22 important to all concerned.

23 I tried to reduce this to what
24 is the major problem for the need of
25 dredging, and it comes down to where

1 does the silt come from?

2 Now, if you listen to some
3 people, they'll say it's all from
4 land disturbing activities, where
5 people are building things. Well,
6 that accounts for maybe 55 percent of
7 the silt that goes into the water.

8 We're -- with the efforts of
9 working with contractors and
10 developers, that's being reduced.
11 We're finding more technological ways
12 to do this and the silt is being
13 reduced. But let's say 55 percent.

14 Where does the other 45 percent
15 come from? Well, Georgia has 3,100
16 miles of public dirt roads. As this
17 gentleman right over here talked
18 about, they live on dirt roads.

19 Well, those dirt roads end up
20 feeding the dirt into the streams.
21 And Walter F. George is a good
22 example of where that is.

23 There's another 15 percent that
24 comes from the runoff of storms on
25 our highways, roads, parking lots, et

1 cetera. It goes into our storm water
2 system and eventually into our rivers
3 and lakes.

4 And there's another 15 percent
5 that's just naturally occurring. Had
6 I not been at Callaway Gardens this
7 last January with the GACDS
8 convention, I wouldn't have realized
9 it.

10 But we were on the golf course
11 and down came a real frog strangler,
12 a rain that lasted for about an
13 hour-and-a-half.

14 And we -- as it subsided, we
15 went over to look at some of the
16 streams and here was all of the silt,
17 and this area was completely grassed,
18 shrubbed, or treed; and, yet, here
19 came all of this naturally occurring
20 silt.

21 Now, can we stop this. Yeah,
22 there's ways that we can do this. We
23 can put dams, check dams, into our
24 streams that lead into our rivers and
25 lakes, provided there's a place to go

1 in and clean it out.

2 It's expensive, but we can do
3 it. But the problem is the silt --
4 or this is the genesis for where the
5 silt gets into the rivers.

6 So why dredge? That's a
7 question that's sometimes asked.
8 Technically, the flood protection,
9 which is really the most important
10 thing that these dams were built for,
11 to provide this economic stability --
12 you don't have to dredge to have the
13 flood protection.

14 You can have the silt right up
15 to the edge of the water, where the
16 water used to be, and still provide
17 flood protection.

18 So the next thing it says is we
19 need navigation. Well, immediately
20 when you say navigation, everybody
21 says barge.

22 But as several people have
23 pointed out, we have 40,000 boats
24 just on this lake or nearby this
25 lake. We have many boats that are 25

1 foot or longer, some as long as 70
2 foot, and they can't get up and down
3 the river.

4 If you go three miles down to
5 your Bull Creek, unless you're in a
6 bass boat moving very slowly, you
7 can't get by at the river.

8 You go on down to the Upatoi
9 Creek, which is a few miles further
10 down, and you can't by on the river
11 because of all the silt that's poured
12 out of the these creeks and into the
13 river to form a nice little dam.

14 What we really look at as a
15 major consideration that is
16 frequently not valued and is the need
17 -- and the need for dredging is the
18 water volume capacity of this area.

19 A cubic meter of silt displaces
20 a cubic meter of water, water that's
21 needed for human consumption, other
22 household uses.

23 The Chattahoochee River is one
24 of 14 major river systems in Georgia,
25 yet the Chattahoochee River provides

1 50 percent of Georgians with their
2 drinking water.

3 So it's a very important system
4 from that standpoint. We need a
5 means of having the water capacity.
6 Now, from my other standpoint as a
7 soil and water conservationist, let
8 me take the part of the farmers.

9 To grow things in south Georgia,
10 you need to irrigate. And many of
11 them use the water out of the river.
12 This is true in Alabama because I
13 have been up and down the river in a
14 bass boat.

15 And all of a sudden you will
16 hear the pumps going, and there's
17 somebody drawing water. It's only a
18 few hundred meters off the river, but
19 it's drawing water out of the river
20 and irrigating crops. And that's the
21 way they make them grow.

22 More importantly, the south has
23 become alive and vibrant because of
24 one thing, air conditioning. Now,
25 peak power is needed during from say

1 noon to five or 6:00 in the evening.

2 And where does that peak power
3 come from, almost all of it from
4 hydroelectric generation which is
5 very inexpensive.

6 It doesn't require we build
7 excess of fossil plants. So this is
8 very important to that need. There's
9 another need for water volume. And
10 that's fish, or other aquatic life.

11 They breathe oxygen just like we
12 do, except their oxygen is taken from
13 the water in the form of dissolved
14 oxygen. And if you don't have
15 adequate volume and depth, then you
16 don't have dissolved oxygen.

17 We've already seen a reduction
18 in the fisheries of Walter F. George
19 just from things of this nature. So
20 we would encourage people to think
21 about what the effects are on the
22 fisheries.

23 There's many places because of
24 the wash of the soil that we've
25 blocked off, the leaves in the

1 sloughs and other places. The fish
2 can't get back in there.

3 Well, the question then comes
4 up, okay, what do we do with this
5 dredged material? Well, the dredged
6 material is devoid of humus. It
7 compacts easily.

8 If you go over here on Victory
9 Drive, you'll see the Confederate
10 Naval Museum. That's built on 27
11 feet of compacted dredge material,
12 compacted very easily.

13 There's another good use for
14 it. A landfill requires that every
15 day you place a fresh six-inch layer
16 of dirt on top of the landfill, an
17 excellent use for the dredged
18 material.

19 Sir, we'd like to just call your
20 attention to these things. We think
21 that the dredging is needed for more
22 than just barge traffic. And I thank
23 you.

24 COLONEL BOB KEYSER: Thank you.
25 Art Holbrook.

1 MR. ART HOLBROOK: I'm a
2 consultant to LaGrange and Troup
3 County on West Point Lake matters.

4 A couple of years ago, I sat
5 down and tried to make a chart of all
6 of the different entities that were
7 involved in our lake and our lake
8 levels.

9 I never finished the chart
10 because I ran out of paper. I made
11 the fonts as small as I could, and I
12 made the circles as small as I could,
13 but there absolutely was not enough
14 room to list everything.

15 I got 41 entities on the paper,
16 but -- which would illustrate the
17 complexities of how our river basin
18 has to be considered in management.

19 I'd like to quote a few lines
20 from a boating newspaper and see if
21 it sounds familiar to any of you.

22 "Taming the banks of a river
23 water system through a series of
24 stabilization and dam projects was
25 considered a marvel in engineering

1 back in the mid 20th Century,
2 clearing the way for navigation and
3 flood control.

4 "But today those projects are
5 being blamed for the continuing
6 degradation of the entire system.

7 "It's an issue that's been
8 brewing for more than a decade
9 pitting upstream states against
10 downstream, environmentalists against
11 industry, and marina against marina.

12 "There's even a difference of
13 opinion among boating interests,
14 depending on which part of the river
15 they use.

16 "The lake interests want the
17 water to be higher, more predictable,
18 and provide better access to
19 reservoirs.

20 "Hydropower plants want enough
21 water to generate electricity, and
22 barge operators want enough water for
23 navigation."

24 These comments were not made
25 about the ACF, but referred to the

1 Missouri River which runs through six
2 states: Montana, North Dakota, South
3 Dakota, Iowa, Nebraska, and Kansas.

4 The Western Water Policy Review
5 Advisory Commission was released in
6 1998. Some of their recommendations
7 were we need to have a new approach
8 to governance based on hydrologic
9 systems, linking basins and
10 watersheds, specifically by
11 establishing a river basin commission
12 for each river basin.

13 Each one of our river basin
14 stakeholder groups has needs that
15 must be met, while the water
16 available to satisfy these needs at
17 times is limited.

18 The federal agency that has
19 authority to manage the river basin
20 must abide by the congressional
21 intended purposes for the reservoirs,
22 as Colonel Keyser stated.

23 For example, West Point Lake has
24 five purposes as described in the
25 House Document 570 which created a

1 reservoir. They are hydropower
2 generation, fish and wildlife
3 recreation, flood control, and
4 navigation.

5 Each one of these, as well as
6 other congressionally intended
7 purposes must be considered when
8 managing water in our basin.

9 The last draft proposal for the
10 ACF showed that it would eliminate
11 almost all of the flows except the
12 small flows that's needed to maintain
13 the biological integrity in the
14 Chattahoochee River below Peachtree
15 Creek.

16 This would have essentially
17 removed two-thirds of the reservoir
18 storage in the ACF. Dividing the
19 river basin up into segments to be
20 managed individually will destroy the
21 entire river basin system.

22 I feel that all basin
23 stakeholder needs can be met when the
24 basin is operated on a holistic
25 optimized basis.

1 It must be managed from
2 beginning to end as one unit,
3 balancing each entity as necessary to
4 maintain the river basin integrity.

5 It must be developed with state,
6 federal, and local stakeholder
7 involvement. It should have a body
8 of scientists on its staff to
9 evaluate and recommend solutions for
10 management to follow.

11 It should have the ability to
12 adjust as conditions dictate. To
13 date, there hasn't been a trend
14 towards cohesive water management in
15 our basin. I think it's time we
16 moved in that direction.

17 I applaud Colonel Keyser and his
18 staff for taking a step in the right
19 direction. I encourage them to take
20 another step and join forces with the
21 three states, other federal agencies,
22 and stakeholder groups to form such
23 an optimized management coalition for
24 the ACF River Basin. Thank you.

25 COLONEL BOB KEYSER: Thank you.

1 Harold Reheis.

2 MR. HAROLD REHEIS: Thank you,
3 Colonel. I'm Harold Reheis. I'm the
4 director of Environmental Protection
5 Division for the State of Georgia. I
6 appreciate the opportunity.

7 Georgia has numerous water needs
8 that depend on how the Corps of
9 Engineers operates and manages its
10 reservoirs on the ACF. Metropolitan
11 Atlanta is critically dependent on
12 Lake Lanier for its current and
13 future water supplies, at least
14 through 2030.

15 We recognize that care and
16 efficiency are required in the use of
17 this water both now and especially in
18 the future. And metro Atlanta is
19 working hard on that to improve water
20 conservation and efficiency.

21 Annual withdrawals from Lake
22 Lanier and its tributaries in the
23 Chattahoochee Basin are about 127
24 million gallons a day in 2000, a year
25 of critical Alabama drought in the

1 basin; an additional 293 million
2 gallons a day withdrawn from the
3 river between Buford Dam and
4 Peachtree Creek for a total of 420
5 million gallons a day in that year.

6 Withdrawals were about the same,
7 slightly less in 2001. We expect
8 them to be somewhat more in 2003, and
9 perhaps as high as 440 million
10 gallons a day as people -- in the
11 event we end up without as bad a
12 drought year as we've had in the
13 past.

14 Water quality is also dependent
15 upon how the Corps of Engineers
16 operates its reservoirs, particularly
17 Buford Dam. We have a continuing
18 need for sufficient water in the
19 Chattahoochee River for water quality
20 purposes.

21 The Corps of Engineers has done
22 an outstanding job for more than 25
23 years now in providing the minimum of
24 750 cubic feet a second of flow in
25 the Chattahoochee River just upstream

1 from Peachtree Creek. And we applaud
2 how the Corps has been doing that,
3 and it needs to continue on.

4 In the middle part of the river,
5 the City of LaGrange drew about 11
6 million gallons a day from West Point
7 Lake during 2001; Columbus and
8 Muscogee County about 35 million
9 gallons a day from Lake Oliver in
10 2001.

11 And we expect those needs are
12 going to be about the same in the
13 next several years, but somewhat
14 higher. In addition to that, as
15 Billy Turner pointed out, the Georgia
16 Power Company manages its reservoirs
17 downstream from West Point Lake using
18 the releases from West Point Lake to
19 provide certain minimum flows here at
20 Columbus, an average daily flow of
21 1160 CSF, and an instantaneous
22 minimum of 800 CSF.

23 And there are many users
24 downstream from Columbus that are
25 dependent upon those flows. We

1 certainly encourage the Corps to
2 continue to operate West Point in a
3 wise manner so that Georgia Power can
4 help these communities downstream in
5 meeting their needs.

6 We recognize that the Corps has
7 to balance the water needs of various
8 project purposes and stakeholders
9 throughout the basin. We also
10 believe that the Corps should
11 consider the relative economic values
12 of these uses when prioritizing among
13 the competing uses, especially when
14 there's not enough water to take care
15 of all of those needs at once.

16 For that reason, we have in our
17 letter, which I'll leave with you,
18 listed a number of estimates of
19 economic value of periods of uses in
20 the basin in Georgia.

21 And I want to summarize those
22 very briefly. Annual values from
23 municipal and industrial water supply
24 in Georgia are in multiple billions
25 of dollars per year.

1 Recreation in four of the Corps
2 of Engineers' lakes, Lanier, West
3 Point, Walter F. George, and
4 Seminole, we estimated about 1.7
5 billion dollars a year, about 1.2
6 billion of that being at Lake Lanier.

7 Hydropower on average over the
8 last number of years, based on the
9 rates that are paid for hydropower
10 these days draw four lakes, we think
11 it's somewhere around 40 million a
12 year.

13 And navigation, based on
14 estimates that were done in the
15 comprehensive study by the Corps of
16 Engineers several years to the ACF,
17 we think are probably in the range of
18 four million dollars a year.

19 So -- and then certainly aquatic
20 habitat and water quality have very
21 important values. We haven't at this
22 point attempted to put any dollar
23 values on those. We certainly
24 understand they are very high.

25 We go from several billions of

1 dollars a year in value from
2 municipal and industrial water supply
3 to maybe 1.7 billion for recreation
4 per year, 40 million for hydropower,
5 four million a year for navigation,
6 and some untold number in the values
7 for habitat and for water quality.

8 In order to meet all these
9 needs, we believe the reservoirs
10 should be maintained and as close to
11 full as possible so that we're not
12 caught with low pool levels in the
13 event of another drought.

14 We don't know if the drought is
15 over yet. We hope it is. Five years
16 is enough. But we don't know what
17 the new year is going to bring. We
18 urge the Corps to be very
19 conservative in making major releases
20 for hydropower and navigation when
21 there is uncertainty about future
22 aquatic conditions.

23 Municipal and industrial water
24 supply and recreation have the
25 highest economic values for this

1 water. Both benefit greatly from
2 having relatively full pools at the
3 Corps of Engineers' reservoirs and
4 benefit from operating reservoirs as
5 if drought was imminent as they have
6 for a number of years.

7 Hydropower also will benefit
8 from full pools when power demands
9 are higher in the summer. Water will
10 be available for emergency releases
11 to maintain habitat and water quality
12 in the regulated streams downstream
13 from the reservoirs.

14 I'd like to say that the Corps
15 of Engineers, I think, has done a
16 remarkably good job of operating the
17 reservoirs in the ACF Basin over the
18 last several years, especially
19 considering the difficulties that
20 have been brought on all of us by
21 this drought.

22 We appreciate the work you've
23 done. A copy of our full letter will
24 be left with the Corps of Engineers
25 for the record. Thank you.

1 COLONEL BOB KEYSER: Thank you.
2 Just as a comment for the next
3 speaker. One of the things that we
4 did, that we started last year, we're
5 going to continue to do it again this
6 year.

7 We've got a standard rule card
8 that says that we operate the lakes
9 at full pool during the summer,
10 assuming there's enough water there,
11 and then we pull them down for flood
12 control in the wintertime.

13 I made a decision last year to
14 raise all of the winter pools in an
15 effort to try and recapture full pool
16 in the spring a little sooner, since
17 we hadn't done that in a couple of
18 years.

19 That worked last year, except at
20 Lake Lanier. We just never got the
21 inflows at Lanier to get that up
22 where it belongs.

23 But we did reach full pool on
24 every other lake in the system
25 despite the fact we went through a

1 fifth year of drought. We would have
2 been in worse shape had we not done
3 that.

4 It's important to understand
5 that there are some risks in doing
6 that. Because what I'm taking when I
7 do that is flood control capacity.

