

1 UNITED STATES

2 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

3  
4 \* \* \* \* \*

5  
6 DISASTER DEBRIS REDUCTION PROJECT FOR  
7 RESIDENTIAL BUILDING DEBRIS FROM  
8 HURRICANE KATRINA  
9 CHALMETTE, LOUISIANA

10  
11 \* \* \* \* \*

12  
13 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

14 PUBLIC MEETING

15 Saturday

16 JUNE 14, 2008

17 3:10 P.M.

18  
19 \* \* \* \* \*

20  
21  
22 BEFORE:

23 Angie Henning, CCR, CVR

24 Certified Court Reporter

25 In and for the State of Louisiana

**A P P E A R A N C E S**

**Janetta Coates, EPA**

EPA Community Involvement Coordinator

**Jeff Frithsen, EPA**

Office of Research and Development

**Roger Wilmoth, EPA**

Office of Research and Development

**Fran Kremer, EPA**

Office of Research and Development

**Pam Travis, EPA**

Deputy Regional Counsel Officer

**Nancy Jones, EPA**

Superfund OSC, Region 6

**David Passey**

St. Bernard Parish Government

**Christina Bigelow**

St. Bernard Resident

**Lacy Smith**

Tulane Environmental Law Clinic

**Alberta Lewis**

St. Bernard Resident

**Jim Lewis**

St. Bernard Resident

**EPA PUBLIC MEETING**

**DISASTER DEBRIS REDUCTION PROJECT**

**Chalmette, Louisiana**

**Saturday, June 14, 2008**

**3:10 p.m.**

**\* \* \* \* \***

**MS. JANETTA COATS, EPA:**

Good evening.

**DAVID PASSEY:**

Good evening.

**MS. JANETTA COATS, EPA:**

I would like to get the meeting started if that is okay with everyone.

**DAVID PASSEY:**

Yes, yes.

**MS. JANETTA COATS, EPA:**

My name is Janetta Coats. I am the facilitator for this meeting tonight. I am responsible for ensuring that the meeting is handled in an according manner, and to make sure that the court reporter receives all of the comments and answers to each question that is asked.

So if it is all possible, if you desire to make a comment tonight, I would

1           like for you fill out one of the cards  
2           that looks like this (indicating), one of  
3           these yellow cards. And I will call your  
4           name and you will come up to the front,  
5           make your comment, receive an answer, and  
6           then you can be seated after you make your  
7           comment.

8                        When you do that, please state your  
9           name. If you have any unusual spellings  
10          with your name, spell that so the court  
11          reporter can get that on the record.

12                       Okay. Our court reporter is Ms. Angie  
13          Henning sitting here to my right. I would  
14          like to turn this over now to Ms. Nancy  
15          Jones. She will show you a brief  
16          presentation on what the purpose of the  
17          meeting is for tonight.

18                       Nancy?

19                       **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

20                       Hi, I'm Nancy Jones and I'm the EPA  
21          on-the-scene coordinator that has been  
22          coordinating with our Office of Research  
23          and Development on the project that we  
24          will be talking about. I have a number of  
25          EPA folks with me.

1           Pam Travis is our regional counsel  
2           officer or deputy regional counsel. Fran  
3           Kremer is with EPA's Office of Research  
4           and Development. Roger Wilmoth, again,  
5           with EPA's Office of Research and  
6           Development. And Jeff is the same, again,  
7           Office of Research and Development.

8           So just a little brief background  
9           about the project in case you are not  
10          aware or familiar with it. This came  
11          about because of all the damage from  
12          Hurricane Katrina rendered thousands of  
13          homes uninhabitable, and there was a large  
14          need for a large number of demolitions.  
15          And it has resulted in a huge debris  
16          management issue. The largest debris  
17          management situation in our country that  
18          we've had to deal with.

19          In an effort to better deal with these  
20          types of situations, EPA is working to  
21          develop a debris management options that  
22          can expedite debris removal in a  
23          cost-effective and environmentally sound  
24          manner.

25          As a result, we have been working with

1           the State, the Louisiana Department of  
2           Environmental Quality and St. Bernard  
3           Parish on evaluating some options to  
4           reduce the amount of waste that is  
5           generated and goes into landfills.

6           So, specifically, we have developed a  
7           pilot project involving thermal treatment  
8           and grinding of the debris. Our original  
9           plan was to burn and grind construction  
10          and demolition debris; that is houses that  
11          are demolished that do not contain  
12          regulated asbestos containing material, as  
13          well as houses that contain regulated  
14          asbestos containing materials.

15          However, due in part to community  
16          concerns, and in preparation for public  
17          release of information, we took a look at  
18          our risk assessment that we had previously  
19          prepared and we found an error in our risk  
20          calculations.

21          So as a result, we decided that we  
22          needed to do a further study before we  
23          proceed with the regulated asbestos  
24          portion of the project. But we would like  
25          to go ahead and do the vegetative debris

1 and construction and demolition portion of  
2 the project, because we think there is  
3 valuable data that we can collect from  
4 that portion of the project that will help  
5 us in the future to be able to proceed in  
6 the future with the regulated asbestos  
7 containing material portion of the  
8 project.

9 So even though we are deferring that  
10 portion right now, it is something that we  
11 would still like to continue to pursue  
12 sometime in the future. Not next month,  
13 you know, it would be some time.

14 We need to look at all the data from  
15 the portion of the project which we are  
16 wanting to pursue right now and evaluate  
17 what next steps can be taken before we  
18 proceed with that portion. But I do want  
19 to emphasize that safety is EPA's number  
20 one concern.

21 This includes the workers on-site,  
22 EPA's contractors and EPA personnel, as  
23 well as the public. That is our first  
24 primary concern. And that is the reason  
25 why we decided to step back.

1           Once we found the error, we thought,  
2           you know, safety is way more important  
3           than the research, and we want to make  
4           sure that we can conduct this research in  
5           a safe manner.

6           We do believe that the testing that we  
7           are wanting to do -- we are taking every  
8           precaution possible, and we do think that  
9           we can conduct the vegetative and the  
10          construction demolition portion of the  
11          test in a safe manner.

12          And we think that this will help  
13          provide data to come up with effective  
14          alternatives to landfilling waste in the  
15          future that large natural disasters  
16          generate. And we would like to proceed  
17          with the test and look at any comments  
18          that you have and implement the comments  
19          that you have so that this test will help  
20          in the future with making sure that waste  
21          is reduced and we don't have to build as  
22          many landfills to address this type of  
23          situation in the future.

24          So that is what we are here to talk  
25          about. We do have a brief video clip. It



1 is very short, showing the actual piece of  
2 equipment, what the air curtain destructor  
3 looks like when it's in operation when it  
4 is burning the vegetative debris.

5 And so we wanted to show that to you,  
6 so you will have an idea of what to  
7 expect.

8 **MS. FRAN KREMER, EPA:**

9 (Playing video clip of the air curtain  
10 destructor.)

11 **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

12 We also have a poster of an up-close  
13 photo of the air burner. And we have a  
14 map blown up showing the location of the  
15 test site.

16 (Indicating to poster.)

17 It is the Parish Road landfill staging  
18 area, and it shows in proximity of the  
19 closest residents and business for your  
20 review.

21 So, I would like at this point to go  
22 ahead and turn it over to Janetta, so she  
23 can tell how we are going to proceed from  
24 here.

25 **MS. JANETTA COATS, EPA:**

1           Okay. Thank you, Ms. Nancy. Again,  
2           this is not a debate. We are here to  
3           receive comments on the study that is  
4           being conducted.

5           When you signed in, you were again  
6           given a yellow card. So if there is  
7           anyone that would like to make a comment,  
8           let me know and you can come up to the  
9           front.

10          **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

11           So at this time if you have questions,  
12           then if you will just --

13          **MS. JANETTA COATS, EPA:**

14           Any comments? Any comments from the  
15           audience. Since we have a small group, we  
16           won't necessarily go through all the  
17           ground rules that we normally do because  
18           we have a small group.

19           There are some ground rules that we  
20           have in place when we have a large crowd  
21           to address comments and concerns. But  
22           since we do have a small group, we will  
23           just go to you guys individually and let  
24           you make your comments, okay.

25           So who would like to be first?

1           **LACY SMITH:**

2                     Without filling it out first?

3           **MS. JANETTA COATS, EPA:**

4                     No, you don't have to fill it out.  
5                     Just stand up and come up to the podium  
6                     and state your name so that the court  
7                     reporter can get your name properly on the  
8                     record.

9           **LACY SMITH:**

10                    Lacy Smith, L-A-C-Y. I have a  
11                    question about -- with the assessments I  
12                    know there were some asbestos assessments,  
13                    but is there any sort of assessment of  
14                    other things like lead paint or toxic kind  
15                    of chemicals that are in these houses, so  
16                    that you have an idea of what is going in  
17                    versus what is going out in the event that  
18                    you have a reading of the toxins.

19           **MR. ROGER WILMOTH, EPA:**

20                    Well, we have an evaluation -- this is  
21                    Roger Wilmoth. We have an evaluation of  
22                    the lead that is in the house because that  
23                    was part of the asbestos, the evaluation.  
24                    As well we looked for, you know, any  
25                    asbestos-containing materials and also for

1 any lead-based paint materials.

2 That is probably -- that is probably  
3 all we have on just what was in the house,  
4 because that is what we were looking for  
5 in those individual surveys.

6 **LACY SMITH:**

7 Okay. I have a follow-up question.  
8 Are there other chemicals and stuff that  
9 the community should be concerned about,  
10 because, I mean, as far as the kinds of  
11 hazardous things that are in a house?

12 **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

13 Well, I can tell you as far as the  
14 procedure for doing the demolitions, is  
15 that the demolition contractor before they  
16 do the demolitions are supposed to remove  
17 household hazardous wastes and placed them  
18 curbside, as well as the white goods.

19 And when I mean white goods, I mean  
20 refrigerators, washers, dryers, stoves,  
21 ovens, that type of thing. So the Freon  
22 is handled separately and the household  
23 hazardous waste is picked up prior to the  
24 demolition occurring.

25 So those types of toxic hazardous

1 materials are not part of the demolished  
2 house. Those are handled separately.

3 **MR. JEFF FRITHSEN, EPA:**

4 And "E" waste, too.

5 **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

6 Yeah, and "E" waste, too. "E" waste  
7 meaning computers, television, those types  
8 of things.

9 **LACY SMITH:**

10 Okay.

11 **MS. JANETTA COATS, EPA:**

12 Anymore comments?

13 **JIM LEWIS:**

14 My name is Jim Lewis. I would like to  
15 know if this is sort of a lead up that we  
16 will be able to burn our trash in the  
17 front of the house or something without  
18 the fire department coming over there  
19 harassing us?

