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4.2.3 RAB  
FIS Public Meeting

1 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

2 ----- X  
3 In the Matter of: :

4 Environmental Protection Agency  
5 (Town of Holbrook)  
6 Baird & McGuire Superfund  
7 Public Hearing  
8 ----- X

Site: Baird & McGuire  
Brod: 4.6.3  
Other: \_\_\_\_\_

9 September 3, 1986

10 Holbrook High School  
11 Holbrook, MA  
12 Auditorium

13 The above-entitled hearing was convened, pursuant  
14 to notice, at 7:30 p.m.

15 PANEL MEMBERS

16 Patricia Meaney, Department Division Director

17 R. Emmet Hayes, State Representative, Holbrook District

18 Frank McGaughey, Chairman, Holbrook Board of Selectmen  
19

20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25 EXECUTIVE COURT REPORTERS

(20) 363-0064

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P R O C E E D I N G S

7:30 P.M.

1  
2  
3 MS. MEANEY: I'd like to call this to order. This  
4 is an informal public hearing on the -- to hear your comments  
5 on a draft feasibility study for the Baird-McGuire Superfund  
6 site here in Holbrook, Massachusetts. I am Patricia Meaney,  
7 I am Deputy Director of the Waste Management Division in the  
8 Environmental Protection Agency in Boston. I'd like to take  
9 and introduce to you the people that are here from the state  
10 and EPA today. Bob Shatten, who is Project Manager, many of  
11 you I think already know on this Baird-McGuire site; Richard  
12 Cavagnero, who is the Superfund, Massachusetts Superfund  
13 Section Chief. Sitting here in the second row is Mel Hohman,  
14 who put his hand up, he's the Director of the Waste Management  
15 Division at EPA, Region 1. Behind him is Kate Connolly, from  
16 our community relations office, that's EPA, and Jim Coleman,  
17 who is Director of the incident response division here in  
18 Massachusetts, and Dorothy Brownlee who is the Project Man-  
19 ager for the state at Baird-McGuire and Pat Mullan, who has  
20 been distributing some sign-up sheets also from the state.

21 I'd like to take a few minutes first of all to  
22 make some comments to you on how we will proceed with the  
23 public hearing. Right behind me you'll see that there is a  
24 stenographer who is preparing a record. The transcript of  
25 this record for this public hearing is available in our

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1 offices in the JFK Building and also in the libraries in  
2 Holbrook, Randolph and Braintree. Now if you want a copy  
3 for your own purposes, you should contact the stenographer  
4 directly and his name is Steve Kallock and you can come and  
5 talk to him during the course of the evening. I am going to  
6 call people to read into the record in order. If you have  
7 any problems, need any special help, or if you have not as  
8 yet signed up to be able to read into the record tonight,  
9 it's Kate Connolly in the white dress in the third row who  
10 put her hand up once again, that you should see about being  
11 able to read into the record.

12 When you come to read into the record which you  
13 will do at the podium over here, I'm going to ask you to give  
14 your name and give your affiliation. I am also going to ask  
15 you to limit your comments to ten minutes only. Now that  
16 means you may have to summarize if necessary and you may  
17 need to submit other details in writing. And what Bob Shatten  
18 has asked me to announce here is that the full EPA address to  
19 which you should send your comments is in care of Robert  
20 Shatten, HAA, 1903, United States Environmental Protection  
21 Agency, Kennedy Building, Boston, 02203. Now there will be  
22 no questions and answer period during the course of the  
23 public hearing itself. Once the record is closed and pro-  
24 viding there is time, we will all stay here in order to be  
25 able to answer your questions after the formal part of the



1 public hearing.

2 Now the public comment period lasts until close of  
3 business on September the 8th. That means that comments  
4 posted on or before that date will be considered a part of  
5 the public record. Once again, I'd like you to come to the  
6 front of the room and to speak up. I'm going to start this  
7 evening with representatives of the town and the task force.  
8 Together because there are two people, we will be giving them  
9 twenty minutes in total. So first of all, Frank McGaughey,  
10 who is Chairman of the Board of Selectmen.

11 MR. MCGAUGHEY: My name is Frank McGaughey, Chairman  
12 of the Holbrook Board of Selectmen. As we know this is a  
13 public hearing to accept comments on the safest and most  
14 permanent methods available for the clean-up at the Baird-  
15 McGuire hazardous waste site at 775 South Street in Holbrook.  
16 Since 1982 Holbrook town officials and those of surrounding  
17 communities have been acutely aware of the conditions existing  
18 at the Baird-McGuire site and on February 16th, 1982 so  
19 advised elected state and federal officials, as well as,  
20 state and federal agencies of the conditions. The Selectmen  
21 established a citizen's task force consisting of officials  
22 of the communities of Randolph, Holbrook and Braintree, and  
23 concerned citizens from throughout the district. This dedi-  
24 cated group has been meeting on a regular basis for more than  
25 a year monitoring the site and working closely in conjunction

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1 with the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the  
2 (EPA) and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental  
3 Quality Engineering, (DEQE), other state agencies and  
4 officials from the three communities. The task force has  
5 been under the leadership of State Representative, Emmet  
6 Hayes in his capacity as Chairman. He has received the  
7 support and assistance of all the task force members, includ-  
8 ing, but not limited to, Assistant Chairman Dr. Conrad  
9 Jankowski of Holbrook, who also serves as Hazardous Waste  
10 Coordinator for the town; by Holbrook Fire Chief, William D.  
11 Marbel; State Senator Paul D. Harold; Holbrook Public Work  
12 Superintendent, Thomas Cummings, and Selectman Robert Andya.  
13 The Selectmen commend and thank the task force members for  
14 their extraordinary efforts and interest, with special thanks  
15 to Chairman Hayes and Assistant Chairman Jankowski.

16           The Selectmen have met frequently in recent days  
17 with Representative Hayes, Senator Harold, and Dr. Jankowski  
18 to discuss the position of the task force and the town of  
19 Holbrook on evaluating the options effectiveness and costs  
20 for cleaning up the site. The Selectmen insist that there be  
21 a continuing future role for the task force as long as clean-  
22 up work and monitoring is necessary at the Baird-McGuire site.  
23 We commend and thank the DEQE and the EPA personnel for their  
24 assistance during the past 48 months. We endorse strongly  
25 the remarks, suggestions, and requests that will be expressed

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1 this evening by Representative Hayes, Senator Harold, Dr.  
 2 Jankowski and Superintendent Cummings. Dr. Jankowski of  
 3 Holbrook has been designated as spokesman for the Holbrook  
 4 Board of Selectmen and will also offer testimony this evening.  
 5 In addition, comments will be made by Superintendent Cummings  
 6 and Selectman Robert Powilatis, who also serves as a member  
 7 and Chairman of the Randolph-Holbrook, Joint Water Board. The  
 8 town of Holbrook, its residents and its neighbors must be at  
 9 all times protected from any dangers on or off the Baird-  
 10 McGuire property, and the Selectmen will continue to insist  
 11 that this be guaranteed by the United States Environmental  
 12 Protection Agency and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.  
 13 The Selectmen at this time defer the remaining time allotted  
 14 for our presentation to Chairman Hayes so that he may have  
 15 additional time to testify.

16 MS. MEANEY: Representative Hayes?

17 MR. HAYES: Thank you. On behalf of the Baird-  
 18 McGuire advisory task force, I would offer this evening the  
 19 following comments and recommendations on the feasibility  
 20 study presented to us a short while ago. The record of a  
 21 decision we believe should stress the use of technologies for  
 22 the permanent destruction of contaminants over other alterna-  
 23 tives which will cap or store the waste. Use of such destruct-  
 24 tive technologies must be accompanied by strict public safe-  
 25 guards, it must attain all appropriate, applicable and

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1 relevant standards. The preferred alternative should, at a  
2 minimum, be characterized as a GHI category 3, which is  
3 referred to and described on pages 43 and 44 of the feasibility  
4 study which says that alternatives that attain or exceed  
5 applicable or relevant and appropriate federal and public  
6 health and environmental requirements.

