COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

IN RE: ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE LISTENING SESSION

BEFORE: CARL JONES, JR., ESQUIRE, Director
PATRICK MCDONNELL, Secretary
JIM MILLER, Regional Director
NORA ALWINE, Regional Coordinator

HEARING: Thursday, April 27, 2016
5:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Tom Ridge Environmental Center
301 Peninsula Drive
Erie, PA 16505

WITNESSES: Adam Trott, Kathleen Lutz, Freda Tepfer,
Cindy Pervis, Ed Kissel, Ann McCarthy,
James Miller, Paul Burroughs, Mary Markley

ORIGINAL

Reporter: Shannon C. Fortsch

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APPEARANCES

ALSO PRESENT:

Cole Lewis
Tom McClure
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MR. JONES:

Good afternoon. I am Carl Jones. I'll give you sort of a brief overview of why we're here today. I hope you all are here for our Environmental Justice Listening Session. This is the fourth stop on our nine-stop tour.

After I get done reading this brief overview, the Secretary will give introductory remarks. And then I'll come right back to sort of give an overlay of the Office of Environmental Justice, historically where we've been as well as sort of the purpose of our listening tour, along with questions.

The pamphlet's been sent out to frame our conversations, coupled with contact information for you all to continue this sort of information dialogue with us. And if you all pick up things after we leave, you'll see those contact information again. That's hugely important.

I'll be back in the background and let the Secretary do introductory remarks.

Thank you.

MR. MCDONNELL:
Thank you, Carl.
Hello, I’m Pat McDonnell. I’m the Acting Secretary for DEP.

Thank you, first, all for coming out tonight. Getting the perspective is why we’re here. Making sure we’re hearing from you all is --- is important, so I’m keeping this brief, because that --- that is the purpose of tonight.

Just so you can put this in some context, it’s been over ten years since we really first looked at our environmental justice policies, development of the definitions of what our --- what our purpose was going to be. And frankly, it’s past time that we have this conversation.

I use the conversation very specifically in this because I want to make sure this is ongoing dialogue. This is the start of a process. This is not the entirety of the process.

So you can expect, as we get the feedback, we will be taking that in, looking at our policies and reflecting that back out and --- and having a --- an iterative process here in terms of understanding what we need --- need to be doing and what we can do better about environmental justice and our public participation processes more generally.
So thank you all. Thank you for --- for being here tonight, and I look forward to --- to your all perspectives.

MR. JONES:

Thank you, Secretary McDonnell.

I sort of want to begin the program, before we turn it over to you, with sort of a brief overview of the Office of Environmental Justice.

So if we could go to the first slide, I'll start with sort of the first --- what is environmental justice? Our website's sort of laying a very, sort of, detailed review of what sort of history our environmental justice has been, and how has it evolved throughout the Commonwealth.

Well, sort of simply put, environmental justice really seeks to make sure that everyone has an equal seat at the table. The main sort of goal and sort of the premise of the environmental justice movement started as an offshoot of the environmental and civil rights movements of the '60s and '70s.

The history in Pennsylvania has been more recent in that. In the late 1990s, there was the creation of internal work groups, and those work groups led to the creation of an internal DEP work group that sort of formed the --- the nexus for the
Department of Environmental Justice. At that time, it was called the Office of Environmental Advocate. That group that was formed in the late 1990s created a 2001 report. That report is on our website.

I will reference our website often. It is a great place to look for updated information.

That 2001 report led to the 2004 Environmental Justice Public Participation Policy. That policy has been what has guided Pennsylvania as it related to environmental justice since inception.

From that policy, we defined environmental justice communities by looking at poverty and risk. Currently, Pennsylvania has 851 environmental justice communities using our current definition.

The nexus behind this listening tour is to really try and figure out if that definition works for the Commonwealth today, and are we actually meeting the goals of what environmental justice really means for the citizens of the Commonwealth.