8 And you have to recognize that
9 the ACF operates as a system. And
10 when we anticipate a large winter
11 storm, typically that storm is coming
12 in off the Gulf. It's going to fill
13 Lake Seminole first, and it's going
14 fill Walter F. George.

15 So I now have no capacity to
16 absorb any flow from up river if I
17 have got an artificially high pool
18 upstream at West Point. Then when
19 that overflows, I have got no place
20 to put that water, which means I'm
21 flooding somebody now.

22 So as that storm works its way
23 up, I start running into problems
24 about ensuring that I maintain
25 sufficient flood capacity all the way

1 up through the system.

2 We're going to do the same thing
3 we did again this year -- the same
4 thing we did last year, again this
5 year.

6 But I'd like to let everybody
7 know that as Memphis and my
8 meteorologist and the rest of our
9 water management team look at the
10 weather systems as they're coming in
11 and we see a bad storm coming, then
12 that high winter pool that we've been
13 holding may disappear.

14 The storm may not materialize,
15 but from my perspective in balancing
16 all of those needs and requirements,
17 the risks and the costs are too
18 high.

19 If it's going to flood somebody
20 out, I'm going to dump the water
21 early rather than risk flooding
22 somebody downstream just to ensure
23 they have a high recreation pool the
24 following summer.

25 I understand everybody's wants

1 and needs and everything, but first
2 and foremost, I'm going to ensure the
3 safety of the folks downstream.

4 So, again, we played that part
5 last year. It worked out well.
6 We're going to try it again this
7 year.

8 Hopefully, we're going to
9 recover all the lakes. Lanier is
10 already back above its historic
11 normal pool at this time of the
12 year. So we're partly up. We may
13 actually see full pool again at Lake
14 Lanier this coming year.

15 Next up, Tim Perkins.

16 MR. TIM PERKINS: Thank you. My
17 name is Tim Perkins. I'm the
18 director of the water and sewer
19 department in Forsyth County.

20 Forsyth County is one of
21 neighboring counties on Lake Lanier,
22 approximately 20 square miles of the
23 county itself was flooded by the lake
24 and the surrounding property of the
25 lake.

1 By the way, that property was
2 taken off the tax base. It was
3 purchased by the Corps of Engineers.

4 We have people in the county
5 whose family farms, their churches,
6 their family cemeteries were all
7 flooded by the lake when it filled
8 up.

9 This is one of the reasons that
10 some of our citizens feel like we've
11 been left out because we have been
12 unable to get a withdrawal permit of
13 our own from Lake Lanier.

14 We're one of the fastest growing
15 counties in the nation for the last
16 ten years. For two years running, we
17 were the fastest growing county in
18 the nation.

19 I say that not to brag. We just
20 as soon it not happen. But I say it
21 because we don't have a discharge
22 permit of any kind in the river or
23 lake. We don't have a withdrawal
24 permit of our own.

25 We're forced to share an intake

1 with the City of Cumming. We had
2 that growth without the current
3 restrictions on discharges and
4 withdrawals.

5 Anyway, we're forced to share an
6 intake with the City of Cumming,
7 which is working well, but it's also
8 causing our customers to have to pay
9 higher rates for services. It costs
10 us more to do that than if we could
11 provide it ourselves.

12 That intake is currently
13 becoming impacted because it's
14 undersized, and we need to split from
15 the city. We have a treatment plant
16 of our own. We need to split and
17 provide water separately.

18 To do that, we would need a
19 storage allocation contract from the
20 Corps to make that happen. The
21 lake's terribly important to us.

22 The recreation around the lake
23 feeds our community, surrounding
24 communities also. We believe the
25 best use for us is to take the water

1 to use it, to clean it up to the
2 highest treatment possible.

3 We're currently doing that on
4 the land application system using
5 membrane technology and then
6 returning that water back to the
7 river or lake for others to use.
8 We're prepared to do that. It's
9 terribly expensive, but that's what
10 has to be done.

11 The lake itself has actually
12 prohibited us from getting a
13 discharge permit into the river and
14 that the dissolved oxygen coming from
15 the lake during the summer months is
16 causing a problem for the trout
17 standards.

18 The project you currently have
19 to work on the turbulence in the dam
20 is terribly important to us and would
21 correct that problem. We hope
22 nothing happens to your funding to
23 stop that.

24 One thing that -- we do have
25 somewhat of an unreliable water

1 source with the drought we've had and
2 watering bans that were in place.

3 We've got a lot of people in our
4 county who are putting in wells, who
5 are dropping pumps in farm ponds and
6 streams outside of any permitted
7 requirements, and we see the springs
8 drying up.

9 Then that's taking from water
10 that's flowing into the lakes and the
11 river. And we see -- at one point
12 this year, we saw a stream that only
13 had two cubic feet per second flowing
14 down.

15 And that was almost the amount
16 of water that was being put in by the
17 city terminal's wastewater plant. We
18 know it had a lot more than that. We
19 believe that some people were drawing
20 that water out, but we don't know
21 where.

22 The other thing that's happening
23 in our County is we're continuing to
24 go on septic tanks. Septic tanks
25 don't allow that water to be treated

1 and returned to the river for others
2 to use.

3 We have a few thousand customers
4 on sewer that's being treated by
5 Fulton County and the City of
6 Cumming.

7 We need these discharge permits
8 so that we can build the treatment
9 plants, put the infrastructure in to
10 keep them from going on septic
11 tanks.

12 We, too, have a fast growing
13 water demand. I won't bore you with
14 the numbers of the gallons we need.
15 We're a fairly small county, so it's
16 not nearly as large as some of the
17 other counties in the area.

18 But I will send you the
19 memorandum prepared by our engineers
20 with the future projections for the
21 water needs for us. And, again, I
22 thank you for this opportunity to
23 come and speak.

24 COLONEL BOB KEYSER: Give us a
25 sample of those needs.

1 MR. TIM PERKINS: Our
2 projections for our billed-out would
3 be 44 million gallons on an annual
4 average number, a max day would be 66
5 million gallons. That would be
6 somewhere in the 2030 range at the
7 rate we're going.

8 COLONEL BOB KEYSER: Okay.
9 Thank you. Charles DeBardleben.

10 MR. CHARLES DEBARDELEBEN: Thank
11 you, Colonel. I appreciate the
12 opportunity to be here as well. God
13 bless you that you have to listen to
14 everybody here today. I just hope
15 genuinely we can all work together to
16 help you with this. Seriously, I
17 think we can do this.

18 My small company seems like a
19 small fish in a big pond, but I'm
20 going to tell you just a little about
21 it. We do have an impact. It is a
22 national impact as well, so please
23 bear with me.

24 Steward Machines was founded in
25 the 1900s with a family business.

1 Since its inception, family owners,
2 since 1952, our owners. We are one
3 of the largest manufacturers of
4 movable bridge machinery in the
5 world, and also the latest structural
6 steel, spillway gates, very large
7 water displacement pumps.

8 Due to the increasing
9 requirements -- and I do emphasize
10 the increasing requirements on us, we
11 use very large components to be
12 shipped by barge, along with the
13 expanding infrastructure segment of
14 our business.

15 In June of 2000, we purchased a
16 former Trinity Industries plant in
17 Bainbridge, Georgia. Ironically, the
18 Trinity Plant was a facility that
19 built barges. And they would take
20 these barges to their customers down
21 the Flint River through the
22 Apalachicola.

23 The primary reason that we
24 purchased the facility, 120,000
25 square feet of manufacturing space,

1 was the assured availability of
2 navigatable waterway.

3 Shortly after we purchased the
4 Bainbridge plant, we received the
5 necessary permits to construct a new
6 200-foot bulk head and loading slip
7 to accommodate 400 tons of capacity
8 for efficient barge loading.

9 In the fall of 2000 we informed
10 the Corps, the Mobile District, that
11 we were proceeding with several very
12 large DOT movable bridges and various
13 other projects including large
14 gates.

15 Subsequent to the notification
16 of the Corps, we were informed by the
17 Corps that barge traffic was very
18 limited on the system due to, and I
19 quote, dredge problems on the
20 Apalachicola River. Obviously, we
21 were devastated.

22 In April of 2001, we formally
23 notified the Mobile Corps that we had
24 jobs in-house that would require 18
25 barge shipments over the next year.

1 To date, we have yet to ship our
2 first barge from that plant.

3 Our plans to spend over a
4 million dollars on a bulk head and
5 slip remain on hold. All of these
6 jobs mentioned in April of 2001,
7 except one, were forced to be
8 completed at other locations that we
9 were compelled to lease at their
10 extravagant prices.

11 One job in particular, Southwest
12 Second Avenue, downtown Miami, which
13 is the largest drawbridge in the
14 world, was scheduled to be shipped
15 out of our Bainbridge facility.

16 We were forced to complete at a
17 temporary leased location costing
18 Steward Machines an additional 2.5
19 million in just lease and additional
20 labor. That was just one job.

21 The value of the cargo plan for
22 these 18 shipments was over 40
23 million dollars. The increased cost
24 to do these jobs in leased space
25 elsewhere was over 10 million

1 dollars.

2 The last remaining jobs to be
3 shipped by barge out of this plant
4 cannot be moved to another location.
5 Without special waivers from the
6 Corps, that's not going to happen.

7 We have secured special 1,000
8 horsepower jet boats for this
9 shipment, one late December of this
10 year, and the other one in April of
11 2003. These barges will be moved.
12 All we need is three-and-a-half feet
13 of water to make this shipment
14 happen.

15 Obviously, we have not planned
16 for any future shipments out of this
17 facility nor do we immediately plan
18 to complete the bulk head and slip
19 until we have assurances that this
20 waterway will be navigatable, whether
21 by dredging, nav windows, or seasons,
22 if adhered to.

23 However, if we do not receive
24 these assurances in the very near
25 future, we'll probably close the

1 Bainbridge facility, sell it, and use
2 the proceeds towards another site on
3 a navigatable waterway at a very
4 difficult and expensive undertaking,
5 given the size of the facility that
6 we require.

7 Closing this plant would mean
8 putting 80 people out of work in
9 Bainbridge. Closing it would mean
10 the 20-to-30 million dollars worth of
11 work going through the plant annually
12 would stop.

13 Closing would mean the impact on
14 the local economy would be
15 insurmountable. However, the impact
16 would be caused to the traveling
17 public to the effect of businesses,
18 emergency services, Coast Guard,
19 interstate commerce, et cetera.

20 If they were not able to provide
21 the components to the respective
22 destinations via barge, would be
23 devastating. Thank you very much,
24 Colonel.

25 COLONEL BOB KEYSER: Thank you.

1 Doug Barr.

2 MR. DOUG BARR: Thank you,
3 Colonel. I'm Doug Barr with the
4 Northwest Florida Water Management
5 District. I'm also a member of
6 Florida's team in the Interstate
7 Compact negotiations.

8 Like the others, I would like to
9 thank you very much for holding this
10 meeting. It's a pleasure to be able
11 to come up and meet people we've
12 known for a number of years and
13 particularly address you and identify
14 some of the needs that we have.

15 There's a couple of items that I
16 would like to mention, first of all,
17 in regards to Operation to Save the
18 Reservoirs, they are very, very
19 important to the State of Florida.

20 Those reservoirs provide low
21 flow augmentation for the State of
22 Florida. In particular, Apalachicola
23 River is very very important to the
24 continued integrity, biological
25 integrity habitat of those two

1 systems.

2 So while operating it in a
3 conservative manner is certainly good
4 from the perspective of upstream,
5 from our perspective, downstream
6 could mean that we don't see
7 fluctuation flows that we believe
8 that system needs.

9 In regard to the dredging, and
10 specifically with regard to the
11 disposal of dredge materials,
12 traditionally the disposal of the
13 dredge material is problematic. It
14 does tend to sand-in the shorelines
15 of the rivers.

16 And, also, we're finding that
17 the disposal practices allow that
18 same material to wash down stream and
19 locks off some of these slough areas
20 that are very, very important to the
21 river and the bayou that spawn back
22 in those areas.

23 And as long as the dredging is
24 continuing, and the disposal of those
25 materials is being done in the same

1 fashion it has in the past, it's
2 going to make it very, very difficult
3 for the State of Florida to restore
4 those areas.

5 We have one large project coming
6 up this year which Florida is going
7 to be making quite an expenditure
8 trying to restore one of those slough
9 areas.

10 As long as the materials are
11 being disposed of in the same fashion
12 as the past, we may find that those
13 materials, you know, wash down the
14 river and close off those sloughs
15 again.

16 So, from our perspective,
17 disposal of those materials is
18 keeping us from being able to restore
19 those very very important habitat
20 areas that we have along the river.
21 Thank you, Colonel, for giving us all
22 the opportunity to visit with you
23 this evening.

24 COLONEL BOB KEYSER: Thank you.
25 A brief comment along the issue of

1 dredging and dredge disposal. A
2 pretty significant event occurred
3 this evening with, I believe, our
4 second speaker, when Gulf County
5 offered up on disposal sites for use
6 for the disposal of dredge material.

7 Typically, when the federal
8 government operates a channel, the
9 local sponsor, the non-federal
10 sponsor, is responsible for providing
11 the disposal areas.

12 If lands are not available, in
13 this case what they've done
14 historically along the Apalachicola
15 River is within banks disposal with,
16 I believe, about three exceptions
17 where we've gotten other disposal
18 sites.

19 If you're maxed out at the
20 upland disposal sites, in some cases
21 extremes -- I'm sure many of you out
22 there are familiar with Sand
23 Mountain. It's about a 40 or 50-foot
24 high mountain of sand that's upland.
25 That's where all the sand has been

1 piled that's been dredged.

2 But elsewhere, sand is put along
3 the edge of the stream bank with the
4 idea being it doesn't go up into the
5 backwaters. It stays within the
6 banks of the stream.

7 But, obviously, if it stays
8 within the banks of the stream, when
9 water comes up, you're going to get
10 some of that material back in, so
11 you're redredging material that
12 you've already disposed of within
13 banks. That's rather problematic.

14 The fact that an upland disposal
15 area has been made available changes
16 the dynamics of that. That
17 eliminates some of the problems
18 associated with dredging of what do
19 you do with the dredging material.

20 It doesn't get back into the
21 system so that it doesn't end up
22 blocking up the sloughs as it
23 migrates downstream.

24 And we've got a joint project
25 that we've been working on with the

1 State of Florida to re-open those
2 sloughs. A couple of those have not
3 worked the way we thought they would,
4 so we're back doing some tests to see
5 how do we need to realign those so we
6 can get those things functioning
7 properly.

8 Moving on. Bill Kenyon.

9 MR. BILL KENYON: I'm Bill
10 Kenyon. I'm the chairman of the Clay
11 County Economic Development Council,
12 also vice-chairman for the Clay
13 County Cooperative Authority.

14 Clay is a very small county with
15 a population of only about 3300
16 people. It is one of the most
17 economically depressed counties in
18 the State of Georgia.

19 The county's present economic
20 base is primarily agriculture and
21 tourism. Lake Walter F. George forms
22 the basis for the tourism industry
23 there in Clay County.

24 This is based upon the visitors
25 to the lake for recreation and for

1 fishing purposes. These activities
2 to the lake in turn provide tax
3 revenues to the county based on our
4 Local Option Sales Tax.

5 This is a tax that is collected
6 on the sales of services and goods
7 within the county. They are required
8 to be dedicated to the reduction of
9 ad valorem property taxes for
10 property owners.

11 Property tax is a primary tax
12 revenue source for the county.
13 Fiscal year 1999, Clay County
14 received \$267,240 in this local
15 option sales tax.

16 I think it was right after this
17 period that the lake was lowered to a
18 very low level. We could not get
19 boats out into it. It wasn't very
20 safe to travel, and also the fishing
21 was just about totally devastated.

22 The amount received in 1999
23 amounted to approximately 20 percent
24 of the county's operating budget. We
25 are a small county with a budget

1 barely over one million dollars.

2 Due to the reduced visitation to
3 the lake, in conjunction with the tax
4 revenue, the local option tax revenue
5 for the fiscal year 2000 fell from
6 \$267,000 all the way down, within one
7 year, to \$138,220.