7 The feasibility study identified several category  
8 3 alternatives. We believe any modifications of the alterna-  
9 tives presented in the feasibility study should also reach  
10 that level of clean-up. Category 4 alternatives that do not  
11 attain applicable or relevant appropriate federal help and  
12 environmental requirements are clearly unacceptable for the  
13 residents of the affected community. Permanent destruction  
14 technology selected at the site must be given adequate testing  
15 in advance of the long design phase to demonstrate effective-  
16 ness, applicability, and the public health safeguard.  
17 Incineration, as an example, should be shown to work at the  
18 site before a multi-year design process begins. The selected  
19 technology at the site should be reviewed periodically to  
20 insure its effectiveness. Flexibility must be included in  
21 the record of decision to allow such a review. Given the  
22 rapid pace of technological advancement in the field of  
23 hazardous waste clean-up, the remedial action technology  
24 selected for Baird-McGuire must be reviewed periodically.  
25 We're suggesting every three years. To insure it as

1 effective and to guide against the implementation of an out-  
 2 dated and less viable alternative when better alternatives  
 3 become available. As technologies improve, the EPA needs to  
 4 be able to take advantage of such technological improvements.  
 5 The record of decision must provide the flexibility for such  
 6 a review. A mechanism must be established to provide for  
 7 this review and must be one which avoids the need for a  
 8 lengthy, exhaustive feasibility type study. The review  
 9 should be prepared by EPA and distributed to the DEQE, the  
 10 Department of Environmental Quality Engineering and the state,  
 11 as well as task force members for review and comment.

12 The task force is not adverse or opposed to innova-  
 13 tive technologies. For instance, biodegradation to be used  
 14 at the site, provided that adequate public input and proper  
 15 public health safeguards are considered. Recognizing the  
 16 rapid changes in technology, the task force cautions the EPA  
 17 against placing all of their eggs in one technological basket.  
 18 While we understand that one major technology must be  
 19 selected and implemented, we also recommend that the site  
 20 should serve as a vehicle for the exploration of other  
 21 emerging innovative technologies such as biodegradation.  
 22 The suggested clean-up schedules of all of the alternatives  
 23 presented in the feasibility study suggest that portions of  
 24 the site could be used for innovative projects. Before this  
 25 can occur, it is essential that the public be given ample

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1 notice and that strict public health issues are identified  
 2 and addressed. We support the use of innovative technologies  
 3 at this site if they offer a faster and safer clean-up, but  
 4 only if the public is informed and that they meet strict  
 5 public health guidelines.

6 The task force believes that the record of decision  
 7 must address and insure a process of public participation,  
 8 not just the process of public notification. This should  
 9 include an active, not a passive public role in the decision  
 10 making process. The record of decision must include a  
 11 formalized process for continued public participation at the  
 12 site. The role of the current Baird-McGuire advisory task  
 13 force should be clearly established, allowing for review of  
 14 site decisions, including design documents, public health  
 15 issues, work progress and worker safety. Adequate resources  
 16 to guarantee technical review by the Baird-McGuire task force  
 17 should be provided. We formally request that the sum of  
 18 \$50,000 per year be made available to the task force for  
 19 consultants and support personnel. Such appropriation should  
 20 continue at a minimum throughout the design construction and  
 21 initial implementation phases of the project. The EPA should  
 22 also establish and maintain a memorandum of understanding  
 23 with the public schools in Holbrook, Braintree and Randolph  
 24 to educate school children as to the dangers of the site and  
 25 as to the progress of the clean-up efforts. The site must

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1 not be used for the destruction, treatment, storage of any  
 2 off-site waste. With two-thirds of the area occupied by a  
 3 flood plain the site is simply too small for such use. We  
 4 strongly request that the record of decision must explicitly  
 5 forbid additional waste from coming onto the site and compli-  
 6 cating the problems that we already have there. The record  
 7 of decision must contain language to insure the constant  
 8 state-of-the-art monitoring of air quality, ground water and  
 9 surface water contaminants. Since the contamination of this  
 10 site was discovered, the quality and safety of drinking water  
 11 has been the paramount concern of the citizens of the area.  
 12 As clean-up activity increases at the site, questions will  
 13 undoubtedly arise concerning the quality of surface and  
 14 ground water, as well as ambient air purity. It is essential  
 15 that the record of decision include a comprehensive testing  
 16 program to monitor air quality, water quality, and ground  
 17 water contaminants. The record of decision should define the  
 18 roles and allocate responsibilities between the federal and  
 19 state agencies.

20 The alternatives involving incineration raise  
 21 significant air quality and public health concerns. Documen-  
 22 tation must be provided by the EPA to conclusively demonstrate  
 23 that no adverse public health impacts will occur due to stack  
 24 gas emissions. Monitoring systems must be state-of-the-art  
 25 and continuous. More importantly, these decisions involving

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1 the public's health should not be compromised by future  
 2 financial constraints within the agency. Given the necessity  
 3 of such rigorous monitoring, it is suggested that it may be  
 4 cost effective for the EPA to design and construct an on-site  
 5 acute toxics testing facility to detect the presence of low  
 6 levels of toxics chemicals. It must be noted that this site  
 7 has all but 27 of EPA's 129 priority pollutants. It will be  
 8 necessary to monitor and test for these pollutants well into  
 9 the next century. Such a facility should include the capa-  
 10 bility to test for dioxin and for air emissions, as well as  
 11 extremely low levels of other toxics. It is recommended  
 12 that state authorities be given the responsibility of staffing  
 13 and maintaining such a facility upon completion of the con-  
 14 struction phase. Water supply issues. During the remedial  
 15 investigation and feasibility studies, there were uncovered  
 16 numerous related water supply issues which we believe require  
 17 further investigation. It is requested that the EPA conduct  
 18 a comprehensive study to investigate those issues. Such  
 19 issues should include but are not limited to the restoration  
 20 of the South Street wells. The possibility of restoring the  
 21 Donna Road well field, and the monitoring and improving the  
 22 water quality in Lake Holbrook, Sylvan Lake and the Richardi  
 23 Reservoir. The advisability and practicality of diverting or  
 24 relocating the Cochato River must be reviewed by the EPA.  
 25 Finally we believe that it is imperative that if alternative

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1 WM is the final clean-up alternative selected in the record  
 2 of decision, or of any of the other alternatives, that they  
 3 must be given a thorough risk assessment. Since it appears  
 4 that the alternative selected may include many separate  
 5 components selected from other alternatives, we believe it's  
 6 necessary to completely review the overall public health  
 7 issues surrounding the selected alternative. A DTL public  
 8 health assessment must be conducted prior to the implementa-  
 9 tion of any alternatives. Finally in closing, I wish to  
 10 thank EPA for working so closely with our organization. We  
 11 ask that you look very closely at our recommendations. We  
 12 believe they're absolutely necessary for a safe and speedy  
 13 clean-up at the Baird-McGuire site. Thank you.

14 MS. MEANEY: Thank you very much. The next speaker  
 15 is Louise Schofield.

16 MS. SCHOFIELD: I thought I was going to follow --  
 17 it's pretty hard to follow --

18 MS. MEANEY: Excuse me, Louise, could I just ask  
 19 you to come down and speak here so that we can get your  
 20 comments recorded. Sorry, but -- Go ahead, thank you. Would  
 21 you identify yourself? The center one.

