

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

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PUBLIC HEARING

+ + + + +

Tuesday,

August 15, 2006

+ + + + +

Romeoville Recreation Center
Drdak Senior/Teen Center
900 West Romeo Road
Romeoville, Illinois 60446

+ + + + +

7:16 p.m.

+ + + + +

PRESENT:

U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICES

Michael Vanderford
Kristopher Lah
John Rogner
Karla Kramer

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P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

(7:16 p.m.)

1
2
3 MR. VANDERFORD: It's now 7:15 and time to
4 begin our hearing. So if you would, please take your
5 seats. It might seem a little strange to be so tied
6 to specific times, but when you're dealing with the
7 regulations of the Endangered Species Act, you stay
8 with them in order that we are technically correct. We
9 don't want to have anything fouled up because of a
10 technicality such as starting at 7:00 rather than at
11 7:15.

12 Well, good evening. On behalf of the U.S.
13 Fish and Wildlife Service I welcome you to the public
14 hearing part of this meeting tonight. And it's a
15 different purpose than the first part.

16 The purpose of this part of the meeting,
17 the hearing, is to receive your comments, the comments
18 of the public and interested parties on the Fish and
19 Wildlife Services proposal to designate critical
20 habitat for the Hine's Emerald dragonfly.

21 My role in all of this is to be the
22 presiding official, the Hearing Officer. I'm Michael
23 Vanderford, I work in the Regional Office of the Fish
24 and Wildlife Service out of the Twin Cities, and the
25 Grants Program that deals with sport fish restoration,

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1 wildlife restoration grants, fish and wildlife
2 biologist by training. But after this evening my role
3 in this process is completely done. I do not work in
4 the endangered species program whatsoever and I won't
5 have a role after this evening in this.

6 We have a court reporter here, Adrian
7 Holquin is going to be recording all of the
8 transactions of this evening's hearing. There will be
9 a transcript of the hearing which will be posted on
10 the Fish and Wildlife Services web site, the Midwest
11 Region's sub part of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
12 Services web site, and depending on how efficient
13 Adrian is it'll be available in a couple of weeks so
14 that you can check on what you've said.

15 At this point I also want to make sure
16 that you realize that we are speaking to several
17 individuals from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
18 who will be evaluating the input on the proposal, who
19 will be making decisions on the proposal what will
20 come out in the final decision, and they are the
21 individuals sitting at the table here.

22 And Karla Kramer is the Assistant Field
23 Office Supervisor for the Chicago Field Office located
24 in Barrington; John Rogner who is the Field Office
25 Supervisor for the Chicago Field Office located in

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1 Barrington; and Kristopher Lah, who is the Endangered
2 Species Coordinator in the Chicago Field Office. These
3 are the individuals to whom you should speak this
4 evening as you are making comments. They're the ones
5 who are here, their role is to absorb, they are the
6 sponges, they're the ones who are listening.

7 So if you would address them as you are
8 speaking tonight. I'm going to have to go to some,
9 I'll call it boilerplate, this evening, because it's
10 required as part of the Endangered Species Act in a
11 hearing, so if you'll bear with me for a moment we
12 will take care of this business. This is a public
13 hearing under Section 4, the Federal Endangered
14 Species Act of 1973.

15 Notice of the proposal to designate this
16 critical habitat for Hine's Emerald Dragonfly and a
17 60-day public comment period was published in the
18 Federal Register July 26, 2006, beginning on Page
19 42442. Convening this public hearing is one of the
20 methods that the service is using to take in data and
21 comments on this proposal. There will be no final
22 decision at the end of this meeting, there's no final
23 decision until quite a bit later on after your input
24 is received and any written input is received and the
25 economic analysis is completed.

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1 The written information won't be, the
2 deadline for written information is not until
3 September 25th, 2006. So after review and
4 consideration of the existing administrative record,
5 your comments, your interpretations of existing data
6 and all the other information gathered during the
7 comment period will be considered by the Fish and
8 Wildlife Service, these individuals here, primarily,
9 to make a final decision on the proposal for this
10 critical habitat designation.