8 The following year, fiscal year
9 2001, they were down to \$123,406.
10 And for the fiscal year that just
11 ended the 1st of October, fiscal year
12 2002, these revenues were down to
13 \$103,864.

14 You can see this has
15 dramatically affected the county's
16 operating budget. As a result, this
17 dramatic decrease of revenue for our
18 county operating budget resulted in
19 two straight years of substantial
20 property tax increases.

21 It's also affecting retailers.
22 We have one retailer reporting now it
23 takes him two months to sell the same
24 amount of bait that he once sold in
25 one week.

1 In addition to our local option
2 sales tax, the county also depends a
3 great deal on what we refer to as a
4 Special Purpose Local Option Sales
5 Tax. This is also a one percent tax,
6 and it's dedicated to road
7 maintenance.

8 Revenues also fell over a
9 hundred thousand dollars a year for
10 this special purpose local option
11 sales tax. This is probably half of
12 our total road budget.

13 In the past three years, Clay
14 County, which is only 3300 in
15 population, has suffered
16 approximately one million dollars in
17 lost revenues.

18 It's very important to us to
19 have navigation and recreation at
20 Lake Walter F. George. Without
21 navigation and proper management of
22 this lake and its reservoir levels,
23 this drop in revenue could be a
24 permanent loss to Clay County.

25 This is something that -- Clay

1 County is an economically deprived
2 county, and cannot afford. Thank you
3 for your attention and time.

4 COLONEL BOB KEYSER: Thank you.
5 Glennie Bench.

6 MS. GLENNIE BENCH: Good
7 evening. Thank you for the
8 opportunity to speak. My name is
9 Glennie Bench. I'm a member of the
10 Georgia Ports Authority, and I'm also
11 a resident of Bainbridge, Georgia.

12 When you're the small dog in the
13 fight, you have to use all the
14 resources and assets you have in
15 order to compete.

16 The availability of transporting
17 goods and materials on the Flint
18 River is a primary asset that we
19 cannot afford to lose.

20 The rural areas of Georgia are
21 the equivalent of a small dog in a
22 fight. And we need this and all of
23 our limited number of assets to stay
24 in the fight for posterity and a
25 better quality of life.

1 Our inability to consistently
2 use the river system for navigation
3 in recent years, though scarcely
4 publicized in some areas of the
5 state, has cost us jobs, economic
6 growth opportunities, profits,
7 deficiencies of operation, and
8 productivity in an area of Georgia
9 where even one job, one percent
10 increase in cost, one percent
11 decrease in productivity makes
12 economic statistics waiver.

13 Southwest Georgia cannot afford
14 to lose access to this vital asset.
15 The Georgia Ports Authority facility
16 was constructed in Bainbridge to
17 provide flexibility for transporting
18 goods and materials to and from the
19 area where transportation options
20 were extremely limited. That need
21 has not changed.

22 Our ability to compete in the
23 market place requires the
24 availability of competitive options
25 for the manufacturer and distribution

1 of goods.

2 Rail rates have already
3 escalated at rates higher than what
4 other geographic areas have
5 experienced. Freight rates for
6 trucking have just risen again, and
7 most are subject to surcharges due to
8 fuel prices.

9 Trucking is also an expensive
10 option in light of the fact that
11 there is still no four-lane highway
12 between Bainbridge and any major
13 market to the north, east, or west of
14 us.

15 These obstacles are further
16 exacerbated by the greater
17 environmental consequences of rail
18 and truck over barge transportation.

19 The availability of consistent
20 navigation has in the past resulted
21 in millions of tons of goods and
22 materials being shipped via the Flint
23 River through the Georgia Ports
24 Authority facility alone.

25 So the statistics from the

1 United States Department of
2 Transportation allows you to
3 calculate the following: It would
4 take a seven-mile long train, or 2300
5 trucks stretching 90 miles bumper to
6 bumper to transport the tonnage that
7 only 40 barges can carry.

8 One gallon of fuel can move one
9 ton of cargo 514 miles via barge, but
10 only 202 miles via rail, and a measly
11 59 miles by truck. The savings to
12 shippers from the use of barge
13 transportation are at a minimum seven
14 billion dollars annually.

15 Additionally, during the '90s,
16 when navigation was inconsistent at
17 best, the tonnage being shipped
18 through the Georgia Ports Authority
19 facility increased by 59 percent from
20 1991 to 1995 and averaged a growth of
21 90 percent per year between '91 and
22 '97.

23 This speaks to the demand and
24 need for barge transportation as well
25 as the economic competitive advantage

1 that it provides.

2 The advantages of barge
3 transportation that existed when the
4 facility was built still exists
5 today, but producers cannot be
6 expected to put up with a system that
7 is cumbersome and inconsistent.

8 The infrastructure is in place
9 to avoid those frustrations.
10 Southwest Georgia wants and needs the
11 opportunity to employ that
12 infrastructure for the benefit of all
13 the market places that would reach.
14 Thank you for the opportunity to
15 speak.

16 COLONEL BOB KEYSER: Thank you.
17 Rufus Powell.

18 MR. RUFUS POWELL: I'll pass.
19 Thank you.

20 COLONEL BOB KEYSER: Dick
21 Timmerberg.

22 MR. DICK TIMMERBERG: Thank
23 you. My name again is Dick
24 Timmerberg. I'm with the West Point
25 Lake Coalition. And we basically

1 have eight points on our wish list,
2 if you will.

3 Steady and/or rising spring pool
4 to protect the spawn and maintain or
5 improve the West Point Lake fishery
6 for the casual angler, as well as the
7 tournament fisherman.

8 Maintain a full pool from
9 Memorial Day through October 1st for
10 the safety of fishermen, recreational
11 boaters, skiers, and the overall
12 enjoyment of all visitors.

13 Maintain winter pool at a
14 minimum of 630 to keep the lake a
15 12-month -- to facilitate full pool
16 during the summer season.

17 During periods of crisis or
18 drought, allocate as much as possible
19 an equitable distribution of water
20 among the various stakeholders and
21 interests.

22 There, again, I guess we would
23 selfishly ask for a particularly
24 vigilant eye up towards Atlanta in
25 their election to lead, apparently,

1 an unbridled and voracious thirst for
2 water without a concrete plan.

3 Next, allow LaGrange, Troup
4 County, and surrounding regions of
5 Georgia and Alabama to realize
6 maximum economical potential of West
7 Point Lake.

8 I think we've furnished a copy
9 that you have, and we can furnish an
10 additional one of the study by A.L.
11 Burruss Institute.

12 In '94 it showed a 125 million
13 dollar annual economic impact on
14 LaGrange, Troup, and the surrounding
15 region. Currently, Dr. Gary McGinnis
16 estimates that number to be closer to
17 about 200 million dollars.

18 We would ask that all windows of
19 navigation are carefully scrutinized
20 via strict predetermined requirements
21 and then plan accordingly to negate
22 or minimize the impact on the entire
23 system.

24 We would like to continue to
25 partner with the Corps to promote

1 safety and reduce trash and litter on
2 West Point Lake and ask that you take
3 steps whenever necessary to protect
4 and/or improve water quality.

5 If I have got a second, I'd just
6 like to complicate one of your
7 challenges you mentioned earlier in
8 terms of quantifying the economic
9 impact.

10 Mr. Reheis talked about a 1.7
11 billion dollar recreational value.
12 Another gentleman referred to the
13 boating industry.

14 I refer to economic impact on
15 Troup. I'd like to emphasize,
16 though, that not everything is
17 measured in dollars and cents, even
18 though I'm used to that myself.

19 And I think you have to talk
20 about just the mental value of
21 recreation. And I guess the thing to
22 consider is keep it away from water a
23 minute.

24 And imagine if you told all the
25 golfers, of which I'm one, you can't

1 play golf anymore. You can't go
2 jogging anymore.

3 If you looked at everybody's
4 rest and relaxation, the infamous
5 R&R, and you removed that from them,
6 I think you would hear sufficient
7 outcry that would at least quantify
8 you putting value on the reservoirs
9 and the ACF system that we're talking
10 about into recreational value.

11 Thanks.

12 COLONEL BOB KEYSER: Thank you.
13 Marilyn Blackwell.

14 MS. MARILYN BLACKWELL: My name
15 is Marilyn Blackwell. I'm with the
16 Apalachicola -- Help Save the
17 Apalachicola River group. And I came
18 here to try to understand where
19 different people were coming from.

20 And I think I have got a little
21 bit of a handle on it. I have heard
22 a lot of words about the money, how
23 much the river is worth, and this
24 group over here wants this much
25 water, and that group wants that

1 much, and that one wants that much.

2 And when you add all that up,
3 you've got an impossible job because
4 there's not that much water, plus,
5 more than likely, there will be less
6 water in years to come.

7 The water table is getting lower
8 and lower. The farmers are going
9 deeper and deeper for irrigation
10 water. They're taking more out of
11 the Apalachicola River, more for
12 development.

13 And the bottom line is like --
14 the river, you know, don't call it
15 the Chattahoochee, the Flint, or the
16 Apalachicola, call it the river. It
17 heads up in Alabama and Georgia. It
18 ends at the bay. It's a river.

19 And it's like a beautiful flower
20 that is being torn apart to where
21 there is going to be nothing left of
22 it. And then where will all this
23 needs be?

24 I don't understand that there is
25 so many people up here with

1 completely different ideas than what
2 we have down there. This is the
3 second big meeting that's been held
4 in Columbus, Georgia.

5 We have to come 200 miles and
6 over to get here. I believe that
7 some of these people need to come to
8 our territory, see our problems.

9 Undoubtedly, y'all don't have
10 the destruction that we have. You
11 don't have the people that love the
12 river like we do. We don't want it
13 for money or power or farming. We
14 want it for itself because it
15 deserves to live.

16 And everybody in this room needs
17 to take a different look at what's
18 happening because you're destroying a
19 treasure, and nobody is going to get
20 what they want, nobody. It's a
21 losing battle. Thank you.

22 COLONEL BOB KEYSER: Thank you.
23 While we're here -- actually, I'm
24 glad you made the comments you made.
25 Part of why we're here is so that

1 everybody starts to see who all is --
2 competing for the resource that we
3 refer to as the river. Hang on.
4 It's my turn. My turn.

5 MS. MARILYN BLACKWELL: Okay.
6 I'm not going to interrupt you. I
7 just want the rest of my five
8 minutes.

9 COLONEL BOB KEYSER: Part of the
10 idea is so that we can hear what
11 everybody is looking for because the
12 hand that I'm dealt is the river as
13 it exists today.

14 And what I can do is -- I can't
15 say I'll address your problem, but I
16 won't address yours. I have got to
17 figure out how do I balance all of
18 these.

19 And a lot of you in the audience
20 have heard this before. I won't make
21 everybody happy. If I made everybody
22 equally unhappy, then I have probably
23 got the balance just about right.

24 Somebody earlier said we've got
25 to share in the pain. Well, part of

1 it is to ensure that the pain that
2 we're sharing is shared across all of
3 the users.

4 Typically, we talk in terms of
5 the navigation interests like the
6 Steward Machine or the folks up on
7 the lakes that have got a fishing
8 business or a marina business, or the
9 water authority.

10 But there's other users, also.
11 There are the users of the
12 environmental constituencies and the
13 fish and wildlife organizations that
14 are down on the other end of the
15 system.

16 And part of what I have got to
17 do is ensure that I know what all of
18 those various constituencies are
19 looking for and do the best I can to
20 balance all of that and to make calls
21 that maybe don't involve simply
22 economics.

23 Maybe it involves a call in
24 terms of what's best in terms of
25 environmental stewardship. One of

1 the discussions that we had with the
2 Florida Fish and Wildlife earlier in
3 the year was the discussion with
4 respect to the fish spawn.

5 Typically, you've got fish
6 spawning in the river at the same
7 time that the fish are spawning in
8 the lakes.

9 Well, a number of years ago, we
10 wrote an agreement with the states
11 that said we will consult with you to
12 make sure that we won't drop the
13 level in the lake during the fish
14 spawn to ensure we don't kill off the
15 lake spawn.

16 Well, that's great, except if
17 you've got some big fluctuations over
18 on the Flint system, then that means
19 the heavy flow down to Flint makes
20 for a heavy flow down on the
21 Apalachicola.

22 But I have no controls. I can't
23 regulate the flow on the Flint. So
24 if a big storm hits and the water
25 level is up, and I flood the

1 backwaters of the Apalachicola, well,
2 those waters recede fairly quickly.

3 If that happens while they're
4 spawning, then, I have got all those
5 spawning fish that are caught out in
6 the backwaters, and I can't augment
7 the flow to keep that level up so
8 that they can get back out of the
9 backwaters unless I start dropping
10 the lakes.

11 Well, I have this agreement that
12 I'm not going to drop the lakes
13 because they're spawning up there.
14 So one of the things that we agreed
15 to was that we're going to start a
16 consultation process and see if there
17 isn't some more flexibility in how we
18 regulate the lakes during those
19 spawning periods.

20 So maybe it's not a perfect
21 spawn in the lakes, but we don't kill
22 them all off down the river either.
23 So, again, there's some tradeoffs
24 that have to occur, but I can't make
25 those tradeoffs until I know what's

1 hanging in the balance.

2 So, again, that's a big part of
3 why I have got everybody here
4 tonight. And I, again, thank you all
5 for coming out because that gives me
6 information that my folks need in
7 order to make intelligent decisions
8 of how you manage the water
9 resource.

10 We've done it based on partial
11 information in the past. And,
12 frankly, it hadn't been a very good
13 job, if you look at it in hindsight.

14 Given the data that we had at
15 the time, we could say, well, we did
16 the best we could. In the past, the
17 best hasn't been good enough.

18 So we've got to get that a
19 little bit better. The position that
20 I'm in is I can't throw my hands up
21 and say, God, this is a lose-lose
22 proposition no matter how you look at
23 it. I have got to find the best
24 solution out there for everybody.

25 So is it easy, no. As General

1 Powell would say, if it was an easy
2 job, they'd give it to somebody
3 else.

4 So we'll gather everybody's data
5 to see what we need to do and then --
6 and I'm going to kind of summarize
7 what all I have heard tonight when
8 everybody's done.

9 We're going to lay all that out
10 back in the district and try to make
11 a call on how can we meet all of
12 these needs more effectively than we
13 have in the past if we look at
14 multiple needs simultaneously. We
15 haven't done that in the past.

16 We've looked at constituency's
17 needs exclusively. That's a lousy
18 way to do business. That's the way
19 we did it in the past, but it's not
20 how we're going to do it anymore.

21 So that's why we're here, and
22 that's what we're shooting for.
23 Again, we're not as good as we need
24 to be, we may not be as good as we
25 ought to be, but we're working on

1 it. This is a big step forward in
2 trying to get there.

3 And I cut you off a
4 minute-and-a-half before your time
5 was up. Go ahead, Marilyn.

6 MS. MARILYN BLACKWELL: Thank
7 you.

8 COLONEL BOB KEYSER: Sure.

9 MS. MARILYN BLACKWELL: All
10 right. Some people seem to have the
11 idea that the plan is to discontinue
12 -- or people are wanting to
13 deauthorize the dredging on all three
14 rivers.

15 We've never ever advocated
16 deauthorizing the Flint or the
17 Chattahoochee. The Apalachicola is
18 what our problem is.

19 And as far as barge traffic on
20 it, there was no barge traffic on it
21 at all, even before the drought
22 started, because there was only one
23 barge company because nobody wanted
24 to ship on the river because they
25 couldn't be assured of a channel.

1 The Corps has dredged the
2 Apalachicola for a hundred years and
3 has never been able to maintain a
4 channel.

5 And as far as the silt, the sand
6 deposits being the problem with the
7 dredging, the dredging causes a lot
8 of problems other than the sand
9 deposits.

10 This past dredge season, we lost
11 ten and fifteen feet of the bank in
12 stretches from where the dredging
13 caused the trees to fall in like
14 dominos.