22 MS. SCHOFIELD: The center one?

23 MS. MEANEY: Could you wait just once, Louise, we're  
 24 just having a -- okay, it's fine.

25 MS. SCHOFIELD: I'm Louise Schofield, I'm a

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1 Braintree resident who has been a member of Pure, the People  
2 United to Restore the Environment. I really thought I was  
3 going to speak after everybody else was heard who had some  
4 authority here, and after hearing Representative Hayes, I  
5 rather think we're in pretty good shape, because they cer-  
6 tainly are to be commended by the task force for what they  
7 have prepared as far as protecting our interest. Two things  
8 come to my mind which he touched on. One is the protection  
9 of the Richardi Reservoir. Now my feeling, and again, I'm  
10 just a resident who has no scientific or environmental know-  
11 ledge, but my feeling is that we should have some provision  
12 in there that the Cochato River would never be tied in again  
13 to our drinking water, the Richardi Reservoir. And as I  
14 understood in some of the earlier studies that were done,  
15 they had indicated that the contaminants from the Cochato  
16 River had just reached the border of where they would have  
17 contaminated Richardi Reservoir, so if we open that river  
18 again, the Cochato River again, I can't see that we have much  
19 guarantee that we're not going to be involved in polluting  
20 our drinking water. This brings up another topic that no one  
21 ever seems to want to address, and that is, we talk about this  
22 whole area being a flood plain, and that the multiple con-  
23 taminants that we know are already in this area; we, for  
24 whatever reason, never consider the feasibility which is a  
25 possibility of joining the MDC. Now we know that statewide

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1 practically 50% of our drinking water is contaminated. Now  
 2 Braintree and Holbrook and Randolph are among the communities  
 3 that were in the initial group that formed the MDC group, and  
 4 back as early as 1971 the state put out a proposal for us to  
 5 join the MDC and, for whatever reason, I guess maybe they  
 6 weren't as aware then of the hazardous wastes that were  
 7 coming into our drinking water, they turned down a proposal  
 8 from the MDC. Now I understand from Senator Harold and some  
 9 of the other political figures, that that option could still  
 10 be open, and I see other towns that aren't even contingent to  
 11 Boston, which is the original group, are joining MDC. Now if  
 12 our Great Pond is an adequate source of some water, then why  
 13 not use that without pumping out this water from Richardi  
 14 Reservoir that has been fed by the Cochato Brook or River,  
 15 whatever you call it, for the last 72 years. So that would  
 16 be my concern and I don't know why no one will ever consider  
 17 that feasibility, we keep talking about what we're going to  
 18 do about the contaminants when we have an alternative. So  
 19 that was one of the things.

20 The other, again as I say I speak not from any  
 21 knowledge or scientific knowledge or any kind of knowledge  
 22 except just off the top of my head, this business of burning  
 23 some of these pollutants I think I agree with Representative  
 24 Hayes, this should never be done unless we have some kind of  
 25 an experimental testing place, preferably not in Holbrook.

1 I mean, they ought to take it out to some desert to test it,  
2 because after all, this is a pretty densely populated area,  
3 and if these contaminants get into the air, no telling where  
4 the wind is going to carry them. So I appreciate what our  
5 task force has done, but it said that the apathy of people in  
6 general is so great that if it weren't for these dedicated  
7 people there would be nothing really concrete done to protect  
8 our interests. So I thank them, and hopefully we'll pursue  
9 the right line. Thank you.

10 MS. MEANEY: The next speaker is Conrad Jankowski.

11 DR. JANKOWSKI: I am Dr. Conrad Jankowski, I am the  
12 Holbrook Hazardous Waste Coordinator. I am also the liaison  
13 person for the Holbrook Board of Selectmen, and Vice Chairman  
14 of the Baird-McGuire task force. And Representative Hayes  
15 has covered most of the area that the Selectmen and I agree  
16 with. The only thing I can do is echo his statements and  
17 strongly reinforce his statements that we want a permanent  
18 clean-up, not a temporary capping, not a temporary storage.  
19 We want the most rigorous safety tests to be made that can  
20 possibly be made, and we want the best technology that's  
21 available not only in 1986, but 1988, 1990, 1992, because  
22 we're still going to be cleaning up, as was said before, well  
23 into the next century. And to echo Mrs. Schofield, who just  
24 spoke here a moment ago, we want to be sure that any techniques  
25 that we use out on the hazardous waste site is thoroughly

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1 tested before it goes into operation on that hazardous waste  
2 site. Thank you.

3 MS. MEANEY: Thank you very much. Henry Cole?

4 DR. COLE: My name is Dr. Henry Cole. I am the  
5 Senior Scientist for the Clean Water Action Project, and  
6 before I start my statement, I would like to say that the  
7 task force that's been established as a result of, I think  
8 the tremendous citizen response at a hearing more than a year  
9 ago, is something very unique around this country. I have,  
10 in my job, I get to visit many communities dealing with  
11 Superfund sites, and I would have to say that the task force  
12 that we have here seems to have promoted the best information  
13 flow and the best process that I've seen around the country.  
14 And I've heard other people within the agency say the same  
15 thing. Now having said that, I want to say that it's essen-  
16 tial that the process continue. And this is particularly  
17 important right now because I understand that the EPA wants  
18 to come out with a record of decision prior to the close of  
19 the fiscal year, September 30th, and frankly the information  
20 that's been presented so far in the feasibility study and  
21 several other addendums is not really sufficient to make a  
22 detailed decision about which technology or which approach to  
23 take. And I think it would be absolutely wrong to come out  
24 with a record of decision which chose a particular approach  
25 in great detail and did not remain open and flexible so that

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1 the task force could continue to play an active role and the  
 2 community as well. Now let me get to some specific comments  
 3 on the feasibility study.

4 First of all we believe that the goals set forth  
 5 for remedial action in the feasibility study are too narrow.  
 6 We would like to see some additional goals. And let me just  
 7 read what we think at Clean Water Action Project, the goals  
 8 of clean-up should be. Number one, the clean-up must protect  
 9 public health and the environment on a permanent basis. We  
 10 think this echoes the statement that's been heard over and  
 11 over again in the community. And by protecting public health  
 12 and the environment, we mean that standards have to be met.  
 13 The clean-up must be conducted in a way that does not impose  
 14 new and substantial risks to the community, and should mini-  
 15 mize disruption of natural resources. Three, contaminated  
 16 ground water in the area must be restored as a potential  
 17 drinking water source in a reasonable period of time. This  
 18 goal is not addressed nor even given in the feasibility study.  
 19 And the clean-up should allow the site to be used once again  
 20 in the future as a normal and productive part of the commu-  
 21 nity. That means, that precludes certain types of out of  
 22 sight, out of mind clean-ups. To meet these goals, the  
 23 contaminated zones at the site must be treated using technolo-  
 24 gies which permanently destroy or detoxify toxic chemicals.  
 25 Methods that rely primarily on containment, such as clay caps,

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1 hydrodynamic barriers, slurry walls are not acceptable. We  
2 similarly reject on-site landfilling or long term storage of  
3 hazardous wastes and contaminated debris and soils.

4 Let me comment on alternative 4M. We are pleased  
5 that this was added at the last moment. It is certainly a  
6 step in the right direction in that it does consider a method  
7 to permanently destroy much of the waste at the site. And it  
8 has an advantage over previous alternatives such as 3B and 4  
9 that would use a landfill to temporarily store hazardous  
10 waste. So that 4M would eliminate some of the risks and costs  
11 associated with temporary landfilling.

12 However, we cannot at this time endorse 4M because  
13 we have a number of serious concerns that have not been  
14 addressed in the record. We note that 4M is not actually  
15 presented in the feasibility study. It was released in an  
16 ad hoc manner by EPA and lacks the detailed assessment that  
17 citizens, the task force and the agency itself will need to  
18 fully understand the alternative and its implications. We  
19 also think that the agency should examine some other permanent  
20 treatment methods, methods other than incineration. For  
21 example, perhaps at part of the site, chemical destruction  
22 methods and biodegradation can be used. We believe that the  
23 rod should be flexible with regard to the choice of permanent  
24 treatment and EPA should maximize opportunities for citizens  
25 to weigh the advantages and disadvantages of the alternatives.

1 Some more comments on incineration. Incineration offers the  
 2 benefit of permanently destroying organic substances at the  
 3 site. However, the feasibility study and the addendum to it  
 4 presents very little information on the risks of incineration.  
 5 We note that there are a variety of thermal destruction pro-  
 6 cesses, infrared destruction, pyrolysis, fluidized bed combus-  
 7 tion, circulating bed combustion, rotary kilns, et cetera.  
 8 Each of those technologies is different with regard to public  
 9 health risks, availability, side effects, such as noise levels,  
 10 pre-treatment requirements, demonstrated destruction effi-  
 11 ciencies, the length of time that the treatment will have to  
 12 last and on and on. Now, EPA needs to evaluate all of those  
 13 questions, and needs to involve the citizens of the community  
 14 and the task force in that kind of assessment.