11 So the information you are providing and
12 your comments this evening will become part of the
13 administrative record, and will be considered by the
14 decision makers in the process. So, that's a bit of
15 the boilerplate.

16 So what we're going to do this evening,
17 and getting the, your input into this public record,
18 is that, you know, you should have been by the
19 registration desk, if you have not and want to make a
20 comment, either written or orally, you should go back
21 and sign in and if you want to make a public, oral
22 presentation you should get a card. At this point we
23 have five individuals who have indicated that they
24 want to do that.

25 The speaking procedure will be that I will

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1 call the number of, that you have on your card, you
2 will be presenting, may come up to this microphone
3 right here to make your comments.

4 When you begin your comments, and again,
5 boilerplate, we need to have you do this over and over
6 again, you need to give your name, you need to spell
7 your name so that Adrian can grab that and then we can
8 get it into the record for sure correctly. If you are
9 representing an organization, identify that
10 organization that you're representing, and give your
11 state of residence. If you have a written copy of the
12 comments that you're providing, if you could come up
13 and present this here to John, that would be great.

14 Oral statements will be limited. Initially
15 we'll try to, we will say ten minutes, ten minutes for
16 each speaker. If at the end of all of the speakers,
17 which again, we have five now, you have more to say,
18 we will invite those who have, still have more to say
19 that were cut off at ten minutes to come back at the
20 end of the, all five speakers so that you can complete
21 your statements.

22 I do want to make it clear that my role
23 here is to act as a little bit of a traffic cop and an
24 enforcer here, so enforcing what? Enforcing as you
25 come up with your comments, please stay on the focus

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1 on the point that we are gathering information on the
2 proposal for critical habitat designation for the
3 Hine's Emerald Butterfly -- Butterfly, I'm sorry,
4 Dragonfly is correct and that's good focus. All
5 right, and if you go off and start talking about
6 something else it'll be my role to intervene and to
7 make sure that we stay on that subject.

8 If you go up to ten minutes I will come,
9 make sure that you know that your ten minutes is done,
10 and stop you at that point, allow the next speaker to
11 come up. And then if you have more to say you can
12 come back at the end of that, after all of the five
13 speakers have presented.

14 This is an informal hearing and therefore
15 will not, there will, sorry, this is an informal
16 hearing, that's important for legal, and therefore
17 there will be no question or cross examination either
18 by folks from the audience or by the three folks here
19 at the table. The hearing is solely intended to
20 obtain your comments, your input, so the Fish and
21 Wildlife Service can consider them in making their
22 final decision.

23 So, if you start asking questions of John
24 or Karla or Kris, I will say nope, that's not the
25 purpose, we just want to hear from you. So that's

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1 another part of my role. If you really need to have
2 questions, after the hearing is over, after we've
3 taken things off the record, then you can ask
4 questions, but they will not go on the administrative
5 record, the responses that you get will not be part of
6 the administrative record.

7 All righty, recording, again, your
8 comments are being recorded by the court reporter to
9 assist the service so they can review them, preserve
10 them for the record. Please keep in mind, however,
11 that the reporter will only be recording statements
12 made into the microphone. Comments from the back of
13 the room will not be part of the record.

14 It's important also to remember that you
15 can make written comments tonight. There are forms
16 back on the table that you can pick up, even as we're
17 sitting here, fill out your comments, and submit them
18 at the end of the night back at that registration
19 table, and they will be considered just as an oral
20 comment will be up here at the microphone.

21 If we come to a point, well, we are
22 scheduled to be here until 9:00 o'clock. We will keep
23 the hearing open until 9:00 o'clock, even if we run
24 out of speakers. What will happen, if in fact that
25 happens, is that we will go off record and we will,

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1 you know, go into a recess until either we come to
2 9:00 o'clock or somebody else comes into the room that
3 wants to speak. But according to the federal register
4 we have a hearing here until 9:00 o'clock, therefore
5 we will have a hearing here until 9:00 o'clock.