The Office of Environmental Justice has three main goals. Those three goals are inside of this handy pamphlet that is outside. So I ask you to take one, if you haven’t already. They lay out the details for what these three goals are. They’re
minimizing adverse environmental impacts, empowering communities and fostering economic opportunities.

Framing questions. In anticipation of this meeting, we really are here to hear from you, so I'm trying to leave as much time as possible for everyone to have time to speak. We sent out framing questions in order for our conversation to be guided. We're trying to seek information that will allow us to sort of evaluate our program and the way that we do environmental justice throughout the Department.

That being said, we're here to hear from you. So if there are topics that are not covered on this list of seven questions, feel free to use your time to address those needs as well.

Logistically, each speaker will have three minutes. There will be a sign that says when you have one minute, when there are 30 seconds left and when there are 15 seconds left. We ask that everyone respect the time limits, as we have people inside the room and want to get to as many people as possible.

If there is time after every speaker who has wished to speak has spoken, we will allot additional time for repeat speakers to come back up.

Housekeeping. The restrooms are

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directly out this door and to your left, and in a hard
right, there are water fountains. And the men's and
women's rooms are right there. The exit --- there's
one also immediately down this hall, in addition to
the one behind you.

All right. I will go to the last page, and then we'll come back to this framing question.

At the end, I will come back and sort of thank all of you for coming. We'll put this sheet
back up. It has our ways to reach us.

So in addition to online, where you can submit comments until May 25th, we're also accepting
written comments as well until May 25th. All comments that are received from you or from your neighbors or
friend who weren't able to be here today who couldn't give testimony, we would greatly appreciate as much
input as possible.

So with that being said, we turn it over to you all to give us testimony. At times, it may
seem frustrating if you're asking a question and we don't respond. Part of our process and part of the
process that we have consistently applied from this listening tour is to take in information and not to
respond back. So please don't believe that we aren't listening to you. We are. We're keeping our process
consistent.

So with that being said, I'll turn over to Nora to call the first name.

Thank you all.

MS. ALWIN E:

First up is Kathleen Lutz.

MS. LUTZ:

Hi, I'm just letting Adam Trott go ahead of me.

MS. ALWINE:

Oh, okay.

MR. JONES:

No, just stand there. Wait, well, sure. You can come up to the mic.

MR. TROTT:

Sure. Okay.

MR. JONES:

And make sure you state your name and spell it for the stenographer so that they have it for the record.

MR. TROTT:

Okay. Thank you.

Adam Trott, T-R-O-T-T. I live here in Erie.

What I wanted to touch base on was some
lessons we learned in our struggle to stop the
demolition of the critical pedestrian and bicycle
linkage on the east side of town, which happens to be
in the second highest poverty area in the city of
Erie.

What we discovered in our work is that
City Hall, lacking any planning expertise, had studied
this bridge about --- and whether to demolish it or
not, and the study completely disregarded any
pedestrian or bicycle usage.

Unfortunately, in that part of town,
that's one of the highest areas that the people don't
have a vehicle. And this linkage is a --- is a
critical link over the railroad tracks that connects
to impoverished neighborhood areas.

And the one on the south side has all
the retail businesses. The one on the north side has
a little bit of retail, but it has all the schools and
churches.

So it's a very critical link for them,
and in our challenge to --- to try and stop the
demolition, well, we've discovered some things that
were very interesting about this.

One was that we --- we questioned why
the study that was approved by the Federal Highway
Administration said that there were no environmental justice issues. And we first brought up, well, that's the most --- the second most impoverished area in the city. How could removing a critical linkage not be able to affect them?

And their response to that is that it was presented to them by City Hall that it was just a neighborhood project. So the scope of the consideration of the environmental justice was limited just to that neighborhood.

So then --- thank you.

So then, we asked, well, how about the fact that if you take that away, a majority of the people that use it, biking and pedestrian modality-wise --- you're incredibly impacting their daily life. And they --- they said, well, that's not a classified minority group. If we were hitting African-Americans, Native Americans, Hispanics, whatever, then that would be a group. But people who don't have cars is not a group.