15 Let me give some specifics. First of all, if  
 16 incineration or other type of treatment is used at the site,  
 17 I want to echo what Mr. Hayes said, that the EPA and the  
 18 state must sign an agreement or institute some type of legal  
 19 procedure that insures that no material from off the site,  
 20 such as currently generated hazardous wastes, comes onto this  
 21 site. That would be an absolute travesty of justice in this  
 22 community where citizens have faced, without their choice,  
 23 the risks of hazardous wastes that have been illegally dumped  
 24 all over this site for 70 years. EPA must assure that  
 25 adequate demonstrations are conducted using samples from

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1 Baird and McGuire before commitment is made to specific  
2 technology. EPA must require comprehensive test burns once  
3 the facility is installed at the site. The test burns must  
4 assure near zero discharges of dangerous substances, including  
5 organic and inorganic substances and a destruction of organic  
6 compounds with a state-of-the-art efficiency. We're talking  
7 six, seven, eight or nine nines. And another concern is the  
8 metals. Some of the metals that are in the soil may have  
9 volatilized and perhaps formed submicron particles in this  
10 incineration unit, or in any incineration. It's imperative  
11 that the type of testing that can capture those particles  
12 and gases be done. Otherwise, you may give the facility a  
13 clean bill of health when, in fact, you haven't had the proper  
14 instrumentation or methods to see what's really there in  
15 terms of the metals. We're going to be giving more detail  
16 about that question in the future.

17 Now let me talk about excavation of the soils. We  
18 are concerned that 4M as it stands may leave substantial  
19 quantities of contaminated soil in place. EPA's memo of  
20 August 20th describing alternative 4M, states that the  
21 excavation of hot spots only, 190,000 cubic yards, will  
22 remove 95% of the total mass of contaminants from the soil.  
23 However, there is little evidence to back this claim. The  
24 95% figure is apparently based on the unsubstantiated assump-  
25 tion that average contaminant levels in soils to be excavated

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1 have a concentration that is a hundred times higher than soils  
2 that would not be excavated. We don't feel that there's been  
3 much documentation for that assumption.

4 The effectiveness of the clean-up, the time neces-  
5 sary for ground water treatment, depends on the portion of  
6 contaminant mass that is actually removed. Unless the 95%  
7 contaminant mass removal can be objectively and quanti-  
8 tatively related to the 190,000 cubic yard figure, we believe  
9 that EPA must err on the side of safety. Now one alternative  
10 would be to do extensive soil sampling during the excavation.  
11 So that if you find as you remove material that there is  
12 more contamination than you thought, higher concentrations  
13 that you would have a contingency to remove additional  
14 materials.

15 MS. MEANEY: Excuse me, Dr. Cole, your ten minute  
16 period is up. If you would summarize.

17 DR. COLE: Summarize?

18 MS. MEANEY: Summarize and come to conclusion,  
19 thank you.

20 DR. COLE: And the final point that I'd like to  
21 make is that the feasibility study really doesn't do justice  
22 to the whole subject of the ground water circulation system  
23 and in closing I'd like to say that you have to assure that  
24 an adequate portion of the ground water that's moving through  
25 the site is recovered. We have not seen much documentation

1 for a 95% figure or a 90% figure. It is critical that the  
 2 system be designed with much greater knowledge of what's  
 3 really going on at the site. And we hope that that will be  
 4 part of the studies to come. So thank you very much for the  
 5 opportunity to speak and let's hope we get an excellent clean-  
 6 up of this site. Thank you.

7 MS. MEANEY: Thank you, Dr. Cole. The next speaker  
 8 will be Robert Powilatis.

9 MR. POWILATIS: Thank you. That's all it was, was  
 10 a switch, huh? My name is Bob Powilatis, and I'm a Selectman  
 11 in Holbrook, and I'm also Chairman of the Joint, Randolph-  
 12 Holbrook Water District. The remarks I'll make tonight  
 13 represent the position in the judgment collectively of the  
 14 Randolph-Holbrook Joint Water Board and relate specifically  
 15 to the effect Baird-McGuire has had on the loss of water due  
 16 to the shutdown of the South Street wells and also in relation  
 17 to the diversion of the Cochato River. The Baird-McGuire  
 18 Chemical Facility has placed a severe burden on the joint  
 19 water works of the Randolph-Holbrook Water Treatment Plant  
 20 and its distribution system. Baird-McGuire caused the  
 21 shutting off of the three South Street wells in Holbrook which  
 22 were an excellent water source providing up to 2.3 million  
 23 gallons of water a day. The South Street wells served both  
 24 Southern Holbrook and backfed into Randolph and thus created  
 25 less demand on the joint water treatment plant at Pond Street

1 in Randolph which services the remaining population of the  
 2 three communities of Braintree, Randolph and Holbrook. Since  
 3 1983, the water treatment system has been overtaxed to provide  
 4 all the water that serves the three towns. As a result of  
 5 the effect Baird-McGuire has had on the South Street wells,  
 6 we require a supplemental water supply to replace that which  
 7 was lost from the South Street wells. We want the EPA to  
 8 treat the ground waters of the South Street wells so that  
 9 some day, whenever that might be, the ground water will be  
 10 again a usable water source to the system. We also want the  
 11 EPA to study and place back into service the Donna Road well  
 12 field to provide an immediate replacement of our lost South  
 13 Street wells. To initial testings conducted so far at Donna  
 14 Road, there appears to be ample and excellent water quality  
 15 supplied free of any pollutants other than iron and manganese  
 16 which can be simply removed by current state-of-the-art  
 17 treatment methods at the well head. We also want EPA to  
 18 divert the Cochato River as it passes through the Baird-  
 19 McGuire site. The Cochato River is a viable water source for  
 20 the Richardi River, which is the back-up of the towns water  
 21 supply for the towns of Randolph, Braintree and Holbrook.  
 22 Since 1983, the Cochato has been diverted to drain directly  
 23 into the ocean. We cannot tolerate this waste of the Cochato  
 24 to continue. No known technology is available or reliable  
 25 enough to assure no hazardous pollutants will flow into our

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1 water supply if the Cochato River is utilized again. The  
2 Cochato, therefore, must be diverted around the Baird-McGuire  
3 site. In conclusion, the members of the Braintree, I mean  
4 the Randolph-Holbrook water district request that EPA take  
5 the necessary steps to supplement our water supply by placing  
6 the Donna Road well field back into service and to divert the  
7 Cochato River around the Baird-McGuire site and to include  
8 these combined actions under the recommended alternative for  
9 remedial action for the Baird-McGuire site. Thank you.

10 MS. MEANEY: Thank you very much. Is Senator Paul  
11 Howard here? Harold, excuse me. Arthur Bleakney?

12 MR. BLEAKNEY: I'm Arthur Bleakney, I'm representing  
13 nobody but myself, I'm just a resident. I have a lot of  
14 concerns about this whole thing, I've looked through the  
15 proposals and I really don't like any of them. I think it's  
16 just a shame that it can't just be taken out of here, every-  
17 thing is on site, and it just goes to show what a terrible  
18 problem pollution is once it's in the ground. And I would  
19 like to see the EPA broaden its goals and not just take care  
20 of this one site, but I'd like to see them prevent this sort  
21 of thing from happening again, look at every business in this  
22 town and the surrounding towns, see if anything is going on.  
23 Your goal is supposed to be to protect the environment and  
24 thereby protect our health. I think they should do every-  
25 thing to accomplish that goal. This -- there's a lot of

1 things about this Holbrook, this Baird and McGuire site that  
 2 disturbs me, the fact that these wells were drilled so close  
 3 to that site. I think one of them is within 700 feet, after  
 4 a while they found some pollution, but I think they continued  
 5 to use the others. It took them a long time before they  
 6 finally checked the water for all the different chemicals,  
 7 and even after they discovered this site, they told us that  
 8 our water is being checked every week, and everything. What  
 9 they didn't tell us is our water was being checked every week  
 10 for things like bacteria count and stuff like that, and it  
 11 was not being checked for all these contaminants, and if you  
 12 don't check directly, specifically for arsenic or whatever,  
 13 you're not going to find it. I think I'd like to see a lot  
 14 more being done to prosecute the people that made the big  
 15 profits out of this, I don't know how they just get away.  
 16 They seem to get away with just walking away from it. It  
 17 seems like the EPA can't even get a list from them of former  
 18 employees. They can't get a list of what chemicals they  
 19 used. They just seem to thumb their nose at the whole thing.