6 Anything else that's really critical here?
7 We're almost ready to start. Again, I will call your
8 number, if you'll come up and please make your
9 comments into the microphone, we can adjust the height
10 for you. Before we begin, are there any public
11 elected officials here this evening that would like to
12 speak on this subject before we begin? Are there any
13 public officials; federal, state or local? Are there
14 any public officials here; federal, state or local?

15 All right, hearing that we do not have any
16 public elected officials here, I will ask you to come
17 up to the microphone as your number is called,
18 emphasize to remain respectful, folks in the audience
19 and the folks at the microphone to each other, to the
20 officials sitting up here at the desk who are
21 receiving your comments. And, with that, the first
22 speaker that I have is Jean Seller.

23 MS. SELLAR: Hello, my name is Jean
24 Seller, J-e-a-n, S-e-l-l-a-r. I live in Illinois. I
25 want to commend the Chicago --

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1 MR. VANDERFORD: Are you representing
2 anyone?

3 MS. SELLAR: No, I am not.

4 MR. VANDERFORD: All right.

5 MS. SELLAR: I want to commend the Chicago
6 Metro Office of Fish and Wildlife Service for the
7 excellent job they've done, not only on this critical
8 habitat designation but on their support for the
9 investigations into the Hine's Emerald Dragonfly in
10 general. However, I do have some qualms about the
11 critical habitat designation, about the limitations
12 placed on it, and I realize that the Metro Office,
13 that this is outside of the scope of the Metro Office.

14 First of all, I'm concerned that large
15 areas in Michigan and Missouri are exempt on the basis
16 of the existence of management plans that might
17 include habitat management and preservation
18 restoration that would help the Hine's Emerald
19 Dragonfly. Unfortunately there is not always funding
20 available for the implementation of those plans and
21 that could limit what happens, and I think the
22 critical habitat designation might improve the chances
23 of those management plans being implemented.

24 Also, even though there's management plans
25 now, there's no guarantee that they would be in place

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1 or implemented in the future, and I don't believe
2 that, I don't know, but I don't believe that the act
3 allows the habitat designation to go back and change
4 that exemption.

5 However, I'm much more concerned about the
6 inability to put critical habitat designation on
7 private land. I understand the honor in which private
8 property is held in this country, however, in the case
9 of the Hine's Emerald Dragonfly the larvae are
10 absolutely dependent on the presence of rivulets that
11 are supplied by cold, clean groundwater.

12 The recharge areas for those rivulets for
13 that groundwater occupies considerable acreage in the
14 lower Des Plaines River Valley. A significant part of
15 that is on private land, and the absence of critical
16 habitat designation limits the ability of Fish and
17 Wildlife and other public agencies to protect those
18 recharge zones.

19 We have already, I do some work out at a
20 place called Lockport Prairie Nature Preserve and we
21 have already seen the loss of some Hine's Emerald
22 Dragonfly larvae there, as well as a measurable
23 decrease in the quality of the plant communities and
24 the loss of some turtles that are not listed but are
25 nevertheless rare species, due to, in all probability,

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1 the reduction in groundwater levels.

2 This can only get worse under the current
3 conditions of numerous developments going up in the
4 area, additional pumps on groundwater, and other, and
5 the creation of impermeable surfaces. So I'm very
6 concerned that the critical habitat designation can't
7 apply to that.

8 I also want to point out that the Hine's
9 Emerald dragonfly, in this case at least, is something
10 of a canary in a mine. The loss of the groundwater
11 that first affects the Hine's Emerald dragonfly and
12 the plant communities and the turtles at Lockport
13 Prairie, because it's going to get worse, because of
14 these increased impacts, is eventually going to cause
15 the loss of drinking water for this area.