20 **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

21 No, absolutely not.

22 **DAVID PASSEY:**

23 No, sir.

24 **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

25 No.

1           **DAVID PASSEY:**

2           David Passey with the Parish,  
3           St. Bernard Parish. That is two different  
4           animals.

5           **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

6           Yes. This is totally different.

7           **JIM LEWIS:**

8           All right. I thought maybe this would  
9           help us out there, you know.

10          **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

11          This is specifically related to  
12          handling waste generated from natural  
13          disasters when it is a vast amount that is  
14          just an incredible amount that you have to  
15          deal with landfilling. And we are looking  
16          for alternatives so that in the future  
17          more landfills don't have to be  
18          constructed. So, it is not just regular  
19          day-to-day trash.

20          It would only be implemented -- and,  
21          again, I want to emphasize that we are not  
22          advocating this technology. This is a  
23          technology that we are wanting to evaluate  
24          to see if it is appropriate for waste  
25          reduction purposes. So, we are not trying

1 to test this so then necessarily a rule  
2 will be promulgated.

3 We are just trying to evaluate the  
4 effectiveness of this technology and  
5 whether it is something that, you know,  
6 EPA should allow to occur during  
7 extraordinary circumstances.

8 **JIM LEWIS:**

9 Thank you.

10 **MS. JANETTA COATS, EPA:**

11 Anymore comments?

12 **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

13 (Raises hand.)

14 **MS. JANETTA COATS, EPA:**

15 Yes, ma'am, could you step up to the  
16 podium and state your name, please.

17 **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

18 My name is Alberta Lewis. And, I  
19 guess, you may have answered one of the  
20 questions that I would have had, but I  
21 would still like to come forth.

22 If this test were acceptable by EPA  
23 standards, this fire box is what size?

24 **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

25 It comes in different sizes actually.

1           We are going to use a smaller unit for the  
2           purpose of the test, but they can build  
3           larger ones as well. This one has kind of  
4           been custom-built.

5           **MR. ROGER WILMOTH, EPA:**

6           I don't really know the dimensions of  
7           it. Do you, Fran?

8           **MS. FRAN KREMER, EPA:**

9           I don't right off the top of my head.

10          **MR. ROGER WILMOTH, EPA:**

11          But, you know, the one that we looked  
12          at was probably going be two-thirds as  
13          long as the room here.

14          **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

15          Well, more than the size, but the  
16          capacity of it. How is this -- I imagine  
17          you have researched that this is an  
18          efficient -- would this be an efficient  
19          way to do this?

20          **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

21          Well, that is part of the purpose of  
22          the test to see if it is efficient. So  
23          that is something that we want to  
24          evaluate. You know, the vendors wanted to  
25          utilize this technology during Katrina,



1 and we had to tell them it couldn't be  
2 used, because we didn't have data to  
3 support whether or not it was effective  
4 and whether it was safe.

5 And so the purpose of this test is to  
6 really determine whether or not this is a  
7 good idea or not. And so without doing  
8 the test, we won't know.

9 Now, that is -- when I say "we don't  
10 know," what I'm really specifically  
11 talking about is the burning of regulated  
12 asbestos containing material which we are  
13 actually not going to do in the test right  
14 now.

15 We have decided that burning the  
16 construction demolition material will  
17 provide us data that could be used towards  
18 looking at whether or not it is safe to  
19 conduct the test portion of burning  
20 regulated asbestos. So we are taking baby  
21 steps.

22 We want to do this first, gather this  
23 data, and then evaluate the data and then  
24 decide whether or not it's prudent to move  
25 onto the next phase of the testing.

1           After this phase of the test, we may  
2           decide we don't want to move on. But we  
3           really need to gather the data, evaluate  
4           it, and think about whether or not it is a  
5           good idea to proceed forward.

6           But right now, you know, all of our  
7           information is hypothetical and very  
8           conservative. And so we didn't feel  
9           comfortable allowing this technology to be  
10          utilized during Katrina without data to  
11          back it up.

12          **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

13          So, we all know -- those of us that  
14          are old-timers in St. Bernard. We all  
15          know about the effectiveness in  
16          eliminating waste by the dump that used to  
17          be there. But we know also today that  
18          household waste has changed. Electronics,  
19          hazardous materials that come out for the  
20          public usage for cleaning, and of course  
21          the asbestos issue.

22          When you do this test, are you going  
23          to get -- wait, let me say this -- and  
24          that's why dump -- the dump burning was  
25          not that appealing to us, not only because

1 of the toxic substance of airborne fumes,  
2 but also the odors because of the burning  
3 of garbage, etc., etc., etc.

4 So when you burn this -- are you --  
5 the data that you are collecting, is it  
6 going to record perhaps what was in that?  
7 Because those houses that were demolished,  
8 we don't really know that they didn't have  
9 asbestos.

10 Because I, myself, for one stood in  
11 the lower nine at the emptying of a house  
12 and saw people sneaking in the asbestos  
13 tiles. So we don't -- in paper bags -- I  
14 mean, in plastic bags that couldn't be  
15 recognized.

16 So that would concern me that you are  
17 going to burn a house -- now, maybe you  
18 have selected it very carefully.

19 **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

20 Yes.

21 **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

22 But at the same time, are you  
23 collecting data that might indicate some  
24 of the -- what and the degree of that are  
25 toxic substances and possible and

1 potential -- I see you are shaking your  
2 heads.

3 **MR. ROGER WILMOTH, EPA:**

4 Yes, we are.

5 **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

6 Yes. In fact, it has been evaluated  
7 twice. First by the Parish, because in  
8 order to do a demolition, the Parish  
9 contractors have to go through and do an  
10 asbestos inspection.

11 **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

12 That is the household debris that you  
13 are --

14 **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

15 No, ma'am.

16 **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

17 What is it then?

18 **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

19 They did an asbestos inspection. So  
20 they did a full asbestos inspection. They  
21 went in the house.

22 **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

23 Of the house?

24 **MR. ROGER WILMOTH, EPA:**

25 Yes.

1           **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

2           Yes, of the house.

3           **MS. FRAN KREMER, EPA:**

4           The one house we are using.

5           **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

6           Yes, there is only one house that we  
7 want to burn. We looked at a number of  
8 houses. And we have whittled it down to  
9 one house that we want to test. And so  
10 the Parish contractors, demolition  
11 contractors, did their complete survey.

12           I mean, they go through every room of  
13 the house and they look at every aspect.  
14 They look at the roofing material. They  
15 look at the ceilings. They look at the  
16 drywall joint compounds. They look at the  
17 flooring material. And they make a  
18 determination of whether or not the house  
19 contains regulated asbestos containing  
20 material.

21           And then when we decided -- we thought  
22 that this particular house had a potential  
23 for use in our test, we did the same  
24 thing. We hired our own contractor and we  
25 went through and did a complete thorough

1 inspection.

2 And then we compared our results to  
3 the Parish contractor results to make sure  
4 that we both agreed, because we didn't  
5 want to use a house that we thought was  
6 non-regulated asbestos, but the Parish  
7 contractor thought that it was.

8 So we narrowed it down to one house  
9 that we both agreed upon, and it does not  
10 contain regulated asbestos containing  
11 material. And both the Parish contractors  
12 and EPA contractors have been through the  
13 house, through the entire house.

14 **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

15 And would you say that is true of the  
16 toxic materials to be hazardous waste?

17 **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

18 Now, that will be removed prior to the  
19 demolition. It is part of the  
20 decommissioning process. So when the  
21 house is scheduled for demolition, a  
22 couple days before the decommissioning  
23 crew comes in and they remove the  
24 household hazardous waste, they remove the  
25 white goods, and they remove the

1           electronic waste.

2                   And then actually they call the EPA  
3           hotline, and EPA contractors come pick it  
4           up curbside and then the house is  
5           demolished.

6           **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

7                   Okay. So this has been given the  
8           pristine data on material that is checked  
9           and double checked. What is your -- I  
10          know depending upon the test, but surely  
11          you are doing this with the possibility of  
12          it resolving some of the problems, because  
13          we know what accumulated waste is not such  
14          safe waste in the parish, the old-timers  
15          do, with the type of mound that is over  
16          there which can lead to leaching, etc.,  
17          etc., etc.

18                  So how do we know that this test --  
19          what am I trying to say? That once this  
20          test is conducted and you are satisfied  
21          that that is the thing to do from the data  
22          that you receive in the test, then what?

23          **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

24                  Well, that will be up to the State and  
25          locals. Basically, what we will do is we

1 will publish our results and then we will  
2 take a step back. Construction and  
3 demolition material, there is not anything  
4 that prohibits that material being burned  
5 in this type of device, so it is something  
6 that --

7 **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

8 Within that chamber?

9 **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

10 Right, exactly. So that is something  
11 that, you know, the state government, the  
12 Louisiana Department of Environmental  
13 Quality or the St. Bernard Parish wanted  
14 to go to the Louisiana Department of  
15 Environmental Quality and talk about  
16 utilizing that technology, and is that  
17 something that can be permanent. But EPA  
18 wouldn't have anything to do with it. EPA  
19 would be totally out of the loop, that  
20 would be a state issue.

21 Now, if we proceeded in the future and  
22 did the regulated asbestos test, and if  
23 the state wanted to utilize this  
24 technology to burn regulated asbestos  
25 containing material, the state would have



1 to request a no action assurance from the  
2 EPA headquarters in Washington, DC. And  
3 EPA headquarters in Washington, DC would  
4 make a determination whether or not they  
5 were going to allow that. But for burning  
6 construction and demolition material, EPA  
7 headquarters doesn't need to be involved  
8 and neither does the EPA regional office.

9 **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

10 So that -- what did you call it? What  
11 kind of construction material?

12 **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

13 Construction and demolition.

14 **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

15 Okay.

16 **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

17 Which did not contain regulated  
18 asbestos material.

19 **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

20 Okay. So but -- are you going to --  
21 is it your plan to try to attempt that  
22 with what has already been collected, the  
23 mounds that we already have now?

24 **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

25 Again, we are --

1           **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

2                   What is going to happen?

3           **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

4                   We are only conducting a test.

5           **DAVID PASSEY:**

6                   This is a project.

7           **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

8                   Yes. This is just -- this is just the  
9                   test.

10          **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

11                   Just this one test.

12          **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

13                   And then after we complete the test,  
14                   it is really up to the state on what they  
15                   want to do with that information.

16          **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

17                   Okay. I understand.

18          **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

19                   But we are not proposing that the  
20                   State take the mounds and do this with  
21                   this. We are just conducting an  
22                   evaluation. We are not making policy  
23                   decisions or policy suggestions.

24          **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

25                   Okay. I understand. I asked --

1           **DAVID PASSEY:**

2                   Hi, I'm David Passey with the  
3           St. Bernard Parish Government. Alberta,  
4           maybe this will help a little bit. The  
5           focus of this pilot program is as I  
6           understand it -- and correct me guys if I  
7           am wrong -- is waste reduction.

8           **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

9                   Okay.

10          **DAVID PASSEY:**

11                   For catastrophes in our demolition  
12          projects on that stuff, the contractors  
13          are paid on the base of a cubic yard.