20 A lot of people don't believe there's a real problem  
 21 in Massachusetts, but there is. They'll tell you that  
 22 Holbrook's cancer rate is no greater than the rest of  
 23 Massachusetts, and a lot of people relax, but what people  
 24 don't realize is that Massachusetts has a cancer rate that's  
 25 15% above the national average. This is a state that is a

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1 state that is a leader in medical and educational areas,  
 2 these figures should be the opposite. It would be a wonderful  
 3 thing if you could walk into a cancer ward and let one-third  
 4 of the patients just go home.

5 There's so much, things I think are wrong in this  
 6 state. I think there's an awful lot of corruption in this  
 7 state, a lot of incompetence. I think wherever you get a  
 8 high amount of corruption, you will have a high cancer rate.  
 9 I think the corruption stretches all the way from the meat  
 10 inspector in Braintree that was found a few years ago taking  
 11 bribes, all the way to these people that are throwing this  
 12 pollution right in the ground, getting away with it and  
 13 officials that seem to look the other way, and I think it  
 14 goes all the way to a medical system that the Board of  
 15 Registration that won't even police themselves and get rid  
 16 of some of these doctors that are doing so many unnecessary  
 17 operations and no doubt probably telling some people they  
 18 have cancer when they really don't even have it. I'm dis-  
 19 turbed about all these sort of things. I would like to see  
 20 an investigation, I would like to see the EPA really do their  
 21 job, I know it's tough under this, especially under the  
 22 Reagan administration. I know you've got big business really  
 23 fighting you, but I'd like to see the people support the EPA  
 24 more, insist that they do their job more, and then back them  
 25 up. I think any politician that's on our side, that will

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1 stand up to business and not let them come out with all the  
 2 phony public relations schemes, it seems like they'll spend  
 3 more money on that than they will cleaning up the mess and  
 4 protecting people's health. Sometimes I even think the EPA  
 5 ought to change their name to Industrial Public Relations.

6 In conclusion, we have a constitutional right to  
 7 life in this country and no business has the right to take  
 8 it away from us. Thank you.

9 MS. MEANEY: Thank you, Mr. Bleakney. The next  
 10 speaker will be George Krim.

11 MR. KRIM: Good evening, everybody. I'd like to  
 12 make a statement for the record, please.

13 MS. MEANEY: Would you give your name and  
 14 affiliation, please?

15 MR. KRIM: Yes. My name is George Krim and I am a  
 16 resident of Holbrook, having resided here for over twenty-  
 17 three years. I am also President of Adolf Bauer, Inc., which  
 18 occupies the property adjacent to Baird and McGuire. Our  
 19 company employs about fifty-five people. On behalf of Adolf  
 20 Bauer, it's employees and local residents, I would like to  
 21 extend my concern about the method of disposal of industrial  
 22 waste at the site. I would like assurances that the methods  
 23 employed to dispose of the industrial waste will not be harm-  
 24 ful or injurious to the health of our employees and local  
 25 residents. I am skeptical of alternate 4M because it says,



1 "It is designed to minimize present or future threats." I  
2 want to be sure that it eliminates any threat, present or in  
3 the future. We are afraid that the methods employed have not  
4 been tested as to their effect on human beings. Basically,  
5 we do not want our employees and local neighbors to be guinea  
6 pigs. I strongly recommend and advocate that all decisions  
7 relevant to proposed methods of removal are duly cleared  
8 through the Holbrook task force, and that the task force  
9 provide ongoing input to our company and local residents  
10 about these decisions. May I also take this opportunity to  
11 thank this committee for allowing me time to make this state-  
12 ment.

13 MS. MEANEY: Thank you very much. The next speaker  
14 will be Thomas Cummings.

15 MR. CUMMINGS: Thomas R. Cummings, Superintendent  
16 of Public Works in the town of Holbrook. Some of the comments  
17 I'll make tonight were spoken of previously by Representative  
18 Hayes and members of the Board of Selectmen. It concerns my  
19 official address, a total commitment by Federal and State  
20 agencies to implement a total clean-up program that will  
21 insure the protection of health in the environment for the  
22 citizens of the town of Holbrook and the surrounding  
23 communities. This commitment, not only shall serve on a  
24 basis of the ongoing work, but will extend to the future  
25 years with the necessary funds, personnel and expertise to

1 monitor, and continue whatever long range plan may be  
2 necessary for a final closure.

3 I have a concern of the Lake Holbrook's sewer  
4 interceptor, which flows directly alongside the Cochato  
5 River and Sylvan Lake. The interceptor should be considered  
6 at all times to be a leeching program with the contamination  
7 which it may have infiltrated it, and which has a direct  
8 bearing on the Cochato River and the downstream waterways.  
9 In the relationship to our water supply, the towns of Randolph  
10 and Holbrook have lost a water source capable of producing  
11 over two million gallons per day. Resources and monies to  
12 obtain other supplies for reopening of the Donna Road well  
13 field, with a new state-of-the-art treatment facility shall  
14 be necessary for the future demands of both the towns of  
15 Randolph and Holbrook. Thank you.

16 MS. MEANEY: Thank you, Mr. Cummings. Anne Gordon?

17 MS. GORDON: I didn't think I'd have to get up here  
18 at first, but I've been very concerned about the chemical  
19 content and have asked about it at least ten years ago. And  
20 I think in order to prevent another Baird-McGuire, the EPA  
21 should require at least monthly tests of the chemicals in  
22 the waters and what parts per million or whatever chemicals  
23 are dangerous to the population, and I think that would  
24 prevent future Baird-McGuires.

25 MS. MEANEY: Thank you very much. The next speaker

1 will be Walter Fogg.

2 MR. FOGG: Good evening. My comments, I am Walter  
3 Fogg, a resident of Braintree. My comments tonight are  
4 really about participation. And, first of all, let me say  
5 all of us appreciate, I think most of us anyhow, your efforts,  
6 the EPA's efforts, the task force efforts, to clean up the  
7 environment and to minimize the health risks of this toxic  
8 site.

9 But I find it very difficult as a citizen to have  
10 something in form and concrete to say about the alternatives  
11 for cleaning up the site. I appreciate being asked tonight,  
12 but at this stage in our deliberations, the alternatives are  
13 just abstract design possibilities, some of which are based  
14 upon theories and data that are themselves subject to some  
15 controversy. I think we would perhaps get more public parti-  
16 cipation and more informed debate if we would allow public  
17 review meetings after the decision of alternative modes of  
18 cleaning up the site was made. Then we could possibly find  
19 too, whatever decision was made by the EPA if need be and do  
20 this before the decision is etched in stone and is difficult  
21 to backtrack. This way, it seems to me, to allow public  
22 participation after the decision would make the process much  
23 more rational and certainly make citizens like myself more  
24 comfortable with making comments. It would also make the  
25 EPA and the government more accountable to the public.

1 As I understand it, the implementation of the clean-  
 2 up of Love Canal involved very inadequate coordination and  
 3 cooperation between government agencies, and it took much  
 4 longer than what they expected with a great deal of confusion  
 5 and people stepping over each other. And I just want to make  
 6 sure that does not happen in this particular case and the only  
 7 way to prevent that, it seems to me, is to not simply have a  
 8 task force, but make sure the task force holds open meetings  
 9 and everybody stays well informed.