16 That's not a casual notion. It's not me
17 predicting catastrophes. The groundwater elevations
18 are dropping. Sooner or later that's going to affect
19 the human population. The dragonfly is in this case
20 serving as a, as a protector or as an initial
21 indicator of a problem for the people that live in
22 this area.

23 Thank you.

24 MR. VANDERFORD: Second speaker we have on
25 the list is Julia Wozniak. And again, name, spelling,

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1 affiliations and state of residence.

2 MS. WOZNIAK: My name is Julia Wozniak,
3 it's J-u-l-i-a, W-o-z-n-i-a-k. I'm representing
4 Midwest Generation and I live in Illinois. I've also
5 provided, I will provide a written set of our
6 comments.

7 Midwest Generation is one of the largest
8 independent power producers in the United States,
9 producing enough electricity to meet the needs of more
10 than eight million households. Midwest Gen is a
11 subsidiary of Edison Mission Energy and part of the
12 Edison International family of companies, which is
13 based in Rosemead, California.

14 Midwest Gen firmly believes that
15 environmental responsibility and sound business
16 practices can and must coexist within our operations.
17 Midwest Gen's primary concern regarding the proposed
18 critical habitat for the Hine's Emerald dragonfly is
19 with regard to the Will County Generating Station
20 property and adjoining rail line operated by the EJ&E
21 Railroad. This area is included in Units 1 and 2 of
22 the proposed critical habitat for Illinois.

23 The rail line, which has been used to
24 transport coal since 1997, has been in existence for
25 over 100 years, well before the Hine's Emerald

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1 dragonfly was listed. This approximately five mile
2 rail line is absolutely critical to maintaining the
3 continued supply of over 1960 megawatts of electricity
4 to the public.

5 The rail line supplies coal to fuel three
6 electrical generating stations; Will County in
7 Romeoville, Illinois, and Fisk and Crawford Stations
8 in the Chicago City limits. These three powerplants
9 produce enough electricity to serve over 2.4 million
10 homes and are extremely important in maintaining a
11 safe, reliable power supply for this region. The use
12 of the rail line is expected to increase over time in
13 order to provide the additional fuel needed to meet
14 the public's energy demands.

15 Midwest Gen's power production and
16 dispatch costs are largely driven by the cost of fuel.
17 Midwest Gen has invested considerable resources on the
18 infrastructure to bring coal in to these facilities,
19 and cannot realistically receive coal by any other
20 means without incurring expenses which would
21 jeopardize Midwest Gen's ability to continue to
22 compete in the energy market. The existing trackage
23 is long established, most economically feasible means
24 to transport the coal needed for these three
25 electrical generating facilities.

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1 Midwest Gen's ultimate long-term goal is
2 to restore the rail line to the best possible
3 condition to meet current and future needs, given
4 economic and technological constraints, while
5 respecting the environmental sensitivity of the area
6 to the maximum extent practicable. Regular routine
7 maintenance and upgrades must be performed as needed
8 to ensure the integrity of the track to accommodate
9 necessary expansion and to prevent potential
10 catastrophic failures or derailments, which could
11 result in significant environmental impact.

12 As such, Midwest Gen is concerned about
13 the impacts of designating critical habitat for the
14 Hine's Emerald dragonfly and our future ability to
15 adequately maintain and operate the rail line. Midwest
16 Gen, Material Service Corporation, Com Ed, we're all
17 working closely with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
18 Service, DNR, Corp of Engineers, Forest Preserve
19 District of Will County and local municipalities to
20 develop a habitat conservation plan for the Hine's
21 Emerald dragonfly, as well as other at risk species in
22 the lower Des Plaines River Valley.

23 And prior to this effort, Midwest Gen had
24 been actively participating in the Right of Way
25 management team that was created in 1996 to oversee

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1 all activities that might affect the dragonfly, and
2 has made considerable efforts to minimize any impact
3 that their operations may have on this species or its
4 habitat.