15 A lot of things about the
16 dredging is detrimental to the river
17 system. But why not deauthorize the
18 Apalachicola, being as how there's no
19 barge traffic on it.

20 When the Corps dredged for four
21 months trying to get the sand -- to
22 start moving it -- for four months
23 they dredged. You could go behind
24 that channel where they was dredging
25 and the channel was filling up as

1 fast as they was dredging it because
2 there is so much silt in the river.

3 COLONEL BOB KEYSER: Thanks.

4 MS. MARILYN BLACKWELL: Thank
5 you. Thank you.

6 COLONEL BOB KEYSER: Shelley
7 Scroggins.

8 MR. SHELLEY SCROGGINS: I'm
9 Shelley Scroggins. I live on the
10 Apalachicola River in Gulf County,
11 and I devote much as effort as I can
12 to help try to restore the ecosystem
13 down there to some extent.

14 But I have a major question for
15 you, as seeing the awful task that
16 you have, at what point in the future
17 do you think or see in your planning
18 the advance of a civilization from
19 Atlanta southward would it be to such
20 an extent that you would have to say,
21 whoa, this is enough?

22 This is all you can take out of
23 the river. There will be no more
24 shipping up and down the river
25 because we can't allocate enough

1 water. And due to all this
2 expansion, do you foresee that in the
3 very foreseeable future? And, again,
4 I thank you.

5 COLONEL BOB KEYSER: Thank you.
6 I don't have the answers to any of
7 your questions. Frankly, I'm not the
8 deciding player in it.

9 In terms of when you say you
10 can't do this anymore, that's what
11 the water compact negotiations are
12 all about.

13 What are the limitations, what
14 are the allocations going to be
15 through that system? What else is in
16 store in terms of what is today a
17 fixed resource?

18 What limits and whether there
19 will be navigation on the waterway?
20 Well, part of it is, if we get to a
21 normal rainfall for a year, that
22 changes the whole picture.

23 If I have got adequate flow into
24 the system, as opposed to the
25 extremely small flows that we've had

1 the last five years, it changes the
2 whole thing in terms of what's
3 available in terms of water supply,
4 and what's available for water
5 quality, for hydropower, what's
6 available for navigation?

7 Again, in a normal, you've got
8 sufficient flows that are coming
9 downstream that while you may not be
10 able to navigate 12 months out of the
11 year, there certainly are seasons
12 where that channel needs to be
13 available and can be available with a
14 normal flow and a minimal amount of
15 dredging.

16 The Corps would do some of the
17 dredging potentially with some
18 structural solutions. What would
19 those be, don't know.

20 I would want to model that
21 because, again, you've got a -- I had
22 the chance to ride the Apalachicola.
23 It's a beautiful river. It's
24 gorgeous.

25 And, yeah, it's sad to look at

1 the disposal areas, the bank disposal
2 areas on the side of the river area.
3 You know, I can't sit up here and
4 say, oh, that's a good thing. It's
5 not. But it was done.

6 So what do you do with it now,
7 do you just leave it? Do you walk
8 away from it? Do you try and fix
9 it? That's what we're wrestling
10 with.

11 In the course of trying to fix
12 it, there's some options that are out
13 there, and I would certainly want a
14 model of any ideas that we had before
15 we try to implement them to ensure
16 that what we did was, in fact, a fix
17 and not creating another problem.

18 But that's something that we've
19 got to proceed forward with. We
20 can't just sit back and say, well,
21 we're stuck with the mess and we're
22 not going to do anything with it, or
23 to heck with it, we're just going to
24 let, you know, civilization march on,
25 and if the ecosystem on the

1 Apalachicola River degrades, well,
2 that's the cost of progress.

3 That's not an acceptable
4 solution, and that's not how we're
5 going to proceed. So, again, in
6 terms of how much water comes out,
7 that's going to be negotiated between
8 the states and be passed on to the
9 federal commissioner.

10 And, you know, that may require
11 a change to law, in terms of how the
12 system is -- what the authorizations
13 are for it.

14 But, again, that's something
15 that will be negotiated by the states
16 and then we'll come back to the Corps
17 and look for a recommendation and an
18 assessment about what this has
19 changed, and if need be, make those
20 changes. It may require changes to
21 legislation. But I don't make the
22 calls on any of those.

23 In terms of the growth in the
24 Atlanta area, we're looking today at
25 a number of projects looking at water

1 -- the metro Atlanta watershed and
2 assessing what needs to happen there
3 in terms of water quality, potential
4 water supply, and that sort of
5 thing.

6 But that's a local issue. I
7 mean, that's an issue where local
8 planning commissions get together and
9 decide this is how we're going to
10 regulate the growth, this is how
11 we're going to control so it's
12 managed, and that you can assure the
13 folks that are moving into that area,
14 as well as the folks that are already
15 there, that there are adequate
16 services available.

17 In the process of building up an
18 area, you're not going to destroy the
19 area, or, you know, areas that are
20 ancillary to that, such as whoever is
21 downstream from Atlanta.

22 But, again, that's an issue to
23 be worked at the state and local
24 level and not something the Corps of
25 Engineers is in the middle of. We

1 will provide some advice or some
2 studies, but that's the extent of
3 it.

4 Moving on. John Davis. I'm
5 beginning to notice that I might be
6 losing some of the folks that wanted
7 to speak.

8 MR. JOHN DAVIS: My name is John
9 Davis, and I'm a member of a number
10 of organizations, but I'm not
11 representing anybody. I'm here -- I
12 speak for myself and myself alone.

13 Nobody has a -- I love big
14 rivers. The first time I went down
15 the Apalachicola River, I was 12
16 years old, and I was on a raft that I
17 made. And I have been on the river
18 ever since then.

19 And every four-to-six weeks, I
20 travel the distance of one of these
21 three rivers, sometimes two. And I
22 hear a lot of things. I have heard a
23 lot of things here tonight that just
24 don't make sense to me.

25 It's not what I see, it's not

1 what I photograph. NAV windows, for
2 example, how destructive they are to
3 the environment.

4 I'm also a historian. And if
5 you go back -- and I'm glad to hear
6 someone here tonight -- I want to
7 find out who it was that said they
8 had records back 50 years of water
9 levels. I have not been able to find
10 that.

11 But I have found newspaper
12 articles and old annual reports from
13 the U.S. Army Engineers, and it was
14 not uncommon at all on all three of
15 these rivers for the water to go up
16 30 feet or more overnight and be back
17 down in two days to the original
18 level.

19 And that didn't happen ten times
20 a year like now, but it did happen
21 three and four times a month in the
22 spring and winter.

23 So, you know, it doesn't make
24 sense to me that now -- or that's
25 bad; although, any environmentalist

1 has to not be in favor of that.
2 Because a properly dredged river, not
3 one that we put dredged material in
4 wetlands, but one that is properly
5 dredged and disposed of in a way
6 that's not harmful to the environment
7 -- in a properly dredged river, you
8 don't need nav windows. It's just
9 not necessary.

10 And insofar as -- another thing
11 that bothers me, I know that at least
12 on four occasions, I have had an
13 appointment to meet with the
14 riverkeeper on the lower rivers.

15 And every time, the meeting has
16 been canceled. I never had an
17 opportunity to exchange information
18 or anything. So I'm glad you're here
19 and you're giving us a chance to
20 talk.

21 We never get a change to provide
22 the data that we've got. So I would
23 to commend the Corps and you for
24 being here. I certainly appreciate
25 it.

1 And I have prepared a lot of
2 other things, but you said that we
3 couldn't talk about each other, so
4 that destroyed that. That took
5 three-fourths of my presentation.

6 You know, another thing, one
7 more example that I -- I hear
8 dredging stops up all these sloughs
9 and creeks, and I do see sloughs and
10 creeks that are stopped up with sand,
11 but it didn't come from dredging.

12 It came from poor land
13 practices. And I have got a series
14 of pictures, photographs, color
15 pictures about three or four months
16 ago where the Patoka had gone down,
17 and some of these small sloughs and
18 creeks have been stopped up for ten
19 years or more and dug it out as far
20 back as that drag line.

21 And every month, I would go back
22 and take a picture of that same creek
23 or that same slough, and you can see
24 the sand coming from inland to the
25 mouth of the river. It's not coming

1 from the river. It's back inland.

2 And some of those the folks dug
3 out four months ago are filled up
4 again. And it's from inland sites,
5 primarily poor agriculture land
6 practices, poor construction
7 practices, clear-cut logging, and a
8 lot of other things.

9 So the Corps gets a lot of
10 accusations that are not true.
11 Dredging has got a lot of accusations
12 that are absolutely not true.

13 And this is my last. As an
14 environmentalist, the thing about the
15 Apalachicola River -- and it exists
16 only there. It doesn't exist on the
17 Chattahoochee or the Flint. But
18 these floating cabins, they have no
19 way to dispose of sewage.

20 There are over 200 of them on
21 the Apalachicola River that I have
22 counted, and I think there are more
23 than that, but I didn't go up in all
24 those -- the tributaries.

25 But if these things sit there in

1 times of drought like we've had --
2 there are fishing cabins in the
3 summer and there are hunting cabins
4 in the winter that are occupied more
5 time than you think.

6 And sewage, human waste, feces
7 is dumped right into the Apalachicola
8 River. Some of these are almost
9 within a stone's throw of
10 Apalachicola.

11 And they cause vibrio, they
12 cause Hepatitis A. I had a patient
13 that I have seen that in 48 hours
14 after eating oysters from
15 Apalachicola was fighting for her
16 life in a hospital in Dothan. And
17 her sister who flew back to Ohio was
18 doing the same thing.

19 There's a lot of data on that.
20 Recalls on oysters -- and I have
21 eaten in the oyster houses in
22 Apalachicola. It's unbelievable.

23 It's all because of these
24 floating cabins. It's all because of
25 these floating cabins, it's not

1 coming from sewage from any towns or
2 your hog barn.

3 These diseases that they're
4 getting, like the vibrio, are from
5 human waste. I have written official
6 written complaints to everybody in
7 Florida I know, Northwest Florida
8 board of management areas, all the
9 environmental organizations, the
10 Department of Environmental
11 Protection in Florida, Governor Bush
12 -- and that got some movement
13 there.

14 But that's something that
15 somebody needs to address. Everybody
16 I talked to in Florida denies
17 responsibility to regulate those
18 things.

19 I was told as soon as the
20 election was over, for the state,
21 they were going to do something about
22 it. They never have. I think the
23 only option that's available to the
24 public, as a resident of Apalachicola
25 and other towns in Florida and the

1 visitors that go there, the only
2 option they've got to protect
3 themselves from these diseases is the
4 Corps maintains that channel,
5 continues to dredge and maintains
6 that channel so that you've got an
7 adequate flow to flush these things
8 out.

9 Because it's one of those cases
10 where the solution to pollution is
11 dilution. If you don't get that
12 stuff flushed out and have an
13 adequate flow, a lot of other people
14 are going to die.

15 This is the interesting point.
16 The diseases you get from eating
17 contaminated oysters, 50 percent --
18 over 50 percent of the people who
19 become ill, die, over 50 percent.

20 It's not like the West Nile
21 Virus where a couple of them die, and
22 a couple of them get sick. So I
23 would ask if the Corps has any
24 influence over getting those illegal
25 cabins off of there.

1 In lieu of that, maintain the
2 channel and have adequate flow.
3 After all these years, I'm convinced
4 without any question, whatsoever,
5 that you can -- if you use proper
6 dredging, you can also have a healthy
7 environment, and you can protect the
8 ecosystem.

9 You can have them at the same
10 time. Some of these people try to
11 tell you it's an either or thing.
12 You're either going to dredge the
13 channel, or you're going to have a
14 healthy environment. But the
15 technology is there to have both.
16 Thank you, sir.

17 COLONEL BOB KEYSER: Thank you.
18 Cheryl Sanders.

19 MS. CHERYL SANDERS: I'm Cheryl
20 Sanders, chairman of the Franklin
21 County Board of County Commissioners
22 in Franklin County Florida, home of
23 the famous Apalachicola oyster.

24 We have a letter that we sent to
25 you, Colonel Keyser, and I have got

1 some comments to make after I read
2 this letter.

3 It says, Sir, this letter is in
4 response to your announcement to
5 Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint
6 stakeholders of the public meeting on
7 December 5th in Columbus, Georgia.

8 We applaud your efforts to
9 solicit and act on legitimate needs
10 presented by the stakeholders of this
11 shared resource.

12 As elected representative of
13 Franklin County Florida, the county
14 commission submits the following for
15 your consideration in fulfilling
16 management responsibilities for the
17 operation of dams and reservoirs
18 throughout the ACF Basin.

19 The quantity of freshwater flows
20 in the water Apalachicola sub-basin
21 is critical to the survival of the
22 life supported by those waters,
23 human, animal, and plant alike.

24 Water quality is directly
25 proportional to the ability of the

1 river and the floodplain to
2 assimilate and dilute an increasing
3 load of point source and non-point
4 source pollutants.

5 That same floodplain also
6 constitutes the necessary habitat for
7 endangered species and a historic
8 sport fishing and tourist industry.

9 Apalachicola Bay, one of the
10 most productive estuaries on the
11 Gulf, functions as the thriving
12 nursery to support a billion-dollar
13 offshore seafood industry.

14 The uniquely productive waters
15 of Apalachicola Bay also support a
16 historic, now threatened, oyster
17 harvest and the livelihood of the
18 families that have toiled for over
19 four generations in this industry.

20 According to our commission, we
21 have given David McLain -- which we
22 didn't know we were going to come up
23 tonight -- that was on the spur of
24 the moment -- to give you the
25 quantified data that you needed to

1 have.

2 And in this, it says -- is
3 concerning the essential water needs
4 of our river and bay based on the
5 public US Fish and Wildlife record of
6 the monthly flows that have occurred
7 at the Chattahoochee gauge for 50
8 years.

9 Your management objective for
10 the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint
11 Basin should be to ensure that the
12 reservoirs are operated to mimic the
13 quantities and fluctuations that have
14 historically occurred over 50 years
15 in our basin. And it's signed by me,
16 the chairman of the county
17 commissioners.

18 And in regards to the estuaries,
19 I have a little statement to make.
20 It is the home for over 180 species
21 of fish and a tremendous spawning
22 ground.

23 One thing that I want to comment
24 on -- you made the comment that I
25 have got to comment on. You talked

1 about the brown pelicans. Wait until
2 you see the white pelicans that we
3 have. That's very rare down there.

4 I started off seeing about three
5 or four years ago two of them. Now,
6 they've gotten up to 12 and 15. So
7 they're populating down there.

8 Also, you talked about the
9 planning and zoning boards and
10 commissions and stuff to take extra
11 care at watching development and
12 stuff.

13 Franklin County has just been in
14 the process of upgrading and revising
15 their comp plan. And their comp plan
16 was derived because we had to protect
17 our most valuable resources, the
18 Apalachicola Bay and its river and
19 tributaries.

20 And so it's very important,
21 hopefully, that you can do a half a
22 million in there and give us what we
23 need on the lower end and also
24 furnish what they need on the upper
25 end. Because we've all got to live

1 in this world together. But we need
2 that just as much as the north end
3 does.

4 So I appreciate this opportunity
5 to come and talk to you. I'm sorry
6 it's so late. I have got to get back
7 to Florida. I'm going to be leaving
8 out. But thank you very much.

9 And I'm going to have
10 Commissioner Putnal -- he'll probably
11 come up right after me. He's the
12 vice chair of our board, and he spent
13 a lot of years on that bay and he can
14 tell you some information about it.

15 COLONEL BOB KEYSER: He's next
16 on the list.

17 MS. CHERYL SANDERS: Thank you.
18 Thank you, Colonel.

19 COLONEL BOB KEYSER: Thank you.
20 Bevin Putnal.

21 MR. BEVIN PUTNAL: I'm not a
22 speaker like most of these folks are.
23 I'm just plain old working man
24 elected by the people to serve them
25 to the best of my ability.