14          **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

15                   Uh-huh.

16          **DAVID PASSEY:**

17                   On a volume-type basis. So it  
18          behooves -- if there is a way or method to  
19          reduce the size, the cubic measurements of  
20          this place itself, then we'll get off with  
21          a cheaper price.

22          **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

23                   So we're following the dollar there,  
24          too.

25          **DAVID PASSEY:**

1           That's part of the stuff for this  
2           program, too. And that's good. That's  
3           good for this parish and it's good for  
4           everybody else that is out there that it  
5           can be done safely.

6           **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

7           And for the -- and for the ground and  
8           the water table that is going to result --  
9           the damage that can result to that if  
10          those mounds are just swept back.

11          **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

12          And also so that there is not, you  
13          know, additional landfills that have to be  
14          constructed.

15          **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

16          That is the big thing, yes, so.

17          **DAVID PASSEY:**

18          And we haven't -- when I say we, the  
19          government hasn't taken the position yet.

20          **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

21          The Parish? The Parish; right?

22          **DAVID PASSEY:**

23          The Parish, yes. And it is a good  
24          thing to do. Whether or not the Parish is  
25          going to do it in a non-emergency

1 situation, I don't know. You know, to try  
2 to get to buy one of these burn units and  
3 try to reduce it ourselves, I'm not sure.  
4 That is not really what we are having an  
5 issue here with.

6 Right now, I think, what we have an  
7 issue with is catastrophes, try to reduce  
8 the waste as much as possible at a safe  
9 and reasonable cost and get it safely  
10 disposed of and then moved on.

11 **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

12 So you are saying that this is a test  
13 for a national situation?

14 **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

15 That is absolutely correct.

16 **DAVID PASSEY:**

17 And that is as well for the Tulane  
18 Environmental Law Clinic, too.

19 **CHRISTINA BIGELOW:**

20 This is Christina Bigelow. I think,  
21 you know, this fundamental -- even if this  
22 was to turn out okay and this was  
23 implemented at some point in the future  
24 and a natural disaster maybe was out in  
25 the Midwest, I don't know. I think it

1           fundamentally differs from the situation  
2           at Kaiser because those ponds, pits, and  
3           lagoons were closed at a point in time  
4           when the state government was sort of  
5           offering a free pass.

6           **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

7                     Not as much regulation.

8           **CHRISTINA BIGELOW:**

9                     To close those prior to requiring --

10          **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

11                     (Inaudible.)

12          **CHRISTINA BIGELOW:**

13                     Exactly -- however, the one good thing  
14           with the mounds and dump is, that landfill  
15           is capped. And so the potential  
16           permeation from the mounds that are there  
17           now is greatly reduced. But, I mean, I  
18           think this situation is kind of  
19           fundamentally different. I just wanted to  
20           point that out.

21          **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

22                     It is.

23          **CHRISTINA BIGELOW:**

24                     Kaiser is another situation.

25          **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

1                   But we know what happens.

2                   **CHRISTINA BIGELOW:**

3                   Exactly, we do. And, in fact, you  
4 know, a contractor came and wanted to put  
5 a landfill on top of the Kaiser landfill,  
6 but because the pits, ponds, and lagoons  
7 are so unstable they were built prior to  
8 regulation.

9                   Here we are after regulation and we're  
10 in a place where there is no possible way  
11 that this waste is going to go to an  
12 unregulated landfill even after it is  
13 reduced. I mean, it is going to be  
14 disposed to 100 percent compliant.

15                  **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

16                  And one concern I would have about  
17 taking material that has already been  
18 piled up and then trying to do this with  
19 it is, you don't know what is in it.

20                  **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

21                  That is my -- that's been the concern.

22                  **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

23                  You know, it's better to utilize this  
24 technology when you know what you're  
25 putting in it rather than to address piles

1           that were generated some time ago and you  
2           don't have any information about what is  
3           in that pile.

4           **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

5           You didn't have controls, right. No  
6           controls on what went in it?

7           **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

8           Right.

9           **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

10          So the ash from this burn off, what  
11          happens to that?

12          **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

13          Well, then we would test it and  
14          depending on what was in the material --  
15          it would depend on how it was disposed of.  
16          If the ash ends up, you know, failing and  
17          becoming a bit -- indicating that it is a  
18          hazardous waste, if it fails the toxic  
19          characteristic leaching procedures test,  
20          then we would have to handle it as  
21          hazardous waste.

22          But if it does not fail and is not  
23          hazardous, then it would go off to a  
24          nonhazardous landfill. And, again, since  
25          this is not -- does not contain regulated



1 asbestos-containing material, it could go  
2 to just a regular C&D landfill,  
3 construction and demolition landfill.

4 **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

5 Uh-huh.

6 **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

7 So it is all going to depend on  
8 What the test results are.

9 **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

10 So at what temperature is the -- what  
11 is the maximum temperature of heat on  
12 this.

13 **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

14 My understanding is 2,000 degree  
15 Fahrenheit.

16 **MR. ROGER WILMOTH, EPA:**

17 That is pretty warm.

18 **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

19 Just a little.

20 **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

21 Now, I'm familiar with high  
22 temperatures. I do porcelain work.

23 **MR. ROGER WILMOTH, EPA:**

24 Oh, okay, yeah.

25 **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

1           So I understand that porcelains go to  
2           2,500 and 2,600 degrees and sanitary  
3           commercial goes even higher than that. So  
4           I am not that steady on, for examples,  
5           selenium, cadmium, those heavy metals, I  
6           don't know what their maximum heat range  
7           is to deteriorate or if they do in heat at  
8           all.

9           **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

10          And that's an excellent point. That  
11          is the reason why, you know, the ash may  
12          fail for metals. And if that is the case,  
13          then we would have to dispose of it as  
14          hazardous waste.

15          So that is -- and that is actually  
16          part of the test, to determine if this  
17          type of technology creates waste that is  
18          hazardous waste, then maybe this  
19          technology is not efficient. And we won't  
20          know unless we actually do the test.

21          **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

22          Now, if this goes through, the  
23          non-asbestos burning, it would be then  
24          your intention to try to do an asbestos  
25          test burning; right?

1           **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

2           Yes.

3           **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

4           And then would that then indicate that  
5 more of the existing debris could be  
6 burned in a chamber as Mr. Passey  
7 mentioned just then.

8           **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

9           Well, we probably won't have the test  
10 results in time and be able to do the next  
11 phase of the test before you-all are  
12 finished with your demolition, honestly,  
13 because it is going to take us that long  
14 to evaluate the data and prepare for the  
15 next phase of the test.

16           So we do not -- we do not expect to be  
17 able to do a regulated asbestos-containing  
18 burn while you still have houses that need  
19 to be demolished. So it would not happen  
20 here.

21           **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

22           I see. The timeline isn't possible.

23           **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

24           Right.

25           **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

1 I have one more question. What is the  
2 atmosphere of what is been burned off in  
3 the burning process? Is it all contained  
4 within this fire chamber or is it  
5 filtered? The air --

6 **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

7 What is the material that will be  
8 released in the air?

9 **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

10 I am not saying it too well. The  
11 airborne particles that might be in a  
12 burnout like this?

13 **MS. FRAN KREMER, EPA:**

14 And that's exactly what we'll be  
15 testing.

16 **MR. ROGER WILMOTH, EPA:**

17 Right.

18 **MS. FRAN KREMER, EPA:**

19 We have a series of parameters that we  
20 will be monitoring, some continuously,  
21 which will include different types of  
22 gases and what we call "total  
23 hydrocarbons," and as well, we'll be  
24 monitoring the temperature.

25 **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

1           So this is all going to be contained  
2           within that fire chamber?

3           **MS. FRAN KREMER, EPA:**

4           We need to evaluate that, how  
5           effective it is.

6           **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

7           So there could be a leakage from that  
8           fire chamber?

9           **MS. FRAN KREMER, EPA:**

10          Well --

11          **DAVID PASSEY:**

12          They have sensors. They are going to  
13          have sensors strategically placed around  
14          the burn unit to sensor for that, okay.  
15          To sensor for what is going to be up in  
16          the air; is that right; am I correct?

17          **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

18          Right.

19          **DAVID PASSEY:**

20          There are different yardages, 300  
21          yards, 30 yards, 50 yards, and stuff like  
22          that. So that's what they --

23          **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

24          Much like we get of the refineries.

25          **DAVID PASSEY:**

1 Well, I think this is a lot better  
2 than the refineries.

3 **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

4 But I -- I know that, but on that -- I  
5 meant --

6 **CHRISTINA BIGELOW:**

7 Air quality monitor.

8 **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

9 As an analogy.

10 **DAVID PASSEY:**

11 Yes.

12 **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

13 I had another question but it lost me  
14 for the moment.

15 **CHRISTINA BIGELOW:**

16 But I am just asking -- also we read  
17 in the work plan that not only are there  
18 going to be the monitors that are going to  
19 be within the concentric circle that you  
20 will see, but there will also be five  
21 perimeter sites that are sort of bias  
22 towards population that are beyond those.

23 **MR. ROGER WILMOTH, EPA:**

24 I think is right. That's right, yes.

25 **CHRISTINA BIGELOW:**

1           I believe I am correct in that. That  
2           is -- and I think, you know, it was one of  
3           the things that when the Parish reviewed  
4           that, you know, we, specifically, were  
5           happy to see that additional --

6           **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

7           Right. (Inaudible.)

8           **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

9           And then additionally, there are also  
10          some monitors that are mounted onto the  
11          box itself, so we can monitor, you know,  
12          what is immediately --

13          **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

14          That was my next question.

15          **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

16          -- is coming out of the box. And then  
17          what's in the perimeter. We've got two  
18          different concentric circles of monitors,  
19          and then we have a second one stepping  
20          back and then there is the five that are  
21          closer to where the residents are. So we  
22          have --

23          **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

24          And how many in the two concentric  
25          circles?

1           **MR. ROGER WILMOTH, EPA:**

2           Well, there are eight -- there are  
3           going to 18 monitors in the first ring,  
4           and then I'll have to go back in my plan  
5           to look at what, you know, is in the outer  
6           ring. There are going to be 18 of the  
7           asbestos monitors because we are going to  
8           monitor for asbestos.

9           **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

10          Right.

11          **MR. ROGER WILMOTH, EPA:**

12          There are going to be --

13          **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

14          We have 15 --

15          **MR. ROGER WILMOTH, EPA:**

16          Total particulate monitors --

17          **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

18          Fifteen of those.

19          **MR. ROGER WILMOTH, EPA:**

20          There is going to be the dioxin furan  
21          monitors.

22          **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

23          Fifteen of those.

24          **MR. ROGER WILMOTH, EPA:**

25          Plus the ones that are going to be



1 along the road. There are five of those.  
2 And then we're going to do some background  
3 monitoring; that, in fact, we are able to  
4 compare those results to.