5 The habitat conservation plan, while not
6 yet completed, will serve as the primary means by
7 which the Hine's Emerald dragonfly will be afforded
8 the best possible chance for long term protection or
9 recovery in Illinois.

10 Midwest Gen believes that these well
11 established, cooperative efforts between public and
12 private land owners will provide far more benefits to
13 the Hine's Emerald dragonfly than the blanket
14 designation of critical habitat.

15 The spirit of cooperation and long
16 standing record of positive actions to protect the
17 dragonfly in Illinois is also very similar to the
18 efforts established in Missouri, where all 26 units
19 proposed for designation as critical habitat are being
20 considered for exclusion.

21 As such, we urge U.S. Fish and Wildlife
22 Service to exclude the entire habitat conservation
23 planning area in Illinois from further consideration
24 as critical habitat for the Hine's Emerald dragonfly.

25 Thank you.

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1 MR. VANDERFORD: Fine job. A copy of that
2 would be great --

3 Next speaker, Number 3, is Lois Arms.

4 MS. ARMS: I'm Lois Arms, L-o-i-s, A-r-m-
5 s, I live in the Will County part of Park Forest,
6 Illinois. I'm a member of the Shut This Airport
7 Nightmare Down and Stand. I'm Natural Resources Chair
8 of the Park Forest League of Women Voters and have
9 been a member of CTAQC, Chicagoland Transportation and
10 Air Quality Coalition, which is part of the Center for
11 New Bred Technology and like that.

12 Coming over from Orland, between Orland
13 and Lockport, absolutely appalled at the sprawl that
14 has metastasized in there with the mansions in one
15 area and the same old commercial Linens and Things and
16 everything here and there, but no way to get, these
17 are not, these are subdivisions, they're not
18 communities, they're not suburbs, they're not towns,
19 and that has got to be controlled before, you know,
20 the dragonfly won't be the only thing that control.

21 The U.S. Fish and Wildlife's Endangered
22 Species Office, I'm pretty sure, was created for the
23 purpose of protecting species which are in danger of
24 extinction, becoming extinct from this earth. You've
25 scientifically researched their life cycles as best

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1 humans can, and you're not quite finished I guess with
2 some of it, and the fundamental function of the office
3 is, of course, to protect habitat.

4 Under terms of a court order you're
5 preparing to designate critical habitat with a final
6 decision in May of 2000. Federally funded actions are
7 not jeopardized, I'd like to really echo what the
8 first speaker said on that, federal funds are not
9 legally, are not, federally funded actions are not to
10 jeopardize the continued existence of a list of
11 species such as dragonfly or to destroy or adversely
12 modify designated hypocritical habitat.

13 Designation would have no legal affect on
14 other actions, but of course it would have a moral,
15 practical affect to protect those areas as the lady
16 observed and it will probably help produce money to
17 carry out the existing plans to protect it. The
18 Service is proposing to designate areas in Illinois,
19 Michigan, Missouri and Wisconsin but, concurrently to
20 exclude areas in Missouri and Michigan from
21 designation. What sense does that make?

22 You know those areas are also habitats for
23 this endangered dragonfly, estimated 500 now existing,
24 you have done the work identifying it. You have the
25 data, please do not stop short of designating it all.

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1 So designate already. If it is undesignated it loses
2 protection, and once adversely modified, your work and
3 mother nature's or God's is lost and wasted.

4 The main prey of that dragonfly's is
5 mosquitoes, mosquitoes are the vectors of terrible
6 diseases including West Nile Virus, encephalitis,
7 probably bird flu virus getting it from wild birds, to
8 chickens, to chicken farmers. Therefore dragonflies
9 are an important line of defense. They search and
10 destroy mosquitoes, a SWAT team. They're much more
11 efficient, safe and cheap than humans trying to spray
12 flying adults who happen to be present when the humans
13 spray the poisons and the mosquitoes leave no deadly
14 pollution of groundwater, air, plants or soil.