1 And I tell you, to me, that bay
2 down there is the most precious thing
3 that's ever been given to a people.
4 It has served and fed a lot of people
5 when they were hungry.

6 It has been a livelihood for
7 myself. I worked there for 50 years,
8 raised a family, put them all through
9 school. It's been a hard life, but
10 it's been a good life. And I don't
11 want to see it destroyed.

12 In the beginning God created a
13 perfect condition, an environment to
14 grow oysters. You have to have a
15 perfect mixture of fresh and salt
16 water, or they will not grow. You
17 cannot produce oysters just
18 anywhere.

19 So God created this condition
20 down there that's perfect. When I
21 was growing up and working as a young
22 man, I can remember when you had a
23 little bit of rain and a cool front
24 like we have now would come out, and
25 that whole bay would turn a chocolate

1 color.

2 And everybody would be so happy
3 because the oysters would begin to
4 get so fat and full of meat until
5 they would almost push the shell
6 apart.

7 Well, we don't get that red
8 water anymore. I never see it
9 anymore. The water out there is
10 crystal clear all over that bay, even
11 after a rain.

12 That tells me that we're getting
13 too much salt water and not enough
14 fresh, which is a fact. Because now
15 we're getting intrusion of all kinds
16 of salt water species that's never
17 been there before.

18 And last year, we were shut down
19 five weeks because of red tide. I
20 heard you mention a few minutes ago
21 that you had all four of your pools
22 full.

23 We were begging for some fresh
24 water to put people back to work. We
25 had a -- I had people at my house

1 begging please help us. We can't pay
2 our light bill. We can't buy
3 anything to eat. We're hungry, but
4 we can't go to work.

5 For five weeks, these people,
6 including myself, suffered. We were
7 taking what anyone would give us to
8 eat. We were in lines, long lines,
9 accepting food from the Helping Hands
10 people down there in Franklin
11 County.

12 And it is pitiful. We begged
13 and pleaded for someone to give us
14 just a little boost of fresh water.
15 Finally, they did open one of the
16 dams in the lower part of the river.
17 Two days later, they went back to
18 work. The red tide was gone.

19 So I know that everybody wants
20 and needs this water, but there's a
21 group of people -- there's three or
22 400 families who totally depend on
23 that oyster industry. And without
24 it, their kids can't go to school,
25 they can't buy groceries.

1 Well, 90 percent of those folks
2 now don't even have insurance. They
3 can't go to the doctor when they get
4 sick, but they love that way of life,
5 and I love that way of life, and I
6 expect to be doing it until the day I
7 die.

8 In fact, I went yesterday, and I
9 caught 14 bags of beautiful oysters.
10 But, anyway, I just want to see that
11 our end of the river gets what we
12 deserve. And I have heard more talk
13 on the dredging tonight than I have
14 anything else.

15 Dredging probably won't hurt in
16 some areas, but I believe when you
17 get down into the lower part of the
18 river when you dredge, even though
19 you may haul most of the sediment off
20 and put it upwards, that sand drifts
21 down that river.

22 And as you know, an oyster is a
23 filter. It filters out that water
24 and gets its food. All right. If
25 that sand -- and it does go into the

1 bay after they do a dredging project
2 because I have seen it.

3 And it's filled in areas that's
4 never been as shallow as it is now,
5 and it's like a yellow sand from that
6 river. There's no telling how many
7 of the oysters have been killed
8 because of that sand drifting in
9 water as they are feeding.

10 In the lower part of the river,
11 I know it's bad for the oyster
12 industry. And I just feel like that
13 if we had more fresh water in that
14 part, down in the lower part, that we
15 could survive and do better.

16 But, eventually, if we keep
17 fooling with what God created, we're
18 going to kill a heritage, and we'll
19 be talking about it years down the
20 road about what we used to have in
21 Apalachicola Bay that's not there
22 anymore. Thank you.

23 COLONEL BOB KEYSER: Thank you.
24 One of the things we found out the
25 first time it was raised to my folks

1 when I went down and met with David
2 McLain and the folks down in
3 Apalachicola, we met and we talked
4 about the fresh water requirements,
5 the need to pull the nutrients down a
6 couple of times in the spring, the
7 need to get some fluctuation and to
8 move the salt line out, yet, it'll
9 come back in, but it's got to get
10 moved in and out, some fluctuations
11 as to where it's at.

12 That's the first time we heard
13 that. That's part of what we're
14 going to factor into the equation
15 when we started looking at how do we
16 manage the resource this coming
17 year.

18 Next up, Andy Smith.

19 MR. ANDY SMITH: Thank you,
20 Colonel for this opportunity. I'm
21 Andy Smith. I'm the president of
22 Apalachicola Bay Riverkeeper.

23 I'm also the coordinator for the
24 Apalachicola River Restoration
25 Coalition, which is a coalition of

1 many organizations, including
2 Apalachicola Audubon, Apalachicola
3 Ecological Conservancy, Audubon of
4 Florida, Chipola River, Economic and
5 Environmental Council for Florida
6 Bass, Florida Fishermen's Federation,
7 Florida Public Interest Research
8 Group, Florida Wildlife Federation,
9 Help Save the Apalachicola River,
10 League of Conservation Boaters,
11 Education Fund, a Thousand Friends of
12 Florida, the Southeastern Clean Water
13 Network.

14 The focus of that coalition has
15 been to -- has been on the dredging
16 issues, trying to find a way to
17 deauthorize, end the dredging in the
18 Apalachicola River, for the reasons
19 that you know and you've heard and
20 that you've heard tonight.

21 Some of that I think will still
22 continue regardless of having a
23 disposal site in Gulf County, some
24 impacts that we've heard through the
25 lowering of the channel in the upper

1 river, making it more difficult for
2 water to get into the spring creeks
3 where fish breed.

4 I think that what you're doing
5 tonight is a really good thing. You
6 are doing what needs to be done, and
7 I really appreciate it.

8 You're doing the hardest thing
9 for us humans to do, and that's to
10 plan, think about the future and to
11 look at what's been done in the past
12 and what the needs are.

13 And I support what was said
14 earlier about trying to create some
15 sort of entity that can manage the
16 basin as a whole. That's how the
17 whole ACF should be done. That's how
18 these issues should be dealt with.
19 We should be able to look at it from
20 that way.

21 We have the ability, as humans,
22 to do that. It's a goal. It's hard
23 to do. We've got our boundaries that
24 make it almost impossible. But
25 that's the real way to manage this

1 resource. Taking the next innovative
2 thing that could be done is trying to
3 tie the activities within the basin
4 to the limits of the resource.

5 I believe that we're trying to
6 put a foot in a shoe that's too
7 small. We're busting it out. The
8 river can't handle what's being done
9 to it. And what's being done to it
10 is killing a lot of the river.

11 The State of Florida, the Nature
12 Conservancy, and the U.S. government
13 has spent a lot of resources buying
14 and protecting lands along the
15 Apalachicola.

16 They've seen the value of that.
17 We've seen, all of us, in our
18 lifetime, a reversal of policies that
19 our government had to over-manage
20 water resources, the Kissimmee River,
21 the Everglades, not planning well
22 enough and spending a lot of money to
23 reverse what we've done. We're doing
24 restorations on the Apalachicola
25 now.

1 We're recognizing that there are
2 values there that you spoke of, and
3 that other folks spoke of, that are
4 harder to quantify, but are necessary
5 for our lives that go beyond the most
6 tangible of the economic interest and
7 resources.

8 I do not believe that the river
9 can maintain the needs of the
10 transportation industry, that it
11 doesn't have that capacity.

12 I reiterate what Mr. Blanchard
13 said earlier that we should take a
14 look at what it can maintain as it
15 is.

16 There is enough river -- there's
17 enough water in the system to
18 maintain the natural system. That's
19 a given. We know that's true.

20 Let's see what -- let's work
21 from there to envision, understand,
22 what can be supported from that
23 point, not what we can do to fix it,
24 to make it better, to make it serve
25 our needs.

1 That would be what I would
2 implore you to consider in your
3 deliberations and in your discretion,
4 and I appreciate, again, I want to
5 say, what you're doing.

6 You're coming from a corner --
7 this is coming from a corner where I
8 wouldn't have expected it, you know,
9 for the Army to lead in this. I know
10 the Army can do serious work.

11 I know and believe that the Army
12 can do this well, and I appreciate
13 your doing it for us. I'll end right
14 there.

15 COLONEL BOB KEYSER: Thank you.

16 MR. DAVIS McLAIN: Can I have
17 Andy's last minute because he didn't
18 use his full five?

19 The body of that flood plain is
20 like your body and mine whose
21 arteries and veins are clogged with a
22 dredged material.

23 Until we remove what's there,
24 that's dying. That's all I have to
25 say.

1 COLONEL BOB KEYSER: The
2 question that I'd ask and that I'd
3 like everybody to walk out of here
4 and think about is why is it
5 transportation that you exclude? Why
6 is not recreation that you exclude?
7 Why is it not water supply that
8 you exclude? Why is it not water
9 quality that you exclude? How about
10 hydropower, why don't we take that
11 out of the equation as opposed to.
12 So that's -- you know, that part
13 of the trade-off is, well, who pays
14 the bill? And that's why given all
15 the authorized purposes, our job is
16 -- you know, I have been told by
17 Congress, hey, look, Colonel, you go
18 run this system and you make all
19 these things work.
20 So that's the balancing act that
21 I have to make. And I can't
22 arbitrarily say I'm taking out this
23 purpose. I don't have that
24 authority.
25 So that's -- again, I appreciate

1 your perspective because as you're
2 sitting down in the lower reaches of
3 the river, again, the closest
4 competing would be navigation versus
5 the environment down there.

6 However, I have got to look at
7 the whole system, top to bottom. How
8 do you balance all of those pieces
9 over the entire system? It's just
10 something for everybody to think
11 about.

12 Homer Hirt.

13 MR. HOMER HIRT: I'm Homer Hirt,
14 transportation consultant. I have
15 revised my presentation about twelve
16 times. But I want to point out a
17 couple of things.

18 John Davis is very modest. He
19 is a retired dentist. He has a
20 scientific background. He's also a
21 mariner, which is important, I think,
22 in navigation.

23 Someone mentioned three million
24 dollars for navigation is what the
25 Corps came up for this? I think I

1 know that study. That was where they
2 talked to two people that were
3 already dead. That was a very
4 inaccurate study, Colonel, I would
5 have to say.

6 But Southern Nuclear in the last
7 year shipped 120 million dollars
8 worth of tonnage on the river.
9 Ergon, if they can get their barges
10 in, would have 20 million dollars
11 worth of asphalt there coming by
12 barge.

13 In 1994, there were twelve
14 towing companies that were on the
15 river. Right now, there are none
16 because we can't get them up the
17 river. But there are two people here
18 that represent towing companies, Mr.
19 Jim Townsend, Captain Jim Townsend,
20 and the young man from Ergon, Johnny
21 Wacaser.

22 Now, if you feel bad about
23 pronouncing his name, it took me ten
24 years to learn how to pronounce it,
25 and I have known him that long.

1 But they have their own towing
2 company. They will be back on the
3 river. I have run studies for
4 several people. I did one for the
5 Corps of Engineers two years ago
6 about prospects on the system, what
7 has been lost because we did not have
8 a full channel.

9 I gave that to the Corps. That
10 was my mistake. I should have sold
11 it to you. My last quote on
12 something like that was \$250 an
13 hour. And somebody walked in front
14 of me through the mine field because
15 it was in Bosnia. So the next time
16 if you want one done, I will do it,
17 but I will charge you.

18 I did one for Georgia Ports. I
19 did it this way: I talked to people
20 that could possibly use barge
21 transportation.

22 I found 57 in the Decatur area
23 and the adjoining areas by explaining
24 to them what the barge traffic can
25 do. So, yes, I agree with you. What

1 do you do?

2 Do you cancel one against the
3 other? Who will be the whipping boy
4 when navigation is completely gone?
5 I have a very in-depth report here
6 I'm going to give to you, but I want
7 to end with this: I appreciate your
8 problems.

9 But we talk about navigation on
10 the ACF system. It's not navigation
11 on the ACF system. It's on the
12 24,000 miles of the ever connecting
13 waterway from the Gulf Intercoastal
14 up to Minneapolis, Minnesota to
15 Pittsburg, to Texas and products that
16 come on and off of our system.

17 We connect with about 17,000
18 miles of that. And Georgia Ports
19 Authority in Bainbridge, three years
20 ago, we got a product out of China
21 that came by ship to New Orleans,
22 transloaded and came up to
23 Bainbridge.

24 Ralph, the little fellow sitting
25 back there, Ralph Powell, will tell

1 you about how many millions of
2 dollars worth of products we grow in
3 Decatur County.

4 All of it has to be fertilized,
5 and it's chemical fertilizers. And
6 it has to come by barge, by rail, by
7 truck. Right now, we bring 12,000
8 tons of one particular product out of
9 Louisiana every year for peanut use.
10 This is called gypsum.

11 It cannot come by rail because
12 you can't unload it, so it has to
13 come by truck or barge. We cannot
14 bring it by barge now, so it has to
15 come by truck.

16 There are not enough trucks
17 available at the right time, so we
18 have to start bringing it in as soon
19 as he gets rid of the old product.
20 We're getting in material now for
21 next April.

22 It's coming by truck. What
23 would it take if we had the barge
24 transportation? What does it take in
25 terms of fuel by truck, 68,000 more

1 gallons to bring it by truck than by
2 rail -- I mean, by barge.

3 What does that put it in the
4 area of pollution? Over 200 tons of
5 hydrocarbons by truck; .25 tons by
6 barge. You talk about the
7 environment, let's look at that.
8 I'll pass this onto you. I wish I
9 had time. I know you saved the best
10 until almost last.

11 COLONEL BOB KEYSER: Thank you.
12 Brenda Price. Going once. Doug
13 Purcell.

14 MR. DOUG PURCELL: My name is
15 Doug Purcell. I'm executive director
16 of the Historic Chattahoochee
17 Commission with offices in Eufaula
18 and LaGrange.

19 For almost 33 years, the
20 Historic Chattahoochee Commission, a
21 state agency of Florida, Alabama, and
22 Georgia, has worked to promote the
23 historic scenic and recreational
24 sites along the lower Chattahoochee
25 River.

1 16 of the 18 counties
2 represented by the HCC touch on the
3 Chattahoochee River, which is,
4 obviously, a significant tourism
5 asset for all of them.

6 Of course, as well we all know,
7 the Chattahoochee River and the Flint
8 flow together to the Georgia/Florida
9 state line to form the Apalachicola
10 River, which runs through six Florida
11 counties before emptying into
12 Apalachicola Bay.

13 Therefore, tourism proponents in
14 these Alabama and Georgia counties
15 have a vested interest in what
16 happens on the Apalachicola River,
17 especially when it has the potential
18 to impact the recreational and travel
19 industry in these counties.

20 Senate Bill 2730, known as
21 Restore the Apalachicola River
22 Ecosystem Act, or RARE, will have far
23 reaching negative consequences on the
24 tourism industry in many of these 16
25 Alabama and Georgia counties if it's

1 enacted into law.

2 The maintenance of a nine-foot
3 deep and 100-foot wide channel on the
4 Chattahoochee River is essential for
5 the growth and development of the
6 nature based tourism and recreational
7 travel industry in this area.

8 If the RARE bill is enacted into
9 law and dredging ceases on the
10 Apalachicola River, there will be, of
11 course, no need to dredge the
12 Chattahoochee River.

13 Over time, large sections of the
14 river will silt in making boating
15 hazardous. The water flow on the
16 river will also be diminished
17 resulting in a degradation of the
18 fish and wildlife habitat, which is
19 so important to fishermen and birders
20 and others.

21 When dredging ceases, barge
22 traffic and large recreational boats
23 will find it difficult, if not
24 impossible, to navigate the river.
25 Will the next step over time be the

1 closing of the locks on the
2 Chattahoochee River?

3 In 2001, the U.S. Army Corps of
4 Engineers recorded over six million
5 visitor use days on Lake Eufaula, or
6 Lake Walter F. George, Lake George W.
7 Andrews, and Lake Seminole.