5 The primary monitors though are the  
6 ones that are right on top of the box.

7 **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

8 And those are how many? How large is  
9 this fire chamber?

10 **MR. ROGER WILMOTH, EPA:**

11 It is, you know, from there  
12 (indicating) to the wall. However long  
13 that is?

14 **MS. FRAN KREMER, EPA:**

15 Maybe 8' feet, approximately.

16 **MR. ROGER WILMOTH, EPA:**

17 Yeah.

18 **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

19 By?

20 **MS. FRAN KREMER, EPA:**

21 About this long and about 8' feet  
22 wide.

23 **MR. ROGER WILMOTH, EPA:**

24 About maybe -- about maybe 30' or  
25 40' feet long, something like that.

1           **DAVID PASSEY:**

2                     You know, those big SPT containers,  
3                     those garbage --

4           **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

5                     Yeah.

6           **DAVID PASSEY:**

7                     It is something like that.

8           **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

9                     Uh-huh.

10          **DAVID PASSEY:**

11                    Maybe a little longer, but not much  
12                    longer than that.

13          **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

14                    So that's about 40' by -- what did you  
15                    say, eight?

16          **MS. FRAN KREMER, EPA:**

17                    It's less than 30.

18          **MR. ROGER WILMOTH, EPA:**

19                    By 8' by -- probably 8' feet tall or  
20                    something like that.

21          **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

22                    So that's about 3,000 -- better than  
23                    3,000 square foot; right, not counting  
24                    cubic feet>?

25          **MR. ROGER WILMOTH, EPA:**

1 Right.

2 **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

3 Okay. So what happens -- and how many  
4 monitors on that equipment -- the fire  
5 burner on the exterior?

6 **MR. ROGER WILMOTH, EPA:**

7 Well, that one has -- well, I don't  
8 know how many.

9 **MS. FRAN KREMER, EPA:**

10 We have continuous emissions  
11 monitoring that is set up on that, that  
12 will monitor the gases and will monitor  
13 what we call total hydrocarbons.

14 **MS. PAM TRAVIS, EPA:**

15 That's inside of it.

16 **MS. FRAN KREMER, EPA:**

17 It is right on --

18 **MR. ROGER WILMOTH, EPA:**

19 It's right on the edge.

20 **MS. FRAN KREMER, EPA:**

21 It is mounted on it.

22 **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

23 If there is a substance emitted that  
24 would be not as safe or at least have some  
25 concern about, what happens then? Suppose

1           that -- just suppose -- I mean, the  
2           worst-case scenario would be if it did  
3           release something that shouldn't have  
4           released, so then what happens?

5           **MS. FRAN KREMER, EPA:**

6                     We have for those perimeters, for the  
7           gases, the total hydrocarbons and also for  
8           the temperature, we have continuous  
9           monitoring.

10          **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

11                     Real time data.

12          **MS. FRAN KREMER, EPA:**

13                     Real time, and that data is being  
14          averaged over every minute. And we will  
15          have all those data points. And we've got  
16          a data acquisition system that is set up,  
17          and so we will be monitoring that at the  
18          exact time that the -- you know, for the  
19          whole time that it is operating and two  
20          hours after the last bushel is fed into  
21          the unit.

22          **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

23                     The nature of this container, is it  
24          all metal or does it have fire brick in  
25          it?

1           **MR. ROGER WILMOTH, EPA:**

2                     It has -- it is lined with --

3           **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

4                     Does it have the one that is on the  
5 shuttle?

6           **MS. FRAN KREMER, EPA:**

7                     (Demonstrating diagram.) Does that  
8 better explain to you here?

9           **MR. ROGER WILMOTH, EPA:**

10                    Yeah. That thing is lined with -- is  
11 it fire brick or some -- porcelain, I  
12 think.

13           **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

14                    Is it the composition of material that  
15 I think is used on the shuttle. Isn't it  
16 (inaudible) --

17           **MR. ROGER WILMOTH, EPA:**

18                    I wouldn't --

19           **MS. FRAN KREMER, EPA:**

20                    I'm not sure.

21           **MR. ROGER WILMOTH, EPA:**

22                    I wouldn't quite say this is the same  
23 stuff.

24           **MS. FRAN KREMER, EPA:**

25                    They would probably have some better

1 stuff, I would hope.

2 **MR. ROGER WILMOTH, EPA:**

3 I would hope.

4 **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

5 Because I know there is something --  
6 there is something that --

7 **MR. ROGER WILMOTH, EPA:**

8 This doesn't fall off as easily as it  
9 does on the shuttle.

10 **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

11 Well, this is the --

12 **MS. FRAN KREMER, EPA:**

13 This is the box itself and this is the  
14 inside here that you are seeing.

15 **MR. ROGER WILMOTH, EPA:**

16 One end opens up.

17 **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

18 Oh.

19 **MS. FRAN KREMER, EPA:**

20 And you load it.

21 **MR. ROGER WILMOTH, EPA:**

22 Yeah. Well, that enables you to get  
23 in and unload it.

24 **MS. FRAN KREMER, EPA:**

25 Here, we can run the video again if

1           that will help you.

2           **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

3                   No, that's okay. This is one end and  
4           this is the other end (indicating)?

5           **MR. ROGER WILMOTH, EPA:**

6                   Right.

7           **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

8                   Okay.

9           **MS. FRAN KREMER, EPA:**

10                   And these -- this (indicating) goes  
11           this way.

12           **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

13                   Okay.

14           **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

15                   And another safety precaution, we will  
16           have a meteorological station at the test  
17           site, and if the wind shifts in the  
18           direction -- if the wind is blowing  
19           towards the residents, we will stop the  
20           test.

21           **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

22                   How can you do that?

23           **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

24                   We will stop feeding the box. And if  
25           we need to under emergency circumstances

1 we can put the fire out. We will have a  
2 water truck on site, and we will also have  
3 a pile of soil that we can use to quench  
4 the fire. But, you know, immediately we  
5 will stop. As the wind direction starts  
6 to shift, we will stop feeding the box.

7 **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

8 So what is the energy source of this  
9 box?

10 **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

11 That is going to be the vegetative  
12 debris. It's the fuel.

13 **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

14 So it generates its own heat then?

15 **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

16 Uh-huh.

17 **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

18 And it goes to 2,000?

19 **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

20 Uh-huh. So even when we are loading  
21 the box for the construction and  
22 demolition material, we will have to keep  
23 putting in the vegetative material to keep  
24 the box hot.

25 **ALBERTA LEWIS:**



1                   So how do you prevent the escape of  
2                   anything that might not be considered safe  
3                   when you are doing that?

4                   **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

5                   When we are loading it -- well, again,  
6                   we will --

7                   **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

8                   You will continually be loading it as  
9                   you would stoke a fire in a fireplace box;  
10                  right?

11                  **DAVID PASSEY:**

12                  You have sensors all around that is  
13                  going to catch that.

14                  **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

15                  Right. We have sensors then also --

16                  **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

17                  When you open it to put the fuel in?

18                  **MR. ROGER WILMOTH, EPA:**

19                  When you actually open it, there is a  
20                  -- at the top of the box there is an air  
21                  ventum that points down and so you have a  
22                  fairly high velocity air curtain that goes  
23                  over that, and that feeds the fire with a  
24                  lot of oxygen.

25                  **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

1           That's the convection of the air that  
2           is feeding it and generating it.

3           **MR. ROGER WILMOTH, EPA:**

4           That is -- that is exactly why it gets  
5           as warm as it does. You have lots of  
6           oxygen there.

7           **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

8           Uh-huh. And it feeds the oxygen.

9           **MR. ROGER WILMOTH, EPA:**

10          So that acts an air curtain.

11          **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

12          And it feeds the oxygen not just from  
13          the environment.

14          **MR. ROGER WILMOTH, EPA:**

15          Right.

16          **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

17          You have an additional --

18          **MR. ROGER WILMOTH, EPA:**

19          No, none.

20          **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

21          It's coming --

22          **MR. ROGER WILMOTH, EPA:**

23          No, it only uses air.

24          **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

25          Right.

1           **MS. FRAN KREMER, EPA:**

2           This is the source of air on this one  
3           side of this box, and so with this just  
4           coming down it serves as a principle being  
5           a curtain but it is also stoking the fire  
6           with excess, you know.

7           **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

8           Now, does it agitate to keep that  
9           debris turning?

10          **MS. FRAN KREMER, EPA:**

11          No.

12          **MR. ROGER WILMOTH, EPA:**

13          Not that much.

14          **MS. FRAN KREMER, EPA:**

15          No, no, that is not going to be that  
16          important. The main thing is just the  
17          excess air to really crank up the  
18          temperature.

19          **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

20          How will you know when you have  
21          reached the point at which it is all  
22          deteriorated sufficiently at 2,000  
23          degrees.

24          **MR. ROGER WILMOTH, EPA:**

25          There's not going to be much left in

1 the box.

2 **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

3 Okay. Now, you -- how do you observe  
4 that though as it is going on?

5 **MR. ROGER WILMOTH, EPA:**

6 Well, they can look in the --

7 **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

8 We will be there.

9 **MR. ROGER WILMOTH, EPA:**

10 -- burner box as they load it.

11 **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

12 Well, I know that heat is coming out  
13 of the peep holes, so don't --

14 **MR. ROGER WILMOTH, EPA:**

15 Yeah.

16 **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

17 I know what 2,600 degrees is when it's  
18 coming out of peep holes, you know. It is  
19 quite intense heat.

20 **MR. ROGER WILMOTH, EPA:**

21 So as they load it, they are able to  
22 tell how much is in there.

23 **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

24 Okay. All right. I think that covers  
25 it. I want you to know that my interest

1 is not just personal, but the Eastern  
2 St. Bernard Community Development Group  
3 from Violet on down is intensely  
4 interested in what is going on at both  
5 that end and this end of the parish.

6 **MR. ROGER WILMOTH, EPA:**

7 Okay. Well, and this test is going to  
8 last for like a day and a half and then  
9 it's done.

10 **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

11 Is that from coals to coals?

12 **MS. FRAN KREMER, EPA:**

13 Well, no --

14 **MS. FRAN KREMER, EPA:**

15 We are going to do C&D.

16 **MR. ROGER WILMOTH, EPA:**

17 Well --

18 **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

19 Construction and demolition, we're  
20 going to do two days of vegetative burning  
21 and then a day and a half of construction  
22 and demolition.

23 **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

24 So you're doing 48 hours of actual  
25 burn inside the vessel?

1           **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

2                   Well, it will not be straight 48  
3           hours.

4           **MR. ROGER WILMOTH, EPA:**

5                   No.

6           **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

7                   You know, we will work probably 10 or  
8           12 hour days.

9           **MR. ROGER WILMOTH, EPA:**

10                  Yes.

11           **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

12                   And what is the tonnage of what you  
13           expect to put in there?

14           **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

15                   Well, for vegetative debris --

16           **MR. ROGER WILMOTH, EPA:**

17                   One house.

18           **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

19                   Yeah, for vegetative debris, we are  
20           looking at --

21           **MR. ROGER WILMOTH, EPA:**

22                   One house.

23           **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

24                   -- 1,000 cubic yards of vegetative  
25           debris and then one house for the

1 construction and demolition debris. And  
2 the house is, you know, a two-story or a  
3 one and a half story house. I don't know  
4 how many square feet it is. But you know  
5 that --

6 **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

7 And it would have been -- it would  
8 have been out of wood construction and not  
9 brick?

10 **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

11 Correct.

12 **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

13 Okay. All right. Thank you.

14 **DAVID PASSEY:**

15 Alberta, this is David Passey.

16 **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

17 I know who you are.

18 **DAVID PASSEY:**

19 Have you met Christina Bigelow?

20 **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

21 I have. I have seen her at many of  
22 the meetings, yes.

23 **DAVID PASSEY:**

24 She is a resident of St. Bernard. She  
25 has been -- she has helped us in

1 environmental issues after the hurricane.