15 Your presentation makes no mention of the
16 Illinois State Tollway, State Highway/Tollway
17 authority, despite having been stopped ten years ago
18 by a judge who told them that environmental law is
19 real law, to be obeyed and not blown off, but they're
20 still working on an extension of 355, which includes
21 Hine's Emerald dragonfly habitat along the Des Plaines
22 River at the Keepataw Nature Preserve and Black
23 Partridge Woods Forest Preserve.

24 ISA is starting to build a six-lane
25 highway bridge with, in sight of the existing bridge,

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1 over the habitat. Of course, construction would plow
2 up that habitat. ISA proposes a fatuous column
3 configuration, a slot for the dragonflies, a slot for
4 construction; a slot for the dragonflies, a slot for
5 construction, that a child or an idiot might think it
6 sounds as though it would work, but you must know
7 better.

8 The federal register says you have to make
9 an economic analysis, how about a health, a fix on
10 human health. You are required to make language plain
11 to ordinary people. In Section 79.95 in the federal
12 register part, you include that the, speaking of the
13 larvae stage, you need to put in the three to five or
14 maybe more years that it must stay undisturbed, that
15 doesn't seem to be there.

16 It doesn't say what the prey base of the
17 larvae are, it does say for the prey base for adults
18 you say dipterans. Please spell that out that that's
19 mosquitoes, you're supposed to make this in plain
20 English, dipterans, that's flies, ants and mosquitoes,
21 but say mosquitoes since what I just said about them.

22 And also Section 3 in that proposed change
23 there, the habitat does not include human-made
24 structures, it certainly does, that 355 thing. And
25 roads which lend, let's see, I can't read my writing,

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1 the 355 and its extension and its bridge. Your maps
2 do not show such things as the Keepataw Nature
3 Preserve or Black Partridge Woods or the INM Canal.
4 An overlay would be very helpful and realistic in
5 people understanding what you have there.

6 I ask you to be not weary in well-doing,
7 you've gotten all this work done, you know it, go the
8 final step and designate all of it, including in
9 Missouri and Michigan. That's what you're for, so do
10 it, please.

11 MR. VANDERFORD: The fourth speak up is
12 Floyd Catchpole.

13 MR. CATCHPOLE: Good evening. I'm Floyd
14 Catchpole, F-l-o-y-d, C-a-t-c-h-p-o-l-e. I'm here
15 speaking on behalf of the Forest Preserve District of
16 Will County.

17 The Forest District Preserve of Will
18 County would like to thank the Village of Romeoville
19 for providing the facilities for this public meeting.
20 We appreciate the many times the village has provided
21 facilities for meetings and the spirit of cooperation
22 that Romeoville has displayed.

23 The District has a long history with the
24 Hine's Emerald dragonfly, affectionately referred to
25 as the HED, which I'd like to take some time to talk

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1 about. Dr. Ron Panzer discovered the HED at Lockport
2 Prairie in 1983 while surveying insects. He had a
3 difficult time identifying it since some books
4 considered the HED extinct and no longer provided
5 descriptions for it. Fortunately in 1987 he finally
6 showed a specimen to Dr. Tim Vogt who correctly
7 identified it.

8 You can well imagine the surprise and
9 delight of the District when we learned that we had a
10 population of a dragonfly believed to be extinct for
11 years. This embarked the District on a voyage of
12 discovery that is ongoing today. The District has
13 worked with other governmental agencies, including the
14 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Army Corp of
15 Engineers, the Illinois Department of Transportation,
16 and the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission, to
17 promote studies of the HED life cycle, habitat
18 requirements, population sizes, and to manage HED
19 habitat.

20 Support from governmental agencies has
21 been both monetary and technical. The district
22 received over \$1 million from the U.S. Army Corp of
23 Engineers through -- to study and manage Lockport
24 Prairie for the perpetuation of the HED and other rare
25 species and habitats that occur there.