8 These visitors are boaters,
9 birders, fishermen, and others who
10 enjoy the water resources afforded by
11 these reservoirs.

12 Others, as we've heard tonight,
13 are tournament fishermen who
14 participate in many events on these
15 lakes throughout the year.

16 A statistic I heard recently was
17 one fishing tournament with 600
18 fishermen over a five-day period will
19 generate approximately \$300,000 in
20 tourism revenue for the host
21 community and area.

22 Eufaula National Wildlife
23 Refuge, which straddles the
24 Chattahoochee River north of Eufaula,
25 annually attracts over 300,000

1 visitors.

2 Loss of fish and wildlife
3 habitat will devastate the
4 recreational use of the Chattahoochee
5 River resulting in lost tourism
6 revenues in the millions of dollars
7 each year.

8 Furthermore, Lakepoint Resort
9 State Park, Florence Marina State
10 Park, George Bagby State Park,
11 Chattahoochee State Park, and
12 Seminole State Park are strategically
13 located on the Chattahoochee River to
14 take advantage of the scenery and
15 water resources that visitors enjoy.

16 The degradation of navigation on
17 the river will result in decreased
18 use of these facilities. City
19 facilities like Old Creek Town Park
20 in Eufaula and the Earl May Boat
21 Basin in Bainbridge, just to name a
22 few, will also suffer.

23 For the last four years, a group
24 called Voyage of Discovery has been
25 promoting the eco and heritage

1 tourism sites along the
2 Chattahoochee, Flint, and
3 Apalachicola Rivers.

4 A recently completed study
5 confirms that the operation of
6 excursion vessels on the river is
7 feasible and will greatly benefit
8 local economies from Columbus to
9 Apalachicola, specifically those very
10 poor Georgia counties that we've
11 heard about tonight like Clay and
12 Quitman and Stewart and Randolph, to
13 name a few.

14 However, dredging will be a
15 necessity if these excursion vessels
16 are to operate profitably along the
17 river system.

18 Dredging will also be necessary
19 to support the three new marinas
20 being discussed in Columbus,
21 Georgetown, and Bainbridge.

22 The RARE bill should not
23 seriously be considered without
24 evaluating the impact it will have on
25 the economies of upstream communities

1 in Alabama, Georgia, and Florida.

2 Therefore, it is imperative that
3 the U.S. Congress provide the U.S.
4 Army Corps of Engineers funding to
5 undertake a study of this issue,
6 resolve the disputes and concerns of
7 the states, communities, and
8 organizations involved.

9 Only cold hard facts should be
10 used in making decisions on the
11 dredging issue. Thank you for the
12 opportunity to deliver my remarks.

13 COLONEL BOB KEYSER: Thank you.
14 Becky Champion.

15 MS. BECKY CHAMPION: Colonel,
16 thank you very much for coming today
17 and giving us the opportunity to
18 talk. My name is Becky Champion.
19 I'm with Columbus State University
20 Oxbow Meadows Environmental Learning
21 Center.

22 I'm here representing today
23 Voyage of Discovery. We formed in, I
24 guess, about 1997 and have been very
25 interested in looking at economic

1 development in these counties.

2 We represent folks that run from
3 Atlanta all the way to Apalachicola.
4 And in our project, we've been
5 looking at seriously developing
6 tourism along this market.

7 The counties in this area in
8 Alabama, Georgia, and Florida are the
9 ninth poorest counties in the
10 nation.

11 And you've heard from many of
12 those counties today. They are
13 really very, very interested in
14 giving something to those people so
15 that there is economic development
16 there.

17 The people in these counties are
18 crying for something. So we began
19 this -- we've hosted two major river
20 sites that deal with eco-heritage
21 tourism.

22 We've had three major tours of
23 the river where we put people on
24 boats and have taken them down. The
25 resources here are just absolutely

1 phenomenal.

2 But last year what we did was --
3 we had been doing this on our own.

4 And last year we decided that we
5 needed an expert to tell us. We've
6 listened to a lot of development
7 studies tonight.

8 And last year, we decided we
9 needed to do the same thing. So we
10 hired one of those respected travel
11 marketing firms in the country,
12 Randall Travel Marketing, to look at
13 this resource and see if indeed -- if
14 we build it, will they come?

15 And what they said was a
16 resounding yes, that there's lots of
17 things along this river corridor that
18 people are very, very interested in
19 seeing.

20 We're very interested in
21 sustainable sensitive economic
22 development that is all educational
23 in nature, both not only ecology type
24 of education, but also historic and
25 cultural education.

1 So that is the thrust of our
2 mission. We have seen tremendous
3 impact already on trips that we've
4 taken because it has developed a lot
5 of intercommunity linkages.

6 A lot of what you're doing here,
7 we have also been engaged in by
8 trying to get these communities along
9 the river involved and get them
10 connected.

11 So we appreciate this
12 opportunity. You've got some
13 information in your packet, and I
14 also have an executive summary of the
15 RTM report.

16 They do say that there's
17 tremendous potential here, even more
18 so than the Blue's Trail of
19 Mississippi, which has been wildly
20 successful there as an economic
21 development tool for that area of the
22 country. Thank you very much.

23 COLONEL BOB KEYSER: Thank you.
24 Bobby Rowe.

25 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Had to leave.

1 COLONEL BOB KEYSER: Ralph
2 Powell. We are on the last page. I
3 guess a couple of folks have asked.
4 We're on the last page and we have
5 about five more speakers.

6 MR. RALPH POWELL: I'm the large
7 person Homer Hirt referred to a while
8 ago. It is indeed a privilege to
9 participate in this forum, and we
10 commend you for providing this
11 opportunity.

12 I am Ralph Powell from
13 Bainbridge. I serve on the
14 Bainbridge/Decatur County Industrial
15 Development Authority.

16 For two reasons I'll be brief,
17 one, I don't want to be repetitive to
18 the six presenters from Decatur
19 County that's already gone before and
20 the second thing would be our minds
21 can only absorb what our posterior
22 can endure so I will be brief.

23 I would like to speak on
24 agriculture and its development in
25 southwest Georgia. As you know,

1 agriculture is the largest
2 contributor to all of Georgia's
3 industrial economics.

4 In Decatur County alone, we
5 produce over 194 million dollars of
6 farm gate product, which is raw
7 product. The significance is quite
8 great.

9 But not only speaking to Decatur
10 County's needs, southwest Georgia
11 represents about 13 counties,
12 represents 11 percent of the counties
13 in the State of Georgia, produces
14 over 18 percent of all the farm gate
15 produced in Georgia.

16 I think that qualifies and
17 quantifies the importance of
18 agriculture on all of Georgia's
19 economy.

20 And when we talk about the
21 economy as somewhat insensitive,
22 we're really speaking about people's
23 lives, families' lives and their
24 ability to produce and actually make
25 a living for their families. So keep

1 that in mind as we address these
2 issues.

3 Other issues and all surrounding
4 agriculture has been addressed
5 tonight, the transportation charge.
6 The indirect charges are almost as
7 significant as moving the product,
8 the agriculture product, up and down
9 the river.

10 It allows the rail, the road,
11 and all transportation to be
12 negotiated, which has been touched on
13 earlier. So all of these tangibles
14 and intangibles has to be considered
15 in making your decision that tries to
16 address all the needs of the state.

17 We, too, realize that we have
18 our needs. We realize there are
19 other stakeholders that have
20 presented tonight that you have to
21 take into consideration just as
22 strong as any point that we make.

23 The significance is I think you
24 have six different presenters that's
25 gone before me from Decatur County

1 tonight that have demonstrated an
2 extensive need for barge and barge
3 traffic and the utilization of the
4 Bainbridge Ports Authority. Thank
5 you very much.

6 COLONEL BOB KEYSER: Thank you.
7 Tom Moorer.

8 MR. TOM MOORER: Good evening.
9 I'm Tom Moorer. I'm with Southern
10 Nuclear Operating Company. I
11 appreciate the opportunity to come
12 and speak this evening.

13 Also, I'm glad I got to come
14 toward the end because I got to
15 listen to what a lot of people had to
16 say.

17 And Southern Nuclear Operating
18 Company is, as many of you know, part
19 of Southern Company. And two years
20 ago, I had the opportunity -- I like
21 to refer to it as an opportunity
22 now. Then, it didn't seem that way.

23 We had the need to ship some
24 large equipment to the Farley Nuclear
25 Plant. And the only way we could do

1 that was by barge, and we did it at
2 the probably most severe time during
3 the drought.

4 And with the help of your
5 organization, and people like Memphis
6 Vaughan and Pat, and some of the
7 other folks, and the community in
8 general -- we had a public hearing
9 that supported our shipment. We got
10 everybody together and found a way to
11 do it.

12 It represented a 300-million
13 dollar investment in that plant and
14 represented a future investment in
15 the southeast in terms of letting
16 that plant operate for many more
17 years, roughly 200 mega watts of
18 generation, baseload generation for
19 the southeast.

20 When we had the opportunity to
21 make the shipment, I spent quite a
22 bit of time working with the Corps
23 and with Terry Jangula and folks in
24 Panama City learning about what this
25 river could do, learning the

1 navigation system and how it worked,
2 learning the reservoir system and how
3 it all went together.

4 And the one thing that stands
5 out in my mind is we made a trip as
6 part of the staging for the shipment
7 from Apalachicola Bay all the way to
8 Jim Woodruff Dam.

9 And we did that at a time when
10 Jim Woodruff was producing the
11 minimum 5000 CFS flow. And we
12 observed during that trip -- and I
13 have the data recorded, and you have
14 the data.

15 We saw at least a nine-foot
16 channel in all but about nine miles
17 of that system. It's roughly 300
18 miles if you take the system all the
19 way to Columbus and all the way to
20 Bainbridge.

21 And that nine-mile area
22 occurred, as you well know, in the
23 area around the Mile 40, up around
24 Blountstown, some of the small area
25 around Blountstown.

1 But my point is that even at the
2 lowest flow, you had a channel
3 available with minimum flow in all
4 but three or four percent of the
5 system.

6 So I think -- we know, and a lot
7 of people understand that in order to
8 make this system work, we've got to
9 find a way to use the minimum amount
10 of water to support whatever use
11 we're supporting.

12 And we were forced over the
13 years -- this system in the early
14 '90s when we were moving close to a
15 million tons a year was operated with
16 10-to-12,000 CFS discharge.

17 And that discharge was available
18 70 or 80 percent of the time, normal
19 flows. I'm not talking about
20 navigation windows. I'm talking
21 about the normal releases.

22 And that has gone from that
23 range to upwards of 20,000, almost
24 25,000 in the latest navigation
25 window flows, and we can't support

1 the system that way.

2 So I will submit that
3 information, what you don't already
4 have. We have some other information
5 prepared that I'll leave with you.
6 But the point I would like to leave
7 with you tonight is that there are
8 solutions to this problem.

9 And there are diverse interests
10 all over the system. We've heard
11 from everybody, and I think -- the
12 thing I think is most important, and
13 you hit it earlier, that it is a
14 system. It has to be dealt with as a
15 system.

16 We have to balance the uses to
17 benefit all the users, not just one
18 group. And I'm speaking tonight
19 mostly on behalf of navigation
20 because I had an experience with
21 that.

22 But I also have sympathy and
23 understand the needs of other users.
24 The one thing I'll leave you with is
25 that you have the resources on your

1 staff and in this room to solve these
2 problems, and I think it's just a
3 matter now -- you took the first step
4 tonight of putting them together and
5 finding a solution. Thank you.

6 COLONEL BOB KEYSER: Thank you.

7 Jim Phillips.

8 MR. JIM PHILLIPS: Thank you,
9 Colonel Keyser. According to my
10 count, I'm the 46th speaker here
11 tonight.

12 And I think I read in the
13 morning paper that Strom Thurman had
14 retired, but, obviously, his legacy
15 lives here in Columbus. The
16 filibuster is alive and well.

17 As far as my comments, I
18 represent the Chattahoochee
19 Riverkeeper based here in Columbus.
20 We cover the river from West Point
21 dam, south to Woodruff Dam.

22 And many of the issues that are
23 a principal focus tonight emanate
24 either on the north end with the
25 needs of Atlanta and our concerns

1 about the water quantity that we're
2 going to see in the river in the
3 future.

4 I think I speak for everyone
5 downstream when we say the only thing
6 that we can ask of the Corps is we
7 have an even playing field in terms
8 of their consideration and their role
9 in this, because there is that big
10 monster growth phenomenon happening
11 north of us.

12 And I think Tom said it well,
13 the last speaker, the essence of our
14 issue here is do we have a system or
15 do we have a river?

16 And as an environmentalist, I
17 want it to be a river. As a
18 navigation person, perhaps you want
19 it as a system, but somehow, we've
20 got to figure out a way to make this
21 work for everyone.

22 But as an environmentalist, our
23 concerns principally are water
24 quality, biodiversity -- that's our
25 word for your word of fish and

1 wildlife -- and recreation.

2 And we all know those are key to
3 this region, Columbus and points
4 north and south, and that's where our
5 effort really focuses.

6 I want to comment on what I
7 prefer to call channel maintenance.
8 We call it dredging, but dredging
9 seems to be, in many minds, a dirty
10 word. And channel maintenance, I
11 think, better describes it.

12 And I think if the U.S. Army,
13 part of the U.S. Government, will put
14 a man on the moon, we can figure out
15 how to provide channel maintenance on
16 this river system without all the
17 harmful by-products.

18 Now, I know that this river has
19 been dredged for over a hundred
20 years, so it's not going to be an
21 easy task.

22 But our organization,
23 Chattahoochee Riverkeeper, as regards
24 to dredging, says two things are
25 needed, one, eliminate the navigation

1 windows.

2 And I have heard a lot of
3 comments tonight that says that's a
4 problem. I think that seems to be a
5 common bond here among everyone.
6 Eliminate the navigation windows.

7 Beyond that, let's optimize and
8 minimize and eliminate the dredging
9 practices that create major habitat
10 disruptions and major sand deposits
11 on the river banks.

12 We're concerned about the
13 dredging problems associated with
14 channel maintenance along the river,
15 particularly adjacent to the narrow
16 areas along the Apalachicola. The
17 disposal of dredge spoil is a
18 long-standing problem that must be
19 remedied.

20 The Corps must demonstrate that
21 they indeed have a solution. Again,
22 our government's put a man on the
23 moon. We can figure out a solution
24 to this.

25 Otherwise, the concerns are our

1 downstream neighbors in the Florida
2 panhandle, and you've heard from many
3 of them tonight, will threaten
4 closure of the locks.

5 We have pending legislation in
6 congress right now to deauthorize the
7 operation. We think maintaining
8 access to the Gulf, however, via our
9 river, is clearly in the best
10 interest of the region.

11 So, therefore, again, we appeal
12 to the Corps. You must maintain
13 and/or -- or you must minimize and/or
14 eliminate dredging practices that
15 create major habitat disruptions and
16 major sand deposits on our river
17 banks.

18 Finally, I would be remiss not
19 to express appreciation for the good
20 work of the Corps in supporting our
21 river restoration project, which is
22 alive and well here in the
23 Columbus/Phenix City area.

24 Glen Coffee and his team from
25 Mobile have been most helpful and the

1 project promises significant benefits
2 for Columbus and Phenix City.

3 The breaching of the two old
4 stone dams right here on our city
5 front will provide many benefits
6 including, back to our mission, water
7 quality via diversity and
8 recreation. So thank you.

9 COLONEL BOB KEYSER: Thank you.
10 Joni Owens.

11 MS. JONI OWENS: Good evening.
12 And thank you Colonel Keyser for
13 hosting this evening. It's a
14 refreshing approach allowing us the
15 opportunity to speak with you one on
16 one and hearing the other comments
17 from the various groups and
18 organizations and cities and counties
19 and communities.

20 I'm here on behalf of the
21 Cumming/Forsyth County Chamber of
22 Commerce in Forsyth County Georgia,
23 Joni Owens, president and CEO of that
24 chamber of commerce.