2 **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

3 Uh-huh.

4 **DAVID PASSEY:**

5 She has a Master's in Environmental  
6 Toxicology.

7 **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

8 I recall that, yeah.

9 **DAVID PASSEY:**

10 And she is representing the government  
11 or helping us graciously, I might add, in  
12 this matter.

13 **CHRISTINA BIGELOW:**

14 Pro bono.

15 **DAVID PASSEY:**

16 I want to assure you -- pro bono so  
17 far. I want to let you know that  
18 everything they have done plan-wise,  
19 safety plan-wise and everything else,  
20 Christina has reviewed, all right. And as  
21 -- I am not going to comment on how she  
22 said it but it is -- she said it was very  
23 conservative in a way of what they're  
24 doing, super safety. So she's comfortable  
25 with it, and if she is, the Parish is. I



1 want you to be comfortable with it.

2 **CHRISTINA BIGELOW:**

3 And I feel --

4 **DAVID PASSEY:**

5 She is our representative.

6 **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

7 We need all our residents to feel  
8 comfortable with it though.

9 **CHRISTINA BIGELOW:**

10 I think, too, that, you know, one of  
11 the things that, you know, isn't mentioned  
12 here is that -- obviously, the EPA is  
13 going to be there and their contractors  
14 are going to be there.

15 And, I mean, we not only -- I not only  
16 looked at -- the EPA very strongly  
17 considered worker safety, the safety of  
18 the URG workers who are working in the  
19 other parts of the landfill. And a lot of  
20 the risk assessment data was sort of based  
21 on those closer contact scenarios. And  
22 the workers will be being monitored at --  
23 actually, at the project site.

24 And so that will provide invaluable  
25 information in the event that they do do

1 the asbestos containing material burn at a  
2 later date because you really can't get  
3 much closer than that, than to be the guy  
4 driving the forklift.

5 **MR. ROGER WILMOTH, EPA:**

6 That's right.

7 **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

8 That's exactly true. In fact, you  
9 know, I mean, we are -- well, if we need  
10 to do that, then we will. But, you know,  
11 definitely want to conduct this in a safe  
12 manner because we are going to be the  
13 first exposed. We are going to be the --

14 **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

15 So you are going to be there, all five  
16 of you?

17 **MR. ROGER WILMOTH, EPA:**

18 We're going to be there.

19 **MS. FRAN KREMER, EPA:**

20 We don't know about Pam.

21 **MR. ROGER WILMOTH, EPA:**

22 Pam is shaking (inaudible) --

23 **MR. JEFF FRITHSEN, EPA:**

24 She's a lawyer.

25 **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

1                   That's above and beyond the call of  
2                   duty.

3                   **MS. JANETTA COATS, EPA:**

4                   Okay, guys. All right, guys. We're  
5                   getting out of order.

6                   **MS. PAM TRAVIS, EPA:**

7                   You wouldn't want me on that site.

8                   **CHRISTINA BIGELOW:**

9                   Pam, we have to get you to HAZWOPER.  
10                  I have my HAZWOPER.

11                  **MS. PAM TRAVIS, EPA:**

12                  I know.

13                  **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

14                  I have one more if I may take your  
15                  time. Glass, of course, is a big item in  
16                  debris, bottles, windows, etc., etc. I  
17                  don't remember --

18                  **MR. ROGER WILMOTH, EPA:**

19                  Louder so she can hear you.

20                  **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

21                  I don't remember the melting point  
22                  range of glass.

23                  **MR. ROGER WILMOTH, EPA:**

24                  I don't know.

25                  **MR. JEFF FRITHSEN, EPA:**

1 I don't know either.

2 **CHRISTINA BIGELOW:**

3 I don't recall it offhand either.

4 **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

5 I know I can set it around 1,500  
6 degrees, and I have just never gone on to  
7 -- I know that it will. And I am  
8 wondering if that's below the 2,000, if  
9 that's the melting point. You're going to  
10 have residue. Are you having glass in  
11 there -- windows?

12 **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

13 Yes.

14 **MS. FRAN KREMER, EPA:**

15 Probably will be.

16 **MR. JEFF FRITHSEN, EPA:**

17 Yes.

18 **MR. ROGER WILMOTH, EPA:**

19 Yes.

20 **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

21 So you would have a substance  
22 collected from this?

23 **CHRISTINA BIGELOW:**

24 But are the windows actually glass in  
25 this house or are they one of the plastic

1 or composite that you see in a lot of more  
2 recently constructed homes. And I think  
3 that is something that --

4 **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

5 Really. You would have that in  
6 trailers, I think. But I don't think --  
7 even a trailer I have had glass.

8 **CHRISTINA BIGELOW:**

9 I just had new windows put in and they  
10 are not glass.

11 **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

12 Wow.

13 **CHRISTINA BIGELOW:**

14 I mean, they are some kind of -- but  
15 they are not -- and I can say this  
16 because, you know, we had really old  
17 windows in the house we live in now, like,  
18 original.

19 **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

20 Uh-huh.

21 **CHRISTINA BIGELOW:**

22 And, literally, you could take the  
23 pane and knock it out and it was a pane of  
24 glass, a single pane. That is not the  
25 type of glass that I have in my new

1 windows.

2 **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

3 Really.

4 **MR. JEFF FRITHSEN, EPA:**

5 Yes. You're getting man-made glass.

6 **CHRISTINA BIGELOW:**

7 So I think that -- yeah, I think that  
8 that's probably --

9 **MR. JEFF FRITHSEN, EPA:**

10 It's still glass.

11 **CHRISTINA BIGELOW:**

12 It's still glass, but it's not that --  
13 it's not that same composition, so  
14 definitely --

15 **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

16 It's laminated more like automobile  
17 windshields are; right, but that has a  
18 sandwich that has --

19 **MR. JEFF FRITHSEN, EPA:**

20 That's more of a safety glass with a  
21 coating on it to make it crack in an  
22 accident.

23 **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

24 Uh-huh.

25 **MR. JEFF FRITHSEN, EPA:**

1           Most of the energy glasses that are  
2           coming through now are laminate glass,  
3           pieces sandwiched together. Usually with  
4           a --

5           **MR. ROGER WILMOTH, EPA:**

6           There is something in between.

7           **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

8           Uh-huh.

9           **MR. JEFF FRITHSEN, EPA:**

10           And sometimes they are even exotic.  
11           They fill it with a rare gas like argon.

12           **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

13           Uh-huh.

14           **MR. JEFF FRITHSEN, EPA:**

15           My bet is that all of this glass is  
16           going to end up as ash material.

17           **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

18           You think so? So you are going that  
19           high? That's what I wondered. I couldn't  
20           recall. So if I can step aside for just a  
21           minute.

22           **MR. ROGER WILMOTH, EPA:**

23           We're not rushing you.

24           **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

25           There is -- I have a great concern

1           about many things that we dispose of, but  
2           glass because of my experience and long  
3           history of working with high ranges of  
4           heat and glass, I would like to see it be  
5           investigated for a glass crushing machine  
6           that would crush it to sand. And this  
7           wouldn't just be the glass in the  
8           household.

9           There is no place, absolutely no place  
10          in New Orleans to recycle glass. And I  
11          meant to bring it, but if you will  
12          reference the handbook that is online  
13          about recycling references, I think Tulane  
14          had a part in that or funded that. And it  
15          is put out by the Green Project in New  
16          Orleans and some other things.

17          There are a lot of bottles. And I'm  
18          saying this for St. Bernard Parish. There  
19          is a lot of glass, and that would give us  
20          a lot of sand. I think it's going to  
21          reduce down but it's going to give us  
22          waste, and it will give us bulk that we  
23          can use in swimming pools that have to be  
24          filled, and since there is nobody else  
25          doing it in this whole wide area.



1           And that's not something that you  
2           would be concerned with at EPA. So I am  
3           really not -- I shouldn't be taking your  
4           time, but I had an opportunity to say this  
5           with two of our environmental persons  
6           here.

7           And I think you-all had done a study  
8           on that. So that's all. Thank you very  
9           much. And if there is anything -- any  
10          material that you would like me to take,  
11          there is a meeting of the Eastern St.  
12          Bernard Community Group tomorrow night,  
13          and so I'll be taking the information back  
14          to them.

15          **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

16                 Certainly, you can take some of those  
17                 folders and pass them out.

18          **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

19                 Is there a CD?

20          **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

21                 No.

22          **MS. FRAN KREMER, EPA:**

23                 We can give you the websites and you  
24                 can get it off the website. It's just on  
25                 the video. I'll write it down for you

1 after we're done.

2 **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

3 Okay. Can that be shown if we have a  
4 meeting?

5 **MS. FRAN KREMER, EPA:**

6 Yes, most definitely, of course.

7 **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

8 Sure, of course. And please let them  
9 know at the meeting that if they have any  
10 questions or comments that they would like  
11 for us to address, then they can e-mail  
12 after they look at the material.

13 **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

14 And your e-mail would be in there,  
15 too?

16 **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

17 It's actually not, but I can -- I'll  
18 give that to you as well when you get the  
19 web address for the video. And if I can  
20 get comments by close of business on  
21 Tuesday --

22 **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

23 I know you're rushed. I know that.

24 **MR. ROGER WILMOTH, EPA:**

25 (Inaudible.)

1           **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

2                   (Inaudible.)

3           **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

4                   It was Monday. It was Monday; right?

5           **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

6                   Yes. But we received a request to  
7 extend until Tuesday, so we're heading  
8 into Tuesday.

9           **DAVID PASSEY:**

10                   This is David Passey again. Let's for  
11 the record, if we can, if we're closing  
12 down, when do you plan to do the C&D?

13           **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

14                   Thank you, David, I had that as a  
15 question.

16           **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

17                   Well, that was actually our original  
18 plan. And when we met last Wednesday, we  
19 wanted to start the burn of the vegetative  
20 material on the 23rd.

21           **DAVID PASSEY:**

22                   Of June.

23           **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

24                   Of June. However, it looks like there  
25 is potential that our contractors have a

1 scheduling conflict, so we don't know.  
2 We're going to talk to the contractors on  
3 Monday and see if we can work it out, and  
4 we'll get back with you and let you know.