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1 The Illinois Department of Transportation
2 supported the installation of French drains under the
3 EJ&E Railroad Track. Additionally the District
4 participates on a technical advisory team which was
5 formed to guide the ongoing research at Lockport
6 Prairie. Members of the technical advisory team
7 include the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Army
8 Corp of Engineers, the Illinois Nature Preserves
9 Commission, Corp Lands, various scientists and
10 companies hired for their expertise in such fields as
11 dragonflies, ecology, hydrology and hydrogeology.

12 The results have been both rewarding and
13 disturbing. Since 1987 the HED has been found in the
14 District's Romeoville Prairie and Keepataw Preserves.
15 Lockport Prairie and Keepataw Preserves support both
16 adult and larval HED, while only adults have been seen
17 at Romeoville Prairie to date. It became apparent
18 that the Des Plaines River Valley supported a large
19 population of the HED that was composed of
20 subpopulations occurring in pockets of appropriate
21 natural habitat.

22 We were thrilled to find that we were
23 protecting two and possibly three breeding sites for
24 the HED. Lockport Prairie Preserve is identified as
25 one of the largest breeding sites in Illinois with the

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1 most productive habitat. The HED in Illinois have
2 been determined to be one large population, since it
3 is believed that genetic mixing occurs throughout the
4 Illinois sites. However, the population's divided
5 into three subpopulations. Such genetic mixing
6 between subpopulations is believed to be much less
7 than mixing within subpopulations.

8 Lockport and Romeoville Preserves are
9 within the southern most subpopulation, while Keepataw
10 is in the central subpopulation. Population studies
11 have focused on size with many HED. Romeoville
12 Prairie and Keepataw Preserves have fewer individuals,
13 however, based on limited observations the number of
14 individuals at these sites have been relatively stable
15 over the last 20 years.

16 Lockport Prairie Preserve supports many
17 HED and is one of the most thoroughly studied of all
18 HED sites. The news from Lockport is disturbing. HED
19 numbers at Lockport are declining, with the most
20 productive rivulet producing many few adults than in
21 the 1990's. Habitat studies conducted at Lockport
22 Prairie and elsewhere indicate that calcareous
23 groundwater flowing through small rivulets, or sheet
24 flows, are primary habitats for HED larvae.

25 While these flows may dry up briefly in

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1 prime habitat, studies at Lockport Prairie indicate
2 that rivulets are drying up earlier and for longer
3 periods now than in the past. Maintaining groundwater
4 flows received in springs within HED habitat is one of
5 the keys to survival of this largely aquatic species.

6 Another threat to the HED that was
7 identified early on is the active railroad track that
8 runs through Lockport Prairie Preserve, and the
9 Material Service Corporation Property, which also
10 supports many HED. The existence of an operational
11 railroad track causes potential negative impacts to
12 the HED, including siltation of larval habitat.

13 In order to minimize, or ideally eliminate
14 harm to the HED, the Right of Way Management Team was
15 formed under the umbrella of the U.S. Fish and
16 Wildlife Service. Members of this team have met
17 regularly. Materials Service Corporation, EJ&E
18 Railroad, and Midwest Generation, which hauls coal on
19 the EJ&E line, have taken many actions to minimize
20 harms to the HED. Additionally, the Material Service
21 Corporation has monitored the HED on their property
22 for many years. We would like to thank these
23 companies for their cooperation.

24 The District supports the U.S. Fish and
25 Wildlife Service and the identification of critical

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1 habitat. The long term protection of the HED in
2 Illinois will only occur if we rally around this
3 species. As individuals and a society we must choose
4 whether we wish to live in a biological desert
5 composed of weedy plants and animals, or to live in a
6 community that supports and maintains examples of the
7 ecological paradise that was found by our forefathers.

8 The HED is a flagship species. If we
9 protect the HED we will have protected thousands of
10 other plants and animals that live in the surprisingly
11 rich natural communities of the Des Plaines River
12 Valley. The Forest Preserve of Will County believes
13 that we as a society will be far richer in every way
14 if we protect our natural resources and treasures.
15 Identification and designation of critical habitat for
16 the HED will allow us to continue down this path.