25 We have 1400 members of

1 individuals, businesses interested in
2 our community and the vitality. But,
3 overall, I'm here to represent
4 Forsyth County and the communities
5 that surround Lake Lanier, Lake
6 Sidney Lanier, where we have an
7 economic activity, as we've talked
8 about this evening, that goes beyond
9 just dollars and cents in very many
10 ways and I think hits at a national
11 level as well.

12 I brought this economic impact
13 study that I have referred to before
14 in correspondence and in discussions
15 with you, as you've been so kind to
16 visit our community and our lake and
17 our area and listen to us about our
18 concerns.

19 This study talks about the
20 dollars generated, and it does affect
21 thousands, hundreds of thousands of
22 people and family and businesses.
23 But in that area, several counties
24 earn five billion dollars per year
25 generated as a result of Lake Lanier

1 and the activities, and that means
2 not just people that sell boats or
3 sell gasoline, but the insurance and
4 the taxes that are generated, and it
5 goes down to the fish that's sold and
6 the folks that work at the
7 restaurants and the materials that
8 are purchased to build those
9 restaurants and those businesses as
10 well.

11 We have over 22 million visitors
12 throughout any given year on Lake
13 Lanier, and about 600,000 on the
14 average on Memorial Day alone. There
15 are thousands of homeowners who have
16 invested their futures, their family
17 futures, their retirement, in their
18 homes on Lake Lanier.

19 And my point is that if the lake
20 levels go up and down and change at
21 the discretion and determination of
22 how you all manage that, makes a huge
23 difference in all of those lives.

24 The numbers of businesses, small
25 businesses, and independent

1 businesses, and families are
2 affected, as well as the boat
3 manufacturers in Georgia, and
4 Florida, Alabama, and other places,
5 are severely negatively affected when
6 the lake levels go down, and our
7 economy is affected in a huge way
8 because the visitors are not there.

9 In the study it indicates that
10 spring, fall, summer, and winter, the
11 businesses -- a number of businesses
12 are severely affected positively,
13 negatively, one way or the other,
14 depending on the lake levels. And
15 that's all in this document.

16 The economic vitality affects us
17 all as we've talked about, and it
18 goes beyond just the few counties
19 around us. In the year 2001, the
20 lake levels were 15 feet below pool
21 and the attendance there was 22
22 percent below what it normally was.

23 Well, that affects Atlanta's
24 economy. That's big business in that
25 community, in that area, not just

1 Forsyth County and the counties on
2 the lake.

3 Our goal here, as I represent
4 our community, is to ask you, as you
5 are striving to do so diligently and
6 committed to, to bring the lake up to
7 full pool with the different seasonal
8 pools that are indicated and to
9 utilize your management tools, as you
10 are doing so, in an effective and
11 efficient manner, bring the lake
12 level up and reduce the fluctuations
13 that we've experienced by reducing
14 the releasing of excess water, as
15 necessary, and pretty much those
16 times that are so severe to us.

17 From a national perspective,
18 we've talked about the job creations,
19 taxes, and so forth. But nationally
20 it affects when those businesses go
21 out of business because they can no
22 longer sustain themselves and create
23 those jobs for those people.

24 You and I, as taxpayers, have to
25 take care of those folks. They still

1 need to eat. They still need to go
2 somewhere, they still need to take
3 care of their families, and they
4 become dependent on us, versus being
5 able to be productive citizens
6 there.

7 So those jobs don't move
8 around. They just go away when those
9 businesses are not able to function,
10 the boat manufacturers and the people
11 that provide gas and bait and tackle,
12 and so forth. We all are affected
13 then on a national level.

14 So as you talked about that
15 earlier, I think that's a new
16 perspective, to see that, yes, those
17 are very much not just local issues,
18 but it takes it to that level as
19 well. We thank you very much for
20 staying with us this evening and
21 whatever number I am, 50 on the list
22 this evening, and hanging in there
23 with us.

24 But, mostly, from our personal
25 experience with your dedicated effort

1 and commitment, we thank you for the
2 time you've given. The 15 months
3 that you've been on the job, there
4 has been a huge change in the amount
5 of responses and attention and
6 commitment to the needs of all of us,
7 so thank you very much.

8 COLONEL BOB KEYSER: Thank you.
9 Randy Owens.

10 MR. RANDY OWENS: I'm going to
11 pass.

12 COLONEL BOB KEYSER: Last on the
13 formal list, Frank Stephens.

14 MR. FRANK STEPHENS: Thank you,
15 Colonel. I think there's a high
16 expectation in this room. I'll be
17 brief. I am Frank Stephens. I live
18 in and work for Gwinnett County in
19 northeast Georgia. Comments, brief
20 comments, on four topics, first, to
21 briefly describe the county and some
22 of its projected needs.

23 Gwinnett County is a pretty
24 middle class community. It's an
25 urbanizing area. We've got about

1 250,000 families that call Gwinnett
2 County home, fairly young in diverse
3 demographics according to the last
4 census, lots of kids at home. I hope
5 mine are home in bed.

6 We're right next to Lake Lanier
7 from which we withdraw water for
8 domestic and for business purposes.
9 We're not trying to broaden the
10 community. We've got about as many
11 jobs as we have employable people,
12 about 250,000.

13 We've got a 50-year supply
14 master plan, and our projected 2050
15 average annual withdrawal needs are
16 estimated to be around 190 million
17 gallons per day, and that's about
18 double what it is now.

19 In 2050, our projected return
20 flows to the Chatahoochee Basin, we
21 anticipate being around 120 MGP, or
22 more, which is about four times what
23 it is now.

24 So between now and 2050, we will
25 see a relatively modest increase in

1 consumptive use, and increases
2 probably within the range of error
3 downstream, USGS gauges. So that
4 will correspond to about 250,000 jobs
5 in Gwinnett County alone.

6 The second topic was some
7 reflections on water supply policy
8 and federal policy. It seems to me
9 the stored water in existing
10 reservoirs, especially reservoirs
11 that are up river, should probably be
12 conserved for highest priority uses,
13 particularly those uses that don't
14 have good alternatives.

15 It's been well stated tonight
16 that recreational water is very
17 valuable. And in stored water, it
18 also makes it possible to make
19 releases during extremely dry spells,
20 including the ability to make
21 releases for headwaters habitat.

22 For example, the river, the
23 Chattahoochee River along side
24 Gwinnett's dam, doesn't stream. And
25 if we relinquish too much water from

1 Lake Lanier during times when maybe
2 there is marginal use for it, not
3 really need it, then the lake gets
4 too low, or the top layer gets too
5 warm.

6 Then we may wind up with a
7 drought habitat through the
8 Chattahoochee River national
9 recreational area, nor certainly
10 could provide a little water supply
11 via through that same river.

12 It's been mentioned, I believe,
13 tonight that Lake Lanier's visitation
14 is around 17 million people a year,
15 visits per year, I should say. I
16 don't think it's been mentioned that
17 the parks service recreation area
18 also receives around three-and-a-half
19 million people per year.

20 And the environmental, the
21 recreational, the water supply
22 purposes of keeping Lake Lanier up
23 are part of the reasons that the
24 State of Georgia has directed
25 Gwinnett to build pipe lines through

1 which we will pump reclaimed water
2 uphill back into Lake Lanier. That's
3 at a cost of around 45 million
4 dollars.

5 The big picture, I suppose, is
6 the value of both conserving and
7 replenishing water on Lake Lanier far
8 outweighs that investment. It's
9 pretty obvious that some of the uses
10 of stored water have alternatives,
11 but some do not, and I would submit
12 that human habitat, aquatic habitat
13 and lake water, headwater, for
14 recreation don't have very good
15 alternatives.

16 I would request that the Corps
17 do a thorough review of the national
18 economic development impact on the
19 uses of stored water. As Mr. Reheis
20 reported, it differs by several
21 orders of magnitude. And as a minor
22 point, I understand that fresh
23 quality in Apalachicola Bay can be
24 improved by doing something with
25 Sykes Cut.

1 Fourth point. I'd like to
2 extend an invitation to you, Colonel,
3 to your staff, as well as the other
4 folks in this room to come see the
5 trout streams that depends on having
6 a fresh and full Lake Lanier. See
7 what Gwinnett County is doing with a
8 600-million dollar investment and 60
9 MGD water plant that's attracting
10 attention as being superior
11 wastewater treatment.

12 And we would invite you to come
13 and get a good feel for what we
14 believe are some of the national
15 economic benefits of conservancy,
16 stored water. Thank you for the
17 opportunity to comment for the hugely
18 important services that the Corps
19 provides.

20 COLONEL BOB KEYSER: Thank you.
21 My note man over here on the side has
22 said that there are some folks that
23 wish to speak that didn't sign up to
24 do so. At this time, do we have
25 folks that would like to come up and

1 make a statement? She's jumping up,
2 so I assume that's like a raised
3 hand.

4 MS. PAT STEPHENS: Thank you. I
5 didn't sign up, but after listening
6 to several of the speakers I felt
7 obligated. I'm from Atlanta. I'm
8 with the Atlanta Regional Commission,
9 and we cover a ten-county metro
10 area. I am also working with the
11 metropolitan North Georgia Water
12 Planning District, which covers 16
13 counties and a hundred different
14 cities.

15 COLONEL BOB KEYSER: Can we get
16 your name, please?

17 MS. PAT STEVENS: Pat Stevens.
18 This area has about four million
19 people, and currently the major
20 source of supply for metro Atlanta is
21 the Chattahoochee River.

22 About 70 percent of our water
23 supply comes out of that river.
24 There is no other significant
25 alternative that we can use for water

1 supply in the metro area.

2 It's critical to the health,
3 welfare, and livelihoods of about
4 three million people. And in the
5 future, this need will continue to
6 grow. Also, recreation, both Lake
7 Lanier and West Point Lake are
8 recreational resources for the
9 metropolitan Atlanta area, very
10 important recreational resources.

11 For operations on both those
12 projects and river, what we would ask
13 is that you continue to use the
14 operational plans that you have and
15 to continue to protect these sources
16 for water supply and recreation.

17 I just want to mention a couple
18 of things that we're working on that
19 might be of interest to the group.
20 We are working on long-range water
21 supply and water quality plans.

22 As part of the plans that we're
23 working on, water conservation is
24 going to be a very aggressive part of
25 that. And we're also looking at

1 reuse options.

2 For water quality purposes, the
3 Metropolitan North Georgia Planning
4 District just adopted a suite of
5 model ordinances to deal with storm
6 water problems in the Atlanta metro
7 area.

8 Just yesterday the board was
9 looking at a plan that involves a
10 30-year plan for retrofitting and
11 restoring a lot of the water quality
12 problems we have in our area. We've
13 got a four-to-six billion dollar
14 price tag.

15 So the metropolitan area is
16 working on a lot of issues the people
17 spoke to today. I just want to thank
18 you for the opportunity to mention
19 that.

20 COLONEL BOB KEYSER: Thank you.
21 Yes, sir?

22 MR. SIDNEY CUDEBEC: I passed
23 earlier. My name is Sidney Cudebac.
24 I'm from "Wewa." I'm a semi-retired
25 engineer. I have been in the sand

1 and gravel business for many years up
2 north. I have been in Florida for 46
3 years. I have worked on sand
4 deposits in central Florida, in Dade
5 County, and so forth.

6 I have sold equipment, furnished
7 material and equipment, conveyors
8 systems, throughout the United
9 States. And I have worked with Alan
10 McNair and his group from the City of
11 Wewahitchka to try and figure out
12 some way that we could handle the
13 sand that's on Sand Mountain. Maybe
14 we can get something done. Thank
15 you.

16 COLONEL BOB KEYSER: Anybody
17 else? Okay. Let me throw out a few
18 maybe parting comments, then maybe it
19 will stimulate a little bit of
20 discussion. Hopefully, y'all have
21 got a good -- at least a reasonable
22 feel for the challenge that we're
23 facing from the Corps.

24 We've heard from probably every
25 point along the river at this point,

1 almost every point along the river,
2 about what folks want and what their
3 needs are. And now, what we're
4 looking to do is lay all that out on
5 the table and see, okay, how do we
6 balance that out, how do we meet as
7 many of these needs as we possibly
8 can?

9 Some of those are going to be
10 some -- are going to probably take
11 something kind of radical. I would
12 tell you that if you continue to have
13 this sort of growth that has taken
14 place over the last ten years in the
15 metropolitan Atlanta area, if you get
16 the kind of growth that you would
17 like to stimulate with economic
18 development along the Chattahoochee
19 waterway, we need another water
20 supply.

21 We're probably close to having
22 enough water today if we're in a
23 normal rainfall season. We're
24 probably close to having enough water
25 to do -- to meet everybody's needs.

1 Keep in mind, we're dealing with the
2 fifth consecutive drought year.

3 So if we had enough water, get
4 normal rainfall, we're probably close
5 to having what we need. If we
6 continue to have growth that we've
7 experienced over the last ten years,
8 and the growth that a lot of folks
9 hope for, we need some more water,
10 maybe we need some more impoundment.

11 When the ACF project was
12 originally designed, there were three
13 dams that weren't built. There's
14 currently no water control on the
15 Flint River system. When we met
16 earlier with some folks from fish and
17 wildlife, one of the things they
18 showed us was a picture of the Flint
19 River bone dry. I can't help you. I
20 don't have any control on the Flint
21 River.

22 You could potentially face the
23 same situation on the Chattahoochee
24 without the impoundments on the
25 Chattahoochee River. But

1 realistically, something everybody
2 has got to think about is what's the
3 long-term solution?

4 If there's going to continue to
5 be growth, what's the long-term
6 solution, how do you come up with the
7 water that's going to be needed to
8 sustain the kind of growth that's
9 taken place in the past or is
10 projected for the future?

11 We've talked about some of the
12 competing interests. And, well,
13 there's not a whole lot of barge
14 traffic to be moved on the
15 Apalachicola River. It's a local
16 issue. I would tell you that Homer
17 Hirt made a very good point in the
18 fact that that system is tied to the
19 rest of the inland waterway system of
20 the U.S. It's not a local issue.
21 It's a national issue.

22 And if you take away navigation
23 on the Apalachicola River,
24 everybody's looking. Every waterway
25 system in the country is looking

1 because they're saying am I next? I
2 believe it was -- Art, was it you who
3 was reading the comments about the
4 Missouri River?

5 MR. ART HOLBROOK: Yes.

6 COLONEL BOB KEYSER: Don't you
7 know that all the people on the
8 Missouri River system are looking at
9 what's happening on the Apalachicola
10 and saying are they coming after the
11 Missouri system next? Are they going
12 to try and deauthorize navigation
13 there? So it's not a local issue;
14 it's a national issue.

15 From the environmental
16 perspective, preservation of our
17 environment, taking care of a rare
18 ecosystem like the ACF ecosystem,
19 that's not something that's just
20 going to be dismissed.

21 That's something that America
22 has decided -- on a national
23 perspective, they've decided this is
24 something we're going to embrace.
25 This is something we're going to try

1 and take care of, that our
2 stewardship has not been all that it
3 should have been in the past, or
4 national priorities were different.

5 Look at the Everglades. Now, 50
6 years ago, they had massive floods
7 down there and the decision was let's
8 get rid of the water. And the Corps
9 came in and did just what they were
10 told to do. They got rid of the
11 water because that's what the
12 priority was. We needed to develop
13 that land.

14 And now they're saying we don't
15 have any water here. We need to
16 start impounding some of this. We
17 need to go back and restore what we
18 used to have because our priorities
19 have changed.

20 Well, our national priorities
21 with respect to environmental
22 stewardship have changed. They have
23 taken the shift towards let's do a
24 whole lot better job than what we've
25 done in the past. That's not

1 something that's going to go away,
2 just like commercial navigation is
3 not something that's just going to go
4 away that you can say I wish it would
5 go away and, "poof," it's gone. It's
6 not going to happen.

7 I mean, just recognizing there
8 are so many interests outside of my
9 district area to care about what's
10 happening down here. The reality is
11 don't expect it to go away. You talk
12 about water supply. That is a
13 national issue.