5 **DAVID PASSEY:**

6 We will let you know. We will put it  
7 on the website if it is convenient,  
8 whenever it is going to be.

9 **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

10 Okay. Thank you, David. We are  
11 creating history, aren't we?

12 **DAVID PASSEY:**

13 Oh, yeah.

14 **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

15 Uh-huh.

16 **DAVID PASSEY:**

17 And, also, I assume that after we do  
18 the HWW and C&D and stuff and you have you  
19 data in and you put it through your  
20 computer and for risk assessment purposes  
21 or whatever, you're going to publish that  
22 if you want to go forward with the  
23 asbestos.

24 **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

25 Yes.

1           **DAVID PASSEY:**

2           And if you want to go further with the  
3           asbestos, we can have another public  
4           meeting just so you can go in more detail  
5           as to the safety issues dealing with that  
6           issue as far as the burn process.

7           **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

8           Right. My concern though is that the  
9           amount of time it is going to take to  
10          review the data --

11          **DAVID PASSEY:**

12          Yeah.

13          **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

14          Because, you know, to generate the  
15          reports and to review the -- do the data  
16          validation and the QA/QC, I expect that  
17          you guys will have completed your  
18          demolition by the time we're ready.

19          **MR. ROGER WILMOTH, EPA:**

20          Yes.

21          **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

22          Honestly. I mean, I would like to say  
23          that we would be able to expedite it.  
24          But, you know, we're going to have to  
25          regroup and make sure that we conduct the

1 test in the safest manner possible,  
2 because that is our primary concern is  
3 safety. And, you know, this project is  
4 important to us, you know, for future  
5 events, but safety is the most important  
6 thing. And we don't want to do anything  
7 that we don't think is safe. And until we  
8 can gain -- look at this data, evaluate  
9 the data, we're not prepared to move  
10 forward, and so we're going to move  
11 slowly.

12 **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

13 You're talking about the timeline to  
14 get the data -- to do the burn, get the  
15 data back in relation to the possibility  
16 of moving forward with the asbestos burn?

17 **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

18 Uh-huh.

19 **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

20 Did you say that -- and correct me if  
21 I'm wrong -- that could be past -- beyond  
22 the point of which the demolition is to  
23 occur?

24 **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

25 We believe that it will be past the

1           time because St. Bernard is very proactive  
2           and they have a lot crews doing  
3           demolitions and you guys are trying to get  
4           it done before August 29th. And so we are  
5           not going to be ready by August 29th.

6           **DAVID PASSEY:**

7                     We will never be finished by August  
8                     29th.

9           **CHRISTINA BIGELOW:**

10                    Well, we have the Midwest.

11           **MR. ROGER WILMOTH, EPA:**

12                    No.

13           **DAVID PASSEY:**

14                    There will be a lot of opportunity  
15                    there, won't it?

16           **CHRISTINA BIGELOW:**

17                    A lot of opportunity there,  
18                    unfortunately.

19           **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

20                    And, you know, there is stuff --

21           **CHRISTINA BIGELOW:**

22                    Floods out in the Midwest that are  
23                    ongoing now.

24           **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

25                    Okay.

1                   **CHRISTINA BIGELOW:**

2                   There may be some opportunity for them  
3                   to use the additional portions in those  
4                   areas.

5                   **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

6                   Yes, that's true.

7                   **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

8                   And, unfortunately, the reality is  
9                   that every year there has been an  
10                  increasing number of natural disasters  
11                  whether it's hurricanes or tornados or  
12                  floods. So, I mean, we won't lack  
13                  opportunity, unfortunately.

14                  **CHRISTINA BIGELOW:**

15                  Yes. But you almost wish you would.

16                  **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

17                  Right. So the opportunity just may  
18                  not be here. It might be somewhere else.  
19                  But there does not seem to be a lack of  
20                  opportunity.

21                  **MR. ROGER WILMOTH, EPA:**

22                  Unfortunately.

23                  **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

24                  And the last thing that I would like  
25                  to say unless there are anymore comments,



1 but I do want to point -- I didn't point  
2 out last time -- there actually is a  
3 Louisiana State Law, Act 662, which was  
4 passed within the past year, is my  
5 understanding, which requires debris  
6 reduction in weight and volume.

7 And the Act specifies that the test --  
8 that the last option is putting material  
9 into a landfill. And it is actually --  
10 the law encourages the use of burning in  
11 an air curtain destructor. And so we  
12 think this test will provide data to help  
13 us meet the requirements that are in the  
14 law. And the LDEQ actually developed a  
15 debris management plan which involves  
16 encouraging the use of this technology.

17 So, again, there is a lot of interest  
18 in utilizing this technology. And what  
19 EPA wants to do is to actually generate  
20 data to evaluate the effectiveness and  
21 viability of this technology.

22 **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

23 That Act was 662?

24 **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

25 Yes.

1           **LACY SMITH:**

2                     Do you have a site for that?

3           **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

4                     I actually have a copy if you would  
5 like to have it.

6           **LACY SMITH:**

7                     Oh, I would love to.

8           **DAVID PASSEY:**

9                     You have it in your -- you don't have  
10 the actual citation.

11           **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

12                     It shouldn't be hard to find.

13           **DAVID PASSEY:**

14                     Regular Session 2006.

15           **CHRISTINA BIGELOW:**

16                     30:2413.1

17           **DAVID PASSEY:**

18                     Oh, yeah, Revised Statute 30:2413.1.  
19 I've got to tell you, she's also a lawyer.

20           **CHRISTINA BIGELOW:**

21                     I think though -- I know one thing we  
22 probably, you know, just want to point out  
23 is that especially where we are so land  
24 constrained, we are so resource  
25 constrained in terms of where we can put

1 new landfills to put this debris. They  
2 actually considered reopening Carson  
3 Acres. The LDQ was very strongly behind  
4 that because they were running out space  
5 in several of the landfills that were  
6 currently open.

7 I mean, obviously, you can see Old  
8 Gentilly is functioning again. There are  
9 -- there were, at one time at least three  
10 proposals to do landfills on this side of  
11 the Green Bridge in the Orleans portion --  
12 in the portion of Orleans Parish that  
13 actually applied to St. Bernard Parish.  
14 So, now, there is an interest.

15 There is money to be made by landfill  
16 operators. And I don't think that is the  
17 best use of our land at this point in  
18 time.

19 I mean, I don't think we want to be  
20 landfilling everything. And, hopefully,  
21 with projects that the EPA are doing like  
22 this, we can come up with some options  
23 that we won't have leaching -- I mean, our  
24 water table -- God knows, we shouldn't be  
25 putting anything in the ground, you know.

1                   So, you know, I just wanted to make  
2                   that comment that I think that there are  
3                   other options in landfilling full volume  
4                   and mass (inaudible).

5                   **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

6                   Shouldn't the question be  
7                   (inaudible) --

8                   **DAVID PASSEY:**

9                   I do, too.

10                  **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

11                  (Inaudible.) I would like to see a  
12                  separation of the waste so that some of it  
13                  can be recycled.

14                  **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

15                  Well -- and just so you will know --  
16                  related to Hurricane Katrina, when EPA got  
17                  asked to do the household hazardous waste  
18                  management portion, Louisiana Department  
19                  of Environmental Quality asked EPA to  
20                  recycle as much as possible. And I can  
21                  say because I tasked our contractors, and  
22                  we have recycled 80 percent of the  
23                  household hazardous waste that we  
24                  collected.

25                  **DAVID PASSEY:**

1                   Is that right?

2                   **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

3                   Yes.

4                   **DAVID PASSEY:**

5                   Wow.

6                   **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

7                   And it was over 25 million pounds of  
8                   material that we collected and 80 percent  
9                   of it was successfully recycled.

10                  **MR. ROGER WILMOTH, EPA:**

11                  That is amazing.

12                  **MR. JEFF FRITHSEN, EPA:**

13                  That is amazing. I didn't know that.

14                  **MS. FRAN KREMER, EPA:**

15                  I didn't know that.

16                  **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

17                  Well, I guess it's very involved in  
18                  (inaudible) --

19                  **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

20                  Well, we evaluated every waste stream  
21                  and, you know, our contractors looked for  
22                  recycling opportunities for each of those  
23                  waste streams. And so --

24                  **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

25                  At least it was separated?

1           **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

2           Uh-huh, yeah. And that was my job  
3           during most of Hurricane Katrina, was  
4           coordinating with all the Corps of  
5           Engineers and parish contractors to make  
6           sure that the segregated. And I talked to  
7           them daily. And then when things changed  
8           then it became weekly.

9           **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

10          I'm sure that's a lot of work.

11          **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

12          But, yes, that was a very involved  
13          process. I nagged URG a lot. I am  
14          surprised they are even being nice to me  
15          now.

16          **DAVID PASSEY:**

17          They are the general contractor.

18          **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

19          Yes. So I worked with all the  
20          demolition contractors very closely to  
21          make sure that everything was segregated  
22          that I could possibly recycle as far as  
23          household hazardous waste.

24          Now, there are other aspects of a  
25          house that could be recycled, that there

1           are recycling opportunities for. But my  
2           task was the household hazardous waste, so  
3           that is what I focused on.

4           **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

5           Okay. It didn't happen with the trees  
6           though, did it?

7           **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

8           The trees were chipped.

9           **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

10          They were chipped?

11          **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

12          Yes. And most of the chipped material  
13          was recycled. It was either used as cover  
14          for the landfills or it was used in  
15          Wetland's Recovery or -- it was used in a  
16          number of ways, but the chipped trees were  
17          recycled.

18          **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

19          That's a very interesting statistic.  
20          (Inaudible.)

21          **THE COURT REPORTER:**

22          You are going to have to speak up.

23          **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

24          I'm sorry.

25          **THE COURT REPORTER:**

1                   You are going to have to speak a  
2                   little bit louder for me to get what you  
3                   are saying.

4                   **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

5                   It's not important. I was just saying  
6                   that it was a very interesting aspect of  
7                   (inaudible) -- how the waste becomes  
8                   recycled.

9                   **MS. JANETTA COATS, EPA:**

10                  Thank you, guys. Are there any other  
11                  additional comments?

12                  **LACY SMITH:**

13                  Okay. Lacy Smith. What kind of  
14                  monitors are the workers wearing? Like  
15                  for what would they be testing?

16                  **MR. ROGER WILMOTH, EPA:**

17                  We are going to be looking for lead,  
18                  and we are going to be looking for  
19                  asbestos.

20                  **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

21                  Just lead?

22                  **MR. ROGER WILMOTH, EPA:**

23                  Lead and asbestos, those are the  
24                  regulated items for OSHA.

25                  **LACY SMITH:**



1           And can you make -- I guess -- as far  
2           as the RACM burn goes, you were talking  
3           about other population, is there a way to  
4           make that a part of the public record just  
5           so it is out there for people that are  
6           concerned about these kinds of projects?

7           Simply for a general understanding. I  
8           mean, it acts as kind of a positive  
9           reflection on the EPA. It's sort of, hey,  
10          look, we could sit back -- and just think,  
11          we're learning from it.

12          **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

13          We will be correcting documents that  
14          have the risk assessment in it and having  
15          a correction, so it won't just be  
16          replaced. There will be an explanation  
17          and correction and all that will be, you  
18          know, available through the Freedom of  
19          Information Act.