17 Thank you.

18 MR. VANDERFORD: The last of the speakers
19 that we have registered so far is Joe Neumann.

20 MR. NEUMANN: Hello, my name is Joseph
21 Neumann, so it would be J-o-s-e-p-h, Neumann is N-e-u-
22 m-a-n-n. I'm one of the volunteer stewards in the
23 Cook County Forest Preserve, specifically at McMahon
24 Woods I'm the official volunteer steward there and
25 I've worked for quite a few years also at Black

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1 Partridge then supporting the steward there. Both
2 sites have the Hine's dragonflies, been seen at them.

3 I guess I would just like to emphasize
4 that I hope that, you know, that the Hine's will need
5 the entire ecosystem if we're going to have a long-
6 term sustainable population. It's going to need those
7 diverse native wetlands and these uplands, which are
8 the sources of the seeps, and I think particularly in
9 Palos, I think we have those uplands preserved in the
10 Palos Forest Preserve, so I hope we have a
11 particularly good opportunity at McMahon then with its
12 seems eventually of they say, restoring the Hine's,
13 which has been seen, I understand, in adult form
14 there.

15 But I hope we can do that and as I say,
16 even as the folks on the individual species, I hope we
17 can get this whole ecosystem healthy and, for all the
18 species and the Hine's.

19 Thank you.

20 MR. VANDERFORD: We have no other speakers
21 on the list as of the beginning of the meeting, has
22 there been anyone joining us since the meeting began
23 that would like to speak? Hearing none, the procedure
24 we'll follow is this, the hearing will be open until
25 9:00 p.m. We will go off record in recess until

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1 someone appears who would like to speak, and then we
2 will go back on record with the recorder and at that
3 time we will begin the hearing once more. If no one
4 appears that would like to speak until 9:00 o'clock,
5 then we will continue on in recess until 9:00. Yes,
6 ma'am?

7 MS. ARMS: Can I add something?

8 MS. VANDERFORD: John indicates yes. So,
9 Adrian, do you need her to introduce herself once
10 more?

11 MS. ARMS: Okay, Lois Arms again. Once
12 again, I'll leave it to the loss of groundwater from
13 the sprawl. Oak Lawn, I think it is, is selling Lake
14 Michigan water to other suburbs, and those suburbs
15 think, gosh, we had to institute lawn sprinkling bans,
16 that's awful, you know, what can we do? Let's put in
17 four more pumps, completely ignorant, apparently, of
18 the fact that we have the International Joint
19 Commission team with Canada on how much Lake Michigan,
20 Great Lakes water each state can pull, and Illinois is
21 already overdrawn on that.

22 Hammond, Indiana also sells water, I don't
23 know if they have any spare to send over here or how
24 much it would cost but you notice it seems of right
25 now to be raining pretty regularly, in fact, we better

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1 watch out we don't hatch some other kind of mosquitoes
2 in tires and stuff sitting around here.

3 People need to realize that their lawns
4 naturally go brown about this time of year, usually,
5 and they will revive. And the more natural and
6 perennials that can know how to take care of
7 themselves locally, the less water you need. So, Paul
8 Simon has a book on, I forget what the name of it is,
9 about the water crisis and also on TV I believe it can
10 be obtained.

11 It's a well known thing I think and we're
12 just going to have to learn to live more economically
13 in water and other things.

14 MR. VANDERFORD: Would any of the other
15 speakers like to add to their initial statements?
16 Hearing none, we will go off record, be in recess
17 until we have another speaker appear or until 9:00
18 o'clock, whichever happens first.

19 (Off the record.)

20 MR. VANDERFORD: It is now 9:00 o'clock,
21 which is the published closing time for this hearing.
22 At this point we would like to officially close the
23 hearing and thank you for your participation.

24 (Whereupon, at 9:00 p.m., the hearing was
25 concluded.)

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