10 Please allow me to remind people of something which  
 11 I think might get lost. Namely, that the judgment of the  
 12 extent of the risks involved in each clean-up plan we have  
 13 before us, the judgment of the risks involved is a technical  
 14 judgment, made by competent engineers and decision theorists.  
 15 That is really a technical judgment. But, whether a certain  
 16 risk level is acceptable, is the public's decision. It's  
 17 my decision and your decision, that should be made through  
 18 the continuous political process and open meetings.

19 Whether the engineers at General Motors can build  
 20 a car with these kinds of specifications with this kind of  
 21 safety and so forth is, of course, a technical engineering  
 22 decision, but whether I buy the car is my decision, my value  
 23 judgment. So, likewise, whether we buy this, whatever this  
 24 is by way of alternative to clean up the site is really our  
 25 decision and ought to be made through a continuous political

1 process. The decision that balances the risks to life and  
2 health against economic costs is really again, as I say, a  
3 value judgment not a technical one. Given the costs, only  
4 we, the people in this area, should decide how much safety  
5 we want. Thank you.

6 MS. MEANEY: Thank you, Mr. Fogg. Leah Abbott?

7 MS. ABBOTT: Good evening, my name is Leah Abbott.  
8 I am a resident of Holbrook, a member of the task force and  
9 a member of PURE. Tonight I am speaking to you on behalf of  
10 PURE. PURE would like to advocate the following:

- 11 1. A permanent, that permanent clean-up technologies  
12 that will eliminate the source of contamination and low risk  
13 to the public's health and safety.
- 14 2. That innovative up to date and proven technology  
15 should be used with public approval.
- 16 3. That new testing and evaluations of the site  
17 should be done when new technologies are available.
- 18 4. Treatment and temporary storage only for Baird-  
19 McGuire waste.
- 20 5. Public participation and decision making roles  
21 throughout the entire cleaning process.
- 22 6. Flexibility in the final clean-up option, the  
23 record of decision in order to allow for better design and  
24 clean-up plans that become available and meet with community  
25 approval.

1                   7. Constant monitoring of the contamination levels  
2 and clean-up with a citizen participation role to direct any  
3 change deemed necessary during clean-up. And number

4                   8. The importance of public education should be  
5 addressed in all our school systems. Our children need the  
6 education related to the dangers of this site. By educating  
7 our children perhaps we'll render intelligent adults capable  
8 of taking charge of their future. Thank you.

9                   MS. MEANEY: Thank you, Leah. Andy Prasnal?

10                   MR. PRASNAL: Good evening, my name is Andy Prasnal.  
11 I am a Holbrook delegate at large on the Baird-McGuire task  
12 force. And while I am in complete agreement with the task  
13 force recommendations, my three or four comments tonight rep-  
14 resent my own independent thoughts as a Holbrook resident  
15 and in representing my immediate families living in Holbrook  
16 and Randolph. First, I think that the R.O.D. should address  
17 pre-plan procedures concerned with the flexibility of chang-  
18 ing long-term clean-up directions based on either spending  
19 pre-test failures or proven innovative technology that comes  
20 down the way as we get into the actual implementation process.

21                   The second thing, the R.O.D. should look at  
22 developing some sort of financial control mechanism to make  
23 the monies awarded in this project intact, for the entire  
24 time of the implementation, excuse me, either the including  
25 I should say, the design and implementation of this process.

1 We don't want a consideration, or we don't want a situation  
 2 happening. We're seven years into this process, there are no  
 3 more monies for the project.

4 Thirdly, in an effort to continue this communication  
 5 process, I'd like to be able to have the R.O.D. address  
 6 quarterly the updates given via cable TV or various news-  
 7 papers on an ongoing basis.

8 Fourth, the technologies that we're talking about  
 9 in terms of alternatives, are talking at this point about  
 10 neutralizing soils. If the alternative, if the R.O.D. should  
 11 go with this type of a process, based on my readings and  
 12 involvement, I would like to go for extra monies with respect  
 13 to heat excavation as opposed to surface excavation in order  
 14 to speed up the ground water purification process and also  
 15 to prevent the long term migration of pollutants through the  
 16 cracked bed rock.

17 And finally, the environmental clean-up projects  
 18 that are ongoing throughout the United States is becoming a  
 19 very, very big business here in the United States. And, in  
 20 light of that fact, I think that the R.O.D. should address  
 21 the possibility at some point of delegating this project to  
 22 big business in terms of a private enterprise managing the  
 23 process if five or ten years from now, with the agreement of  
 24 Holbrook, Randolph, Braintree and the state it becomes more  
 25 efficient to do so. Thank you very much.

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1 MS. MEANEY: Thank you very much. The next speaker  
2 will be Francis Condon.

3 MR. CONDON: I am going to time myself. My comments  
4 are for myself, my wife and my children, including my son,  
5 David. I have to admit to you that I am not a member of PURE,  
6 the Holbrook task force, or any other group that I should be  
7 a member of because I don't believe I have the patience to  
8 control my temper when red tape is thrown at me when it con-  
9 cerns the safety of my children.

10 My son, David, is two. The fact that he will see  
11 his third birthday is through the grace of God and the work  
12 of his doctors and nurses. He has a cancer called acute  
13 lymphositic leukemia. It may be debated for many years how  
14 he got that disease. I request that you consider it as a  
15 possibility that the hazardous waste dump up the street from  
16 my house is a contributing factor. It is a quirk of fate  
17 that one of his treatments occurred today.

18 Today one of his treatments, excuse me, today his  
19 treatment consisted of two needles into his spine, to remove  
20 fluid and to inject poisons into his system. Another needle,  
21 approximately an eighth of an inch wide was injected into his  
22 hip forcefully enough to break the bone and remove bone  
23 marrow. These items have to be tested. As I said, one of  
24 the items injected into his spine is a poison. The only way  
25 that the doctors can assure me that my son will live is to



1 control, is for a controlled poisoning of his system. The  
 2 side effect of that is that he is at home right now. One of  
 3 his treatments have a side effect of increasing his hunger.  
 4 Another drug causes him to vomit. I am sorry that I have to  
 5 bring these items to your attention, but my son has been robbed  
 6 of one month of his life while he stayed in a hospital. The  
 7 pain, the suffering that he endured as an innocent child,  
 8 the swings of his mood as a result of his chemotherapy are  
 9 something that I cannot adequately describe to you. I ask  
 10 you to imagine them happening to your children. I think God  
 11 that it has not happened to your children. I think God that  
 12 he has given his doctors the intelligence to deal with it.

13 Thankfully he has a type of cancer that if the per-  
 14 centages are with him he will live. The problem is that they  
 15 don't know how long. His treatments are so radically new  
 16 that no one has lived. I don't mean to be misconstruing the  
 17 situation, but fifteen years ago if my son had been a victim  
 18 of this disease, he would not have lived. Through the  
 19 American Cancer Society, the Leukemia Foundation and other  
 20 charities, the doctors have been able to come up with these  
 21 treatments, giving us hope as parents that our boy will live  
 22 a normal and healthy life. In short, what I am asking you,  
 23 after giving you my background as a parent, may be outrageous  
 24 to some, I am simply asking that the clean-up of this site be  
 25 thorough and conducted as safely as possible, regardless of

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1 cost. I have trouble justifying costs in other areas when it  
 2 comes to the life and safety of my children. Not to do this  
 3 would condemn adults and children of this community to the  
 4 fate of my son and their possible death.

5 I thank you, those members who have been able to  
 6 bring these items to the consideration of the EPA and the  
 7 Federal government. I do not have the intelligence to do so  
 8 adequately. I have only my heart. Thank you very much for  
 9 your time and attention.

10 MS. MEANEY: Thank you very much, Mr. Condon.  
 11 Senator Harold, I believe is here.

12 SENATOR HAROLD: I, first of all, want to thank the  
 13 EPA and the State DEQE for the resources, both in personnel  
 14 and time and otherwise, in helping to identify what for many  
 15 of us has been an unknown hazard here in town, and now trying  
 16 to find out indeed how we can clean up that hazard. I would  
 17 like to reiterate the recommendations of the task force led  
 18 by Representative Hayes and too, along with both the town  
 19 officials and the residents, both of Holbrook, Braintree and  
 20 Randolph; specifically as regards the continued public  
 21 participation. I think this has certainly been highlighted,  
 22 the need to continue this task force, both as an involved and  
 23 fully participatory group, but also one that has the necessary  
 24 funds to participate both with the technology and the personnel  
 25 that may be required.