20          **MS. PAM TRAVIS, EPA:**

21          I think as a practical matter, most,  
22          if not all our documents have gone out  
23          under FOIA already in whatever condition  
24          they were in when the FOIA request came  
25          in.

1           **LACY SMITH:**

2           I mean, I am not just speaking  
3           personally, but generally. I mean, as far  
4           as making another FOIA request.

5           **DAVID PASSEY:**

6           Have you-all made a FOIA request to  
7           the EPA?

8           **LACY SMITH:**

9           Uh --

10          **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

11          Yes.

12          **LACY SMITH:**

13          (Inaudible.)

14          **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

15          She has all of my e-mails.

16          **DAVID PASSEY:**

17          My God, you have a lot.

18          **LACY SMITH:**

19          Also, I guess, when it comes to  
20          shutting the box off in the event there is  
21          a problem or reducing the burn, I am just  
22          -- I am wondering how long is the material  
23          inside going to still be burning and  
24          emitting whatever is hazardous and  
25          whatever is causing you to want to shut it

1 off.

2 From what I read, you know, I mean,  
3 obviously there is not an off switch. And  
4 so, I guess, what kind of risk is there?

5 **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

6 Well, for one, I would like to -- I am  
7 going to let them answer your question,  
8 but I will just say, for one, we are going  
9 to be controlling how much we put in. So  
10 we are not going to just load the whole  
11 thing up and sit back.

12 You know, we are going to be watching  
13 the meteorological station, watching the  
14 wind and slowly adding the material in, so  
15 that we don't come up with a situation  
16 where the wind suddenly shifts, and, oh,  
17 we can't do anything because the box is  
18 totally full.

19 So we are going to be very mindful of  
20 how we load it and how much we are putting  
21 in with taking into consideration the  
22 meteorological conditions.

23 As far as how long it takes, it is all  
24 going to depend on how much material is in  
25 the box at the time and on how long it is

1 going to take the fire to be out.

2 **MR. ROGER WILMOTH, EPA:**

3 I think, too, just following up with  
4 Nancy's comment, if we are not charging or  
5 loading new material, that air curtain is  
6 going to be doing its job in really  
7 containing that. So we would definitely  
8 back off from adding any additional waste  
9 to ensure that the air curtain can keep a  
10 good seal and cover, basically, on the  
11 process and the combustion itself.

12 **LACY SMITH:**

13 So, I guess, I'm just wondering -- you  
14 are saying relatively small amounts of  
15 debris and not loading it all at one time,  
16 but if you got to -- you know, if the heat  
17 from this is having to sustain 2,000  
18 degree Fahrenheit temperatures, I imagine  
19 that you are going to need a lot of  
20 material in there to keep that temperature  
21 up.

22 And so regardless if its vegetative  
23 debris that is helping to sustain the fire  
24 or not, I just think you're going to have  
25 a lot of debris. And if there is a

1           problem, it is going to take a long time  
2           to drop from 2,000 to no longer burning.

3           **ALBERTA LEWIS:**

4           (Inaudible.)

5           **LACY SMITH:**

6           I mean, I don't really know if --

7           **MR. ROGER WILMOTH, EPA:**

8           I don't the answer to how long it  
9           takes --

10          **LACY SMITH:**

11          (Inaudible.)

12          **MR. ROGER WILMOTH, EPA:**

13          Yeah.

14          **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

15          I don't think there is an answer to  
16          that. That is something that we -- I  
17          don't even think the Air Burner folks  
18          would be able to answer that question.

19          **MR. ROGER WILMOTH, EPA:**

20          That is probably right.

21          **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

22          Because it is very dependant on what  
23          is in the box and how much is in that box  
24          and what temperature it is actually at  
25          when the wind direction shifts. So,

1           again, it's going to be something that,  
2           you know, again, we have to closely watch  
3           the MET station and look at the wind and  
4           the direction and the speed as we load the  
5           box. So it's --

6           **LACY SMITH:**

7           I just wanted to (inaudible) --

8           **CHRISTINA BIGELOW:**

9           I think though also -- I mean, you  
10          have to look at the positive pressure  
11          gradient that the air curtain is creating.  
12          I mean, if you think about it -- and I  
13          hate to bring this up in St. Bernard  
14          Parish -- in terms of what oil refineries  
15          do to provide shelters for their workers,  
16          they will provide a building with a  
17          positive pressure gradient.

18          And in the event there is a toxic  
19          release, the workers who are outside of  
20          the building, which the building is  
21          usually generally on a positive pressure  
22          as well -- if they are anywhere within a  
23          plume gradient, they go in those buildings  
24          and, basically, the entire reliance on  
25          that worker's safety is that positive

1           pressure gradient that is created inside  
2           of those shelters.

3           And so I think it is the same -- I am  
4           making that analogy because that air  
5           curtain is the same reliance there that --  
6           essentially, when you have the worker in  
7           the building, the plume can't get in  
8           because of the positive pressure gradient.  
9           What's in the box, can't get out because  
10          of the positive pressure gradient inside  
11          the box.

12          And I think there is a reliance. And,  
13          also, I thought I heard you-all say you-  
14          all were going to keep a load of soil --

15          **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

16                 Yes.

17          **CHRISTINA BIGELOW:**

18                 -- to dump on site. And once you dump  
19          all that particulate matter onto the  
20          actual burn -- I mean, granted, we all  
21          know about soil pour and, you know, air  
22          makes its way up through soil, you know.

23                 Otherwise, we wouldn't have soil gas.  
24          And that we measure it when you do site  
25          remediation and things like that or when

1           you're testing a site for assessment.  
2           But, I mean, I think that is an additional  
3           level of safety in the event that they  
4           have to shut it down.

5           I think the first reliance is  
6           obviously the positive pressure, and the  
7           second reliance would be if it was really  
8           an emergency that something emerged that  
9           was completely not -- you know, that it  
10          was more than what they anticipated.

11          They also have the soil on site which  
12          should put a barrier in place. And that  
13          soil in the soil pour should capture some  
14          of that vapor as soil gas. And that will  
15          also help prevent the escape of that. So  
16          I think that is sort of a double safety  
17          net there from what I understand.

18          **LACY SMITH:**

19                Okay.

20          **LACY SMITH:**

21                (Inaudible.) When you're saying you  
22          want to evaluate the effectiveness of the  
23          technology, at Wednesday's meeting I kind  
24          of was picking up mixed messages about the  
25          cost considerations on the safety -- you



1 know, whatever else is involved in  
2 effectiveness.

3 I am just wondering if cost is going  
4 to be something that EPA is going to be  
5 considering or mentioning within the  
6 project report?

7 **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

8 Well, as we talked about on Wednesday,  
9 you know, it is one aspect, but it is not  
10 as important of an aspect to us. But, you  
11 know, one of the things that we will come  
12 out and report is how much is disposal per  
13 cubic yard for landfill versus the amount  
14 that we're able to achieve in waste  
15 reduction, so that we are able to reduce  
16 the cost. And, you know, the cost of the  
17 actual box itself, that type of thing.

18 We will be able to have a little  
19 calculation to show that this type of  
20 technology, you know, is going to or may  
21 generate some sort of cost savings per  
22 cubic yard, that type of thing.

23 But the way that we are going to  
24 operate, it is going to take us longer  
25 because of all the monitoring that we are

1           doing. So, you know, if this was actually  
2           used in reality during a disaster, you  
3           know, they would be going much faster than  
4           us. So the cost savings for them would be  
5           much greater than it will be for us.

6           There are going to be some factors in  
7           there for us that we're not going to be  
8           able to achieve because of the fact that  
9           it is a test. And that we are going to be  
10          taking a lot of time and being very  
11          specific related to all of our air  
12          monitoring, in making sure all of the  
13          monitors are ready for us to start and  
14          stop and that type of thing.

15         **LACY SMITH:**

16                 Okay.

17         **MR. ROGER WILMOTH, EPA:**

18                 For example, we have to wage, load,  
19                 and re-add. They wouldn't be accurate.

20         **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

21                 In doing that --

22         **MR. ROGER WILMOTH, EPA:**

23                 They wouldn't have (inaudible) --

24         **LACY SMITH:**

25                 Okay.

1           **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

2           Because we're really trying to  
3           determine how much volume is really  
4           reduced, that is the most -- one of the  
5           most important things for us, because if  
6           it doesn't reduce it very much, then there  
7           is not going to be that great cost savings  
8           and the technology is not going to be very  
9           effective. So it is really important to  
10          us to know the amount, volume, and  
11          reduction that actually is achieved.

12          But, again, the primary thing is  
13          safety. You know, we want to operate in a  
14          very safe manner. And so, as a result we  
15          are going to be slow and methodical,  
16          because we are going to be trying to take  
17          every precaution.

18          And, you know, again, any wind shift  
19          we are going to stop. That may not happen  
20          in real life, you know, when there is a  
21          disaster. I mean, they're not going to be  
22          as safety conscious as we are, I would  
23          imagine.

24          **CHRISTINA BIGELOW:**

25          I believe that will be supported by

1 the test.

2 **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

3 Right.

4 **CHRISTINA BIGELOW:**

5 Because they will have data with which  
6 they are feeding.

7 **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

8 So they won't have to have a zillion  
9 air monitors circling them.

10 **MR. ROGER WILMOTH, EPA:**

11 Well, I mean, what we're really  
12 talking about is that if we don't do the  
13 test we are not going to know if this  
14 thing works well or not.

15 **CHRISTINA BIGELOW:**

16 Will, I think --

17 **MR. ROGER WILMOTH, EPA:**

18 We don't know that it works well.  
19 We're going to find out.

20 **CHRISTINA BIGELOW:**

21 The ultimate product is also  
22 important, because I know when I read the  
23 work plan -- I mean, they are doing  
24 significant samplings of the ash material.  
25 Material that will ultimately be disposed.

1           And so, I mean, it is not just safety  
2           during the burn, it is looking after the  
3           burn at what is left, and is that per  
4           chance worse than what we started with.

5           **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

6           Right. And this type of technology  
7           was actually used in Florida during  
8           Hurricane Andrew, but there wasn't a lot  
9           of data about it.

10          There is some data but not enough  
11          that, you know, the State felt comfortable  
12          supporting it during Katrina. So, I mean,  
13          we really need this data to be able to  
14          feel good about whether or not this is the  
15          right way to do things.

16          **MR. ROGER WILMOTH, EPA:**

17          Exactly.

18          **CHRISTINA BIGELOW:**

19          And we're not having less disasters  
20          unfortunately.

21          **MR. ROGER WILMOTH, EPA:**

22          I know.

23          **CHRISTINA BIGELOW:**

24          I mean, this could be something very  
25          applicable to them.

1           **LACY SMITH:**

2           And, I guess, I have -- I'm curious --  
3           or maybe this isn't something you might  
4           fairly strongly consider. I don't know.  
5           But the sample size right now is just one  
6           house, and to me that kind of -- I  
7           analogize that as a case study where that  
8           doesn't really give you too much  
9           information as far as generalizing it to  
10          other situations.