14 In the 20th Century, everybody
15 fought over oil. In the 21st,
16 they're going to fight over water.
17 So the reality is rather than saying
18 it's my position and my interest
19 against everybody else's, you're all
20 the enemy, you need to start forming
21 the coalition that says this is how
22 we're going to attack everybody's
23 problems.

24 Because of what I heard laid out
25 in here today, I don't see any of

1 that going away. I don't see
2 hydropower going away. We're not
3 going to maintain the economy and the
4 life-style that has become the United
5 States by doing away with
6 hydropower.

7 So as you look at your own
8 individual interests, consider
9 everybody else's and recognize that
10 they're probably not going to go
11 away.

12 So you can fight it, or you can
13 acknowledge it and then look for what
14 the synergistic solutions are. How
15 do I make everybody as much of a
16 winner as I can? I can't.

17 I don't think, from the Corps of
18 Engineers' perspective, we've done
19 that particularly well in the past.
20 We've usually waited until somebody
21 thumped us pretty hard and then we
22 addressed that particular problem
23 exclusively.

24 In the past, we've talked about,
25 you know -- actually, I have heard

1 some pretty interesting comments. I
2 have heard we don't want to let too
3 much water out; we need a whole lot
4 more water let out.

5 Well, I'm not sure which one of
6 those is right. It's probably some
7 of both. I haven't figured out yet
8 -- I'll go back to one of your
9 comments that I haven't figured out
10 what the difference is between an
11 environmental window to flush the bay
12 and the increased flows that are
13 associated with that, and the
14 increased flows that are associated
15 with sustaining a fish spawn, and the
16 increased flows that are associated
17 with a navigation window.

18 If I sent a big slug of water
19 down for a six-week period that
20 happened to match up with the
21 spawning period in the springtime,
22 and I flooded the bay, and I told
23 everybody that had a barge that
24 needed to move, hey, the water is
25 going to be up for six weeks, better

1 have your stuff ready to go, I'm not
2 sure why that's a bad thing because
3 the water has got to come down
4 anyway. So I guess that's a piece
5 that I haven't figured out yet.

6 Now, I realize that you can't do
7 that kind of thing all year round.
8 You can't do that in the middle of
9 the summer. But, you know, I think
10 we've got to take a broad
11 perspective.

12 And what I intend to do is take
13 a broader perspective in looking at
14 how do I try and meet all these
15 needs, and is there a little tweaking
16 to one individual's requirement or
17 one interest group's requirement that
18 would enable me to meet somebody
19 else's at the same time. Yeah,
20 there's some systemic things that we
21 need to do.

22 Jim, you had a good point with
23 respect to channel maintenance.
24 Yeah, what we've done in the past is
25 not -- if I had to do it all over

1 again -- I wasn't here 50 years ago.
2 Mom wasn't even thinking about me 50
3 years ago. But if I had to do it all
4 over again 50 years ago, yes, we
5 should have probably looked at
6 something other than just banks
7 disposal. That's probably not a
8 great solution.

9 We probably should have done
10 like they did on most of the other
11 systems and identify some upland
12 disposal areas, developed them,
13 maintained them over the years, and
14 we would probably have a whole lot
15 better ecosystem down there.

16 All right. How do I fix that
17 now? How do I fix what I have got
18 within banks disposal and not screw
19 it up in the course of fixing it?

20 One of the things we found when
21 we started tackling slough
22 restoration -- well, we thought the
23 water was coming out. In some cases
24 it wasn't. In some cases it was
25 going in. In some cases it wasn't

1 going in where we thought it was
2 going in.

3 And this was with my best folks
4 from the Corps sitting down with the
5 best folks from the State of Florida
6 and saying this is where we think it
7 is. Let's get after it. And it
8 didn't work.

9 All right. Now, let's take
10 another look at the science behind it
11 and see if we can't get it right next
12 time. And, oh, by the way, let's go
13 fix what we can of the ones that
14 didn't work. Not a perfect system
15 yet.

16 One of the challenges that I
17 have got is how much funding is going
18 to be available to the Corps of
19 Engineers in order to do all those
20 things that we need to do.

21 When my funding goes away -- and
22 I have had this discussion with a few
23 folks. When my funding for
24 maintaining the ACF system -- when
25 that gets cut, well, so does my

1 capability of doing anything to
2 enhance that system.

3 Ideally, what we do is we get
4 money for channel maintenance, we use
5 some of that for restoration of that
6 waterway so that we can start fixing
7 some of the things that have been
8 done wrong historically.

9 Take all my money away and don't
10 give me anything to operate with, and
11 I can't do it anymore. I can't do
12 anything to improve the system and
13 fix any of the things that were wrong
14 in the past, as well as I can't meet
15 the needs of the folks that have
16 needs on that system today, be it
17 environmental, be it water supply, be
18 it navigation, whatever, hydropower.

19 So part of what my challenge is,
20 is to ensure that I have got some
21 resources that I can devote to fixing
22 what needs to be fixed and doing
23 right what needs to be done right.
24 We're not quite there yet, but that's
25 our long-term piece.

1 I picked up a couple of
2 "do-outs." The folks down in Wewa
3 would like for me to come visit.
4 I'll be down. The folks in Gwinnett
5 would like me to come back. I'll be
6 up there. It will probably be
7 sometime after the first of the year
8 since I don't get another free day
9 until sometime in January, but I'm
10 coming.

11 A couple of things that didn't
12 show up tonight. I was hoping I
13 would hear, you know, the whole gamut
14 of here's what we need. When I rode
15 the Apalachicola, I heard all about
16 Tupelo Honey. I didn't hear a word
17 about it.

18 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Restore the
19 swamp, and it will take care of
20 itself.

21 COLONEL BOB KEYSER: Well,
22 that's -- and see, that's part of the
23 challenge that I have got is today I
24 guess at what -- you know, when we
25 determine how much water we're going

1 to put down there -- and for
2 everybody else, there's Tupelo groves
3 down in the backwaters of the
4 Apalachicola, and they thrive if
5 they're flooded a couple of times.
6 But as I understand it, you don't
7 keep them saturated all the time,
8 something like that. Did I get that
9 right?

10 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Yeah. If Mr.
11 L. L. Lanier had been able, he would
12 have been here tonight to talk about
13 that.

14 COLONEL BOB KEYSER: We would
15 have talked all about that. Okay.
16 But part of what my challenge is --
17 you know, that's a requirement, how
18 huge a requirement, I don't know, but
19 that's a requirement. Well, today, I
20 guessed at that requirement down
21 there.

22 And I guess at how much water I
23 have to push into the backwaters to
24 ensure that the Tupelo groves can
25 survive to make Tupelo honey, which

1 is a special thing, I guess. I'm a
2 damn Yankee. I'm afraid I'm not real
3 familiar with it. But today we
4 guessed at that.

5 What I'm hoping to do as a
6 result of this meeting -- and for
7 those of you that have friends or
8 associates that didn't come that had
9 something that they wanted to put on
10 the table, well, that's the kind of
11 stuff we need.

12 Those are things that, in fact,
13 should be factored into how do you
14 manage the resource. Can I cover
15 that during a fish spawn? Yes, sir?

16 MR. DAVID McLAIN: I'm sorry. I
17 didn't mean to interrupt you, but I
18 just wanted to say that you were
19 provided that tonight. You were
20 provided that in the 50-year history
21 of the flows of that bay.

22 Those are confined to CFS and
23 they have been provided to Joanne
24 Brandt. I didn't take up your time
25 to tell you how many thousands of

1 cubic feet per second were needed to
2 mimic the 50-year, but it's there.

3 And if you mimic that, you'll
4 support Mr. Lanier, you'll support
5 everybody else that wasn't here. It
6 has been provided. I didn't
7 articulate it well before.

8 COLONEL BOB KEYSER: Okay.
9 Thank you, David. Again, that's what
10 I'm after is what are all the pieces
11 that we're trying to look for. And
12 hopefully we're going to catch all
13 that.

14 And I realize that I held you
15 down to five minutes, and I didn't
16 give you enough time to talk through
17 everything. But it only took us
18 almost four hours to get to this
19 point.

20 So, again, if you know of folks
21 that have got items of interest that
22 we should know about in making our
23 decisions, please pass them onto us
24 because that's part of how we want to
25 try and adjust how he manage the

1 water allocations over the coming
2 years.

3 Somebody mentioned Sand
4 Mountain. We're working on it. It's
5 funded. Now what we need is
6 sufficient water to get up there so
7 we can start moving the stuff out.

8 We've got a disposal location
9 for it. That's all going to be
10 reused as beach sand. But I have got
11 to have enough water coming down the
12 river that I can get up the river to
13 start taking it off of Sand
14 Mountain. Yes, sir, do you have
15 question?

16 AUDIENCE MEMBER: You've opened
17 a real Pandora's box here. I would
18 really like to be looking over your
19 shoulder when you read your reports
20 and decide what you're going to do.
21 There's not a person in here I
22 wouldn't like to sit down with now
23 and ask them why they said what they
24 did.

25 Is there any chance that the

1 results of your work will ever be
2 published for the John "Q" public out
3 here? I mean, I don't mean to look
4 over your shoulder and manage or do
5 it. I just want to see where you're
6 headed.

7 COLONEL BOB KEYSER: I don't
8 know if we're ever going to get
9 there. Yeah, I would tell you right
10 now that everything we're doing
11 today, I'm doing out of my hide.

12 I guess probably the other piece
13 that's a good tidbit for everybody to
14 understand, the Corps of Engineers is
15 not a typical government agency.

16 I'm not handed a pot of money
17 and said this will do everything that
18 you need to do. It pays all of your
19 bills and everything else.

20 Everything -- we operate just like a
21 business. We're all project funded.

22 So for the ACF, Congress
23 appropriates X-million dollars for me
24 to operate the ACF. And that pays
25 for everything that I do that's

1 associated with the ACF. When I do
2 things beyond that, I eat it.

3 That's -- for you that run
4 business, you're watching your
5 overhead, you're watching your
6 discretionary cost. The cost of
7 putting this on tonight, I'm eating
8 that out of overhead. It's something
9 that I need to do in order to operate
10 my district. It's not real good on
11 budget.

12 Because at the end of the year,
13 I'm a not-for-profit company. I get
14 to the end of the year, and I don't
15 have any money in the bank, and I
16 don't have any bills yet to be paid.

17 So part of how much effort gets
18 put into this developing this report,
19 and whatnot, will be a function of
20 how much this can I eat and how much
21 money do I actually have appropriated
22 to operate with.

23 So when I say I hope I'm going
24 to get there where I have got a
25 report that folks can look over,

1 yeah, that's what my objective is. I
2 don't know if I'm going to get there
3 this year. I'm going to hopefully
4 get to a point where we can at least
5 make some good judgment calls based
6 on the data that we've got.

7 But for the 50 people that stood
8 up and said here's my statement and,
9 by the way, I have given you a
10 report, I have got somebody that I
11 have got to pay to go through all
12 that and digest it and boil it down
13 and say all right here's how we apply
14 that and start making calls in water
15 management.

16 We've still got a lot of work
17 ahead of us to get there, but our
18 objective is, yes, I want something
19 that we can show the John Q public,
20 and I want to share with everybody.
21 I'd like to share it with the folks
22 that are associated with water
23 requirements across the three
24 states.

25 I want to talk to everybody

1 about this. Assuming that we've got
2 good data, I want to share that with
3 everybody. Homer, you have a
4 question?

5 MR. HOMER HIRT: I would
6 strongly recommend -- you were
7 talking about Sand Mountain and
8 moving the material. I have gotten
9 bits and pieces of it. I know what's
10 been appropriated. I know some of
11 the funding you're using.

12 I know Gulf Power -- Gulf County
13 has come into some objections that
14 are focused locally. I strongly
15 suggest you look at it and get some
16 expertise put in by folks that know
17 about things like this. I think we
18 could save the government money.

19 COLONEL BOB KEYSER: Trust me,
20 we're going after that.

21 MR. HOMER HIRT: Please look at
22 that, and we'll be standing by to
23 give you any other help we can.

24 COLONEL BOB KEYSER: Yes, sir.

25 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I appreciate

1 all the comments, Colonel, and I
2 empathize with them. But in my area,
3 first, the ability is real important
4 to me, and the 2600 hundred people I
5 represent. And I would like to ask
6 if you would, to push the -- help us
7 get our marina site. That means a
8 whole lot to us. It means a whole to
9 people being able to have a quality
10 of life, and if you could help us
11 with that, I would greatly appreciate
12 that.

13 COLONEL BOB KEYSER: Okay. Yes,
14 ma'am.

15 MS. MARILYN BLACKWELL: When you
16 make up this report of this meeting
17 tonight, will you take into
18 consideration that the meeting was
19 held, you know, here, and not lower
20 on the river because a lot of these
21 people wouldn't be at the meeting if
22 it was held in, say, Apalachicola.
23 So a lot of the people, you know,
24 from that area is not represented
25 here. More of the people are here

1 that's represented from this area.
2 COLONEL BOB KEYSER: That's --
3 one of the challenges you've got in
4 doing this -- we had about 250 people
5 roll through here tonight. One of
6 the challenges you've got is finding
7 a place that is reasonably centrally
8 located. And I appreciate that you
9 have a long drive. It was almost --
10 it was about two-thirds of what I
11 drove this morning.

12 MS. MARILYN BLACKWELL: No. I
13 am considering the people that's not
14 represented, not myself.

15 COLONEL BOB KEYSER: Oh, I
16 understand. You've got to find some
17 place that's somewhat centrally
18 located, and then you've got to find
19 a place that's big enough -- frankly,
20 we were figuring we were going to see
21 someplace between a hundred and 400
22 people that were going to show up,
23 depending on interest, depending on
24 weather, whatever.

25 So you've got to find some place

1 that's going to be big enough to
2 handle that kind of a crowd. And,
3 frankly, outside of Columbus, there's
4 not a whole lot of options that could
5 be anywhere centrally located. So I
6 appreciate that, and, yeah, we're
7 going to consider the fact that we
8 haven't heard from everybody
9 tonight.

10 The folks that we have dealt
11 with previously when I was down
12 visiting with the bay and river
13 keeper earlier this year, the data
14 that we picked up from those folks,
15 from the fish and wildlife folks -- I
16 mean, we're not throwing that stuff
17 out because we didn't get it on
18 December 5th. That's all stuff that
19 we're going incorporate into what we
20 do now. So, I understand. Anybody
21 else?

22 MR. OSCAR JACKSON: Look at
23 Sykes Cut real closely.

24 COLONEL BOB KEYSER: Okay. What
25 am I going to see at Sykes Cut?

1 MR. OSCAR JACKSON: I went down
2 with a video camera and talked to
3 some old timers down there. This was
4 four years ago. And they all said
5 Sykes Cut is where you get to this
6 because there's so many people coming
7 in there, and it wasn't -- the
8 oysters were better and everything
9 else at Sykes Cut.

10 COLONEL BOB KEYSER: Okay.
11 Anyone else? Again, I would like to
12 thank all of you for coming in. I
13 would like to thank you for your
14 input. I realize that I probably put
15 a lot of you under a pretty tight
16 constraint when I said you only get
17 five minutes.

18 But, again, getting through 50
19 people in four hours was a bit of a
20 challenge. And we did want to get to
21 everybody before we lost everybody.
22 I thank y'all for coming in. I'd ask
23 you please have a safe trip home.

24

25 END OF MEETING

1 STATE OF GEORGIA

2 MUSCOGEE COUNTY

3

4

5

6 I, Tammy B. Hightower, Certified
7 Court Reporter, State at Large, do hereby
8 certify that the foregoing transcript, Pages 1
9 through 258 is a true and correct transcript
10 of the proceedings taken at said time and
11 place; and that the same was transcribed by me
12 personally or under my personal supervision.

13

14

15

16

17

18

19 Witness my hand this 13th day of
20 December, 2002.

21

22

23 Tammy B. Hightower
24 Certified Court Reporter, B-2222

25