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1 I might point out the necessity for public partici-  
 2 pation is pointed out in two ways. First of all we want to  
 3 benefit from the continuing technology that develops in this  
 4 whole clean-up area, because as we know there's no replication  
 5 of the Baird-McGuire site in the country. I would think that  
 6 some of the things that will be done here in Holbrook will  
 7 indeed be innovative. And as this whole process continues  
 8 there may be even further innovations. So as the clean-up  
 9 alternative is evolved and modified there will be a necessity  
 10 for continued public participation. But also, even as a  
 11 result of the recommendations that were made to us, specifi-  
 12 cally option 4M. This was put together, I think in some ways  
 13 to meet a deadline, and as such did not have the necessary  
 14 engineering back-up and indeed did not even address the  
 15 resolution of the wetlands issue. So I think if we're going  
 16 to have an actual resolution, it should be one that has both  
 17 the engineering and conclusion on all issues involved. And,  
 18 if not, it's going to necessitate a continued public partici-  
 19 pation.

20 On the issue of a realistic schedule, I think all  
 21 of us when we saw schedules that would recommend as long as  
 22 40 to 50 years, I think that anyone with any common sense  
 23 would tell you this would surely not be of benefit to the  
 24 town of Holbrook. Because right now we benefit from the fact  
 25 that we are a national priority, and we have the national

1 attention and that any clean-up that would go on for an  
 2 extended period of time would really force us to on a constant  
 3 basis reiterate and to try to continue that priority, which  
 4 we know in politics is not always that easy and particularly  
 5 with the funding sources that sometimes are reallocated might  
 6 not be possible. As was mentioned earlier, there is necessity  
 7 for continued monitoring because right now we do not know, I  
 8 don't think anyone here, either the consultants or the EPA or  
 9 DEQE can tell with any certainty what the results will be for  
 10 the neighbors at South Street, what will be the results for  
 11 the neighbors of Cochato River, or the unnamed brook or even  
 12 those people further downstream. I think that again points  
 13 out the necessity of continued monitoring to let people know  
 14 as we clean up various sites, what the impact will be for the  
 15 neighbors and indeed for the town. As regards the incineration  
 16 site, I know that Representative Hayes has already  
 17 mentioned that this is an option that we think is worth further  
 18 consideration, but in any event, there should be no off-site  
 19 waste disposed of at the South Street Baird-McGuire site.

20 And finally, I think it's been reiterated, that  
 21 probably as the first priority that any clean-up has to be  
 22 indeed a clean-up. A final destruction of the waste on the  
 23 site and not just a storage. So we hope that while without  
 24 recommending one of the named alternatives that these elements  
 25 will continue to be part of the resolution of the Baird-McGuire

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1 clean-up. And again I want to thank the EPA for their  
 2 continued attention to the site and particularly to Winston  
 3 who was down here just last week at the request of  
 4 Representative Hayes and Congressman Donnelly to know first  
 5 hand the issues involved here and the struggle we have in  
 6 trying to recommend a clean-up proposal. Thank you.

7 MS. MEANY: Thank you very much. The next speaker  
 8 will be Amy Goldsmith.

9 MS. GOLDSMITH: My name is Amy Goldsmith. I'm the  
 10 Boston Director of Clean Water Action Project and a member of  
 11 the Citizen's Advisory Task Force and I'd like to make a  
 12 couple of statements. Some of it reiterating what the task  
 13 force has worked so hard on in the past year and the goals  
 14 that we want to achieve, but also to make some other points  
 15 relative to the public participation. I think everybody's  
 16 made a clear point that we want a permanent clean-up technol-  
 17 ogy, but we don't want the slap-the-cat technologies here, if  
 18 you want to call it that. We want something that's a  
 19 permanent clean-up, but also doesn't transfer the problem from  
 20 one community to another, or use a technology that, in fact,  
 21 instead of putting it into our ground water, in fact puts it  
 22 up into the air, which an incinerator or other options may  
 23 pose that. And that's why we need, and it's very important  
 24 that we have a public participation mechanism from the  
 25 beginning to the very end. This task force, it's here for a

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1 purpose. It wants to work together with the EPA and with the  
 2 state, and it can't do that if the EPA or the state shuts the  
 3 door on us after September 8th. We realize on one level  
 4 there's not a legal avenue for us to force you to open that  
 5 door other than going to the courts, but it would be a very  
 6 big mistake for the EPA to not include the task force and the  
 7 community in the design phase of the construction phase and  
 8 the monitoring, not just of whether there are emissions coming  
 9 out as a result of the clean-ups being done, but also an  
 10 ability to say, "stop", we've had enough of this kind of  
 11 technology, it's not working here, we have to sit down,  
 12 reevaluate and relook at what we're doing here at the site.  
 13 It's unclear to me from the discussions that have happened  
 14 between the task force and the EPA and the state where that  
 15 door is opening. And I just want to make sure that when the  
 16 record of decision comes out, there's not just a flexibility  
 17 in the technology that's chosen, but a flexibility in terms  
 18 of how the public participation mechanism works out. And we  
 19 realize that we're all learning at this stage, but I think  
 20 that the Baird-McGuire task force is a model for us here, but  
 21 also around the country.

22           Something else that's really important in terms of  
 23 the work that needs to be done here at the site, as I mentioned  
 24 in terms of the monitoring in terms of the technologies, but  
 25 also there's been a lot of discussion about the water, and

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1 it's sort of inherent in Clean Water Action Project's name,  
 2 is to make sure that we protect the water, and whether it was  
 3 this man's son who drank water that was still contaminated or  
 4 whether there was something that as parents had picked up and  
 5 transferred to their sons and daughters. There are a lot of  
 6 people in this audience from the stories that I've been told,  
 7 time and time again, about family or personal health problems,  
 8 you don't know where they come from. And it may not all be  
 9 the Baird-McGuire site. But these are personal stories that  
 10 everybody carries and really need to be told in order to make  
 11 sure that we work for the permanent clean-up. And I think we  
 12 all have not just in our heart, but in our minds, the ability  
 13 to get the right kind of clean-up here at this site. And I  
 14 think as reflected in the kinds of long term efforts that the  
 15 task force has made, that PURE has made, that Clean Water  
 16 Action Project has made through our canvass staff, through the  
 17 fliers that have come out, on everybody. There have been lots  
 18 of volunteers, lots of people coming out, not just to hearings  
 19 but involved in the day to day things that have been going on.  
 20 And that really reflects the long term commitment that we've  
 21 made here toward getting a clean-up and we're just hoping, in  
 22 fact, we want guarantees that the EPA and the state will make  
 23 that same long-term commitment for the clean-up that we want  
 24 to have here, and it has to be the community's decision as  
 25 to the clean-up technologies, not just the EPA behind the

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1 door that is opened later, after the decision has been made.  
 2 We need access all through the process, and that is really  
 3 the most critical point, because as was stated before, if  
 4 that dialogue and cooperation doesn't happen now, the clean-up  
 5 will slow down and, in fact, be ineffective and may be the  
 6 wrong choice, and we don't want to have to backtrack on that.

7 So that's the statement I'd like to make, and I  
 8 really thank the opportunity to speak, but also I very much  
 9 appreciate Bob Shatten and all the other people at the EPA  
 10 for all those endless meetings that we've all had to bear  
 11 through, and the task force has just been wonderful, and I  
 12 really appreciate being able to serve on that task force and  
 13 work together in a cooperative effort. Thank you.