11          And so, I am curious, is EPA planning  
12          on doing other tests either with more  
13          samples in the future just as C&D or just  
14          more case studies?

15          **MR. ROGER WILMOTH, EPA:**

16          Why don't we wait and find out how  
17          this one turns out?

18          **LACY SMITH:**

19          Well, okay, I guess that on the  
20          assumption of this one as well. You know,  
21          I guess -- are you planning on doing more  
22          is the question?

23          **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

24          We don't know.

25          **LACY SMITH:**

1                   If it does -- if you like the  
2                   findings, are you going to do more?

3                   **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

4                   It is all going to depend on what the  
5                   data tells us. If, you know, there is one  
6                   aspect that we don't think we have enough  
7                   data on, then we might want to test that.

8                   You know, so it's really kind of going  
9                   to be very dependent on what we actually  
10                  find. It is not going to be just a yes or  
11                  no, this is good and this is bad.

12                  **LACY SMITH:**

13                  Okay. Well, I guess, I'm interpreting  
14                  that to mean that there is a chance that  
15                  you will be satisfied with it entirely and  
16                  just be happy with one sample -- one house  
17                  and one sample, and then move onto RACM.

18                  **MS. FRAN KREMER, EPA:**

19                  It is right now premature. It has  
20                  taken us three years to get to this point.

21                  **MR. ROGER WILMOTH, EPA:**

22                  And look at the trouble we've made.

23                  **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

24                  There may be -- we've talked about a  
25                  component of maybe doing a small control

1 test of asbestos but within the laboratory  
2 setting. So, I mean, we really need to  
3 collect our data first before we make any  
4 decisions about what happens next.

5 We're not prepared to say what is  
6 going to happen next at this time.

7 **MS. JANETTA COATS, EPA:**

8 And just remember the comments that we  
9 are receiving tonight basically focus on  
10 the study that is being conducted.

11 **LACY SMITH:**

12 I guess -- well, I'm doing this as a  
13 holistic project. Initially, it was a  
14 project that involved asbestos. And what  
15 Ms. Jones said is that it was going to go  
16 further into a greater project. So I  
17 think the sole concern about this test is  
18 that, is this it? I mean, that was my  
19 rationale.

20 I guess, well, with that being said --  
21 I guess, regardless of the outcome, is  
22 there a way that within your project  
23 before you could put a statement to the  
24 effect of, like, hey, this is just one  
25 time. You know, like, basically, consider



1           that if you're going to implement this  
2           procedure; if you want to start using this  
3           procedure, C&D burn based on this one  
4           study -- I don't know.

5           To me, it just seems like it's not  
6           representative of what data could  
7           potentially be out there. And if this  
8           data is basing the decision on -- or it's  
9           heavily basing your decision on this one  
10          study that they may be making an  
11          uninformed choice.

12          **MR. ROGER WILMOTH, EPA:**

13          You know, as Nancy mentioned, the idea  
14          that we were going to do a test and we  
15          don't know how it is going to turn out is  
16          the -- the test that we are really after  
17          is, does this get us anywhere close to  
18          being comfortable with, you know, the  
19          technology.

20          If we are not comfortable with it,  
21          then that's flat out going to be the end  
22          of it. But there are all kinds of  
23          gradients along the way, so until we have  
24          the data, we just don't know what is going  
25          to happen.

1                   There are also other considerations.  
2                   Funding for research, I mean, these are  
3                   all -- changing agency priorities, those  
4                   are all part of the mix.

5                   **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

6                   Yeah.

7                   **LACY SMITH:**

8                   Okay. Well, then, I guess, with this  
9                   test the result specifically then -- that  
10                  kind of (inaudible) -- that there be some  
11                  sort of caveat that this is, you know, one  
12                  piece of data.

13                  The state government, if you're  
14                  considering really looking into this type  
15                  of technology, you keep that in mind. I  
16                  mean, obviously, you would do -- word it a  
17                  little better.

18                  **MS. PAM TRAVIS, EPA:**

19                  Let me speak to that for a minute,  
20                  because, you know, there are an awful lot  
21                  of agency actions that are what they are,  
22                  and they are used when they leave our  
23                  hands for all sorts of things for which  
24                  they were never intended, okay.

25                  And while we don't have a lot of

1 control over what other people do with our  
2 data, we would hope that by adding to the  
3 scientific base of knowledge on this, I  
4 don't think our reports will overrepresent  
5 or underrepresent the significance of the  
6 data that we have collected on this.

7 I would hope that people don't use our  
8 stuff for purposes for which it wasn't  
9 intended, but I have seen an awful lot of  
10 that in recent years. So I think that we  
11 will do what we can when we report out, to  
12 try to give the proper significance, the  
13 proper proportion to whatever data is  
14 published.

15 But once it leaves our hands --

16 **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

17 And keep in mind, the purpose of this  
18 test is not to advocate that technology.  
19 And the report, you know, even if the test  
20 results end up being positive, the report  
21 is not going to be written in a manner  
22 that it is going to be advocating  
23 anything. It is just going to be  
24 reporting facts.

25 **MR. ROGER WILMOTH, EPA:**

1 Right.

2 **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

3 And reporting the data. It is not  
4 going to be pro Air Burners. It is just  
5 going to be facts.

6 **CHRISTINA BIGELOW:**

7 And that I think Pam's point -- having  
8 worked on both sides of the fence -- it is  
9 true. And no matter how many caveats you  
10 put in a report, no matter how many times  
11 you -- no matter how absolutely neutral  
12 and just -- just the facts, the tone is --  
13 if someone is intending to use that report  
14 for their own purposes, that is not going  
15 to dissuade them in the least.

16 And I think you know for states that  
17 have primacy from EPA, they are going to  
18 make decisions within their own agency  
19 based on, hopefully, not just this one  
20 report.

21 And the citizens of those states, be  
22 it Louisiana or be it another state have  
23 to have confidence that their agencies are  
24 doing the right analysis and have the  
25 right expertise, because you --

1           unfortunately, and believe me there are  
2           times I wish I could, you can't control  
3           other people's actions. You can just put  
4           what is out. Put out what you have out  
5           there.

6                    And believe me, I have a 16 month old,  
7           and I would love to be able to control  
8           somebody else's actions. But, I mean,  
9           it's just not possible.

10                   And I think, you know, like Nancy  
11           said, the tone -- the fact that it's not  
12           going to advocate. And at that point,  
13           that's all you can really do, because if  
14           somebody is going to use it for their own  
15           purposes, they are going to use it  
16           regardless of what is said.

17           **MS. PAM TRAVIS, EPA:**

18                    And your question points to a really  
19           federal government problem in the whole  
20           dialogue and process.

21           **LACY SMITH:**

22                    And then finally -- I guess this is  
23           more for the record, asbestos -- I mean,  
24           there is a chance that asbestos, not  
25           regulated asbestos containing material,

1 but some that don't fall under a legal  
2 requirement, those could be burnt still in  
3 this C&D test?

4 **MR. ROGER WILMOTH, EPA:**

5 Yes. Those are going to be in there.

6 **LACY SMITH:**

7 Uh-huh.

8 **MR. ROGER WILMOTH, EPA:**

9 We have already analyzed it. We know  
10 how much is going to in there. That is  
11 less than the regulated amount. But there  
12 is -- and I don't remember the exact  
13 number, but there is a little bit of  
14 asbestos that is in the actual joint  
15 compounds, but it does not meet the  
16 concentration nor the amount that would  
17 come under the regulated clause, so it's  
18 non-regulated as of right now.

19 **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

20 And that's the reason why we're doing  
21 the asbestos monitoring.

22 **LACY SMITH:**

23 Okay. I just wanted that on the  
24 record.

25 **CHRISTINA BIGELOW:**

1 I think it's important to point out  
2 that a lot of the C&D debris that has  
3 already been segregated is going to a C&D  
4 landfill already with that same type of  
5 material, because that is the state  
6 regulation. And so you can either have it  
7 potentially in the ground or we can see if  
8 we can do something better with it.

9 **MS. JANETTA COATS, EPA:**

10 Okay. Well, I thank you-all for your  
11 comments. And, again, if you would like  
12 to submit additional comments, EPA will  
13 accept those up until Tuesday of next week  
14 which is June 17, 2008.

15 You can either send those, fax those,  
16 or send an e-mail. And if you prefer to  
17 fax, you can fax those to my attention,  
18 and I will ensure that Nancy gets those  
19 comments. And the fax number is area code  
20 (214)665-6660. And then, of course,  
21 Nancy's e-mail address if you prefer to  
22 send your comments via e-mail -- Nancy's  
23 e-mail address is --

24 **MS. NANCY JONES, EPA:**

25 jones.nancy@epa.gov

1                   **MS. JANETTA COATS, EPA:**

2                    Okay. And, again, thank you for your  
3                    comments. If there are no additional  
4                    comments, I would like to close the record  
5                    for your comments being received tonight.  
6                    The record can be closed.

7                    **(Off the record at 4:35 p.m.,**  
8                    **whereupon, the taking of the EPA Hearing**  
9                    **on Saturday, the 14th of June, 2008, is**  
10                   **concluded.)**

11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25                   **R E P O R T E R ' S P A G E**



1  
2 I, Angie Henning, Certified Court Reporter, in  
3 and for the State of Louisiana, the officer, as  
4 defined in Rule 28 of the Federal Rules of Civil  
5 Procedure and/or Article 1434(b) of the Louisiana  
6 Code of Civil Procedure, before whom this hearing  
7 was taken, do hereby state on the record:

8 That due to the interaction in the spontaneous  
9 discourse of this proceeding, dashes (--) have  
10 been used to indicate pauses, changes in thought,  
11 and/or talkovers; that same is the proper method  
12 for a court reporter's transcription of a  
13 proceeding; that the dashes (--) do not indicate  
14 that words or phrases have been left out of this  
15 transcript; and that any words and/or names which  
16 could not be verified through reference material  
17 have been denoted with the phrase "(phonetic)."

18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25 **STATE OF LOUISIANA:**

1 I, Angie Henning, Certified Court Reporter in  
2 and for the State of Louisiana, as the officer  
3 before whom this hearing was taken, do hereby  
4 certify that the foregoing pages, constitute a  
5 true and correct transcription of the evidence  
6 adduced on the taking of the

7 **EPA PUBLIC MEETING,**

8 on Saturday, the 14th day of June, 2008, at  
9 the St. Bernard Parish Council Trailer, 8201 West  
10 Judge Perez, Chalmette, Louisiana, after the  
11 public meeting was commenced; that the hearing was  
12 reported by me in the voicewriting reporting  
13 method and thereafter reduced to typewriting by  
14 me; that I am not related the parties herein, nor  
15 am I otherwise interested in the outcome of this  
16 matter.

17  
18  
19 \_\_\_\_\_  
20 ANGIE HENNING, CVR, CCR #23023  
21  
22  
23  
24