14 MS. MEANEY: Thank you, Amy. The next speaker is  
 15 JoAnne O'Donnell.

16 MS. O'DONNELL: My name is JoAnne O'Donnell, I'm  
 17 a member of PURE and I am an alternate member of the task  
 18 force. I have no prepared text -- as a public citizen. But  
 19 as a public citizen, I have sat with the task force for over  
 20 a year. I have listened to people who asked questions at the  
 21 public meeting two weeks ago, questions about responsibilities,  
 22 questions about whoever gave permission to open wells --  
 23 already permeated with a filthy lake and chemical companies  
 24 -- there are no answers to these questions -- the fact that  
 25 they are questions, I'd still like to have the answer.



1 I've listened to people talk about the flow of the  
 2 Cochato as it runs downstream. I've listened to the experts  
 3 tell us that Mother Nature is taking care of impurities as  
 4 they go downstream, as it's collected in the till. I've also  
 5 listened, and in 1960 this river was dredged and there was no  
 6 till collecting the impurities. So what I've heard is,  
 7 anything that was running, any contamination in the water  
 8 downstream, ran straight through to the Richardi. And people  
 9 have asked questions, where are, why is there not levels of  
 10 pollution in the Richardi? Perhaps, because we drink it. I  
 11 don't have the answers to this, but there are many answers  
 12 that still remain unanswered.

13 What I'd like to ask in concurring is that if the  
 14 EPA do allot us money, to continue to allow us to have a  
 15 private consultant, that they do consider entertaining propo-  
 16 sals relocating the Cochato River so in a flood condition  
 17 you never have to worry about any of the impurities going  
 18 downstream. Something else that I have heard is that there  
 19 are more impurities going down the Cochato than from the  
 20 Baird-McGuire site. -- There's more pollution after Baird-  
 21 McGuire coming approximately from the land site. We have to  
 22 assure that this never touches our water system again.

23 And in concurrence I would like to ask that you  
 24 insure us a flexible R.O.D. -- in concrete. That we are  
 25 allowed the new technologies as they are developed. Thank you.

1 MS. MEANEY: Thank you very much, JoAnne. Paul  
2 Connors?

3 MR. CONNORS: Thank you very much. My name for the  
4 record is Paul Connors. I am a member of the Randolph Board  
5 of Selectmen. I am also a member of the Randolph Board of  
6 Health. I am here to offer the town's support of the task  
7 force recommendation as well as compliment the task force on  
8 the work that they did in bringing the report forward.

9 I have some concerns, and my concerns are based  
10 primarily on being a member of the Board of Health and knowing  
11 what has happened with the environment. The environment,  
12 and I would just like to make some comments that are going to  
13 be directed to the APA, EPA and the DEQE.

14 The problems that we're having now affect the  
15 quality of life, and the quality of life as it applies to  
16 you and I as citizens in the communities in which we reside.  
17 And we're finding some problems, and these problems have been  
18 caused by big business. Well, I can't be bothered with the  
19 problems of big business, that they're creating and ruining  
20 our lifestyle, while they reap the profits. I think that  
21 what we have to do is to fight that and come up with some  
22 additional funding, and I am sympathetic to the EPA and  
23 DEQE in that on two occasions in Randolph when we've had  
24 areas that have been affected in Randolph that we've had to  
25 call in the EPA and the DEQE, there's a shortage of help, it

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1 takes a long time to get something done. It continually goes  
 2 to study, to committee, to task force and the problem continues  
 3 I think the previous speaker got up and said something about  
 4 nothing should be cast in concrete. I would suggest that any  
 5 funding done should be open ended funding and something should  
 6 be undertaken soon to start this project. Because to not  
 7 move forward now and at least do something is to be in danger  
 8 of falling back.

9 If we open-end funding and get something started  
 10 in the area, clean up the problem as technology produces  
 11 more problems in the area that we haven't uncovered yet, you  
 12 can continually address it. It's too bad that it takes so  
 13 long to clean something up and whatever is said now in the  
 14 task committee report does not necessarily mean the problem  
 15 is going to be cleaned up. You're going to clean up what is  
 16 addressed now, but if you don't open-end the funds and some-  
 17 thing else is uncovered later, and you're going to go through  
 18 a continual series of events as you are going through now.

19 So I think the report is good. I think something  
 20 should be done, but I really would stress open-ended funding  
 21 so that the project can be started now and not delayed any  
 22 further. Thank you very much.

23 MS. MEANEY: Thank you very much, Mr. Connors.

24 Those are the people who have signed up to talk.

25 However, is there anybody else right now who would

1 like to stand up to speak?

2 Yes, please come on down. It's a long walk.

3 MS. COLE: I'm JoAnne Cole, 74 South Street. I've  
4 watched Baird-McGuire since it guzzled up on that lot down  
5 there on South Street. I watched the Selectmen as they moved  
6 and got us the Superfund money and I watched until I was  
7 restricted to go down there because it was so bad. I agree  
8 with Mr. Connors, the Selectman from Randolph. I don't see  
9 any lawyers that are here that represent the legal aspects of  
10 where the liability comes down to. Certainly Baird-McGuire  
11 has been labeled as the villain in the plot, but they weren't  
12 alone in this. They had a partner, and the partners were  
13 those manufacturers of those deadly and those awful  
14 contaminants that have left us to be financially and  
15 emotionally responsible for them. The Selectmen did go before  
16 and get additional funding and that funding went for, you  
17 know, the quick things that had to be done. But in the long  
18 range who was really liable? I would like to see EPA and  
19 DEQE begin to lobby, begin to go after either some kind of a  
20 lobbying effect that affect big business to the degree that  
21 they couldn't just sit back and be smug with the profits.  
22 When they researched this material they knew that it couldn't  
23 break down, they knew it wasn't biodegradable. We just, we  
24 may have bought the products, but we did not have that  
25 knowledge. I agree with what Mr. Connors says. It's about

1 time that we begin to go financially to find out who is  
 2 certainly liable and who was partners with Baird-McGuire in  
 3 leaving this awful mess for Holbrook to pick up after. Thank  
 4 you.

5 MS. MEANEY: Is there anybody else that would like  
 6 to make a comment now? Or read something into the record?  
 7 Well before closing this formal part of the hearing I want to  
 8 tell all of you and thank all of you for the extremely  
 9 thoughtful and careful comments that have been made in this  
 10 public hearing tonight. We have a great debt of gratitude to  
 11 Representative Hayes and the task force that people through-  
 12 out the evening have talked about in working so very hard and  
 13 long on this, as we've gone through the many public meetings  
 14 that have come thus far. We also appreciate the members of  
 15 the community that have taken the time to talk tonight, and  
 16 other members of the town administration. So thank you  
 17 enormously for that, and Jim Coleman you wanted to say some-  
 18 thing on behalf of the state?

19 MR. COLEMAN: Yes, I just also want to thank  
 20 Representative Hayes, the Holbrook and other town officials,  
 21 the task force members and all the citizens who came out  
 22 tonight, who have spent apparently hundreds and hundreds of  
 23 hours working and studying this problem. I am very pleased  
 24 and DEQE is very pleased at the participation effort. We  
 25 believe that the task force is a model, and we support it

1 and will continue to support it, and thank you all very much  
2 for your comments.

3 MS. MEANEY: Did you want to have one more comment?

4 DR. COLE: I have a question.

5 MS. MEANEY: We're not answering questions now.  
6 Do you want to read something into the record?

7 DR. COLE: No thank you. I just have a procedural  
8 in that you made the statement that you were commenting on  
9 draft feasibilities. I'm wondering what your procedure is  
10 from here on in. I know you're not answering questions, but  
11 if its procedural, explain exactly how this, how the comments  
12 go into the decision making and what happens and whether  
13 you're still intending to have a record of decision by  
14 September 30, to clarify that would be very helpful to me.

15 MS. MEANEY: I would be very happy to, let me how-  
16 ever at this point, close the public hearing part of this  
17 meeting and I will go on the answer your questions.

18 (Whereupon, the hearing was adjourned at 10:45 P.M.)

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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceedings  
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in the matter of: EPA-(TOWN OF HOLBROOK) BAIRD & MCGUIRE  
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were held as herein appears and that this is the original  
transcript thereof for the file of the Department  
or Commission.

*Steve Kallala*  
Official Reporter

DATE: SEPT. 8, 1986