So to us, that was a real eye-opener that that might be an aspect about determining social justice that is lacking in our --- in our parameters when we evaluate these things. Besides that, they're doing an awful lot to access people who don't engage
the planning system.

Okay. Thank you.

MS. ALWINE:

Leanne Sestak?

MS. LUTZ:

She isn’t here.

MS. ALWINE:

Oh.

Alison Kaminski?

Kathleen, would you like to speak?

MS. LUTZ:

Sure, I’ll come up.

MS. ALWINE:

Okay.

MS. LUTZ:

Hi, I’m Kathleen Lutz, and I’m an independent advocate for families who have children with special needs. And I did not come here today with any prepared statement or response to these questions. But as you spoke, Carl, the environmental justice concern that’s most pressing to me in this community is the issue of lead poisoning in children.

We became aware of high levels of lead in --- in --- in children in this community after hearing about the extremely high levels of lead in the
water in Flint, Michigan.

Then, we --- we were made aware of the fact that there's actually more lead in Erie County and more children being poisoned in Erie County than in Flint, Michigan. So --- though, it's not a water issue, necessarily. It's a housing stock issue.

We began testing children, I think, twice before their second birthday for lead, especially if they're children who have Medicaid. So that would qualify as children in --- who are living in poverty, I would assume, and many children of color and even --- we have a really wide --- a diverse range of children from other countries living in our community, as well.

So I don't see any --- very many or any of those people in this meeting today, so we're not really reaching them.

And we may be identifying them as having high levels of lead in their system, but we're really not doing anything about the damage that's done to children when they have this high level of lead in their system.

Children end up in the school system. They may get identified as having special education needs, but we never trace it back to the fact that
they have high levels of lead.

When we find the high levels of lead, we
don't begin tracking them for possible disabilities in
the future or for a lack of development or
developmental issues.

So I think we need to do a much better
job of going beyond just testing and identifying them.
We need to actually support them and help them achieve
to the greatest level that they possibly can.

And we need to make sure that a parent
renting in a place that has lead paint and has
poisoned their child, when they move, because they
learned that that's where the lead is, then you don't
get a turnaround and rent it again to another family
with another child who's going to ingest that lead as
well.

So thanks.

MR. JONES:
Thank you. Thank you very much.

MS. ALWINE:
Does anyone who has not signed up wish
to speak?

MS. TEPFER:
Yes, I signed up in here.

MS. ALWINE:
Oh, okay.

**MS. TEPFER:**

I'm going up there.

My name is Freda Tepfer. I live in Erie, and I am the Resource Specialist for Erie CPR. I also have an extensive background of working on environmental documents and projects when I worked for the U.S. Forest Service in Snohomish County in Washington State.

I've been involved over the last --- for the last two years in a project concerning the --- the proposal to demolish the East Street Viaduct. And in that regard, the concern most pressing that was ignored is the impact of that project on --- on an extremely poor population. 61.9 percent of the population in the census tract adjacent to the viaduct is in poverty, and most of those are children.

As well as just the fact that Federal Highways, PennDOT and the city of Erie declined to see that as an environmental justice issue, they did not look at some of the issues of danger and concern for the kind of environment that they're putting these children into, and --- and --- and also, whoever --- whichever pedestrians are already in the community.

Currently, people are walking on this
former vehicular bridge. It’s quiet. They’re not 
walking adjacent to the vehicles, and they get to 
cross East 12th Street in a relatively quiet crossing 
with a traffic light.

They are saying it’s a superior route to 
take the people on the Bayfront Connector. The 
Bayfront Connector has a narrow walkway immediately 
adjacent to heavy traffic, including diesel vehicles, 
all kinds of large trucks, many kinds of vehicles, 
noise, splash.

And --- and --- and a factor that was 
not evaluated in the study process was the comparison 
of the quiet crossing at 12th and East Street and the 
very hazardous crossing at 12th and the Bayfront 
Connector.

The initial study said that the crossing 
would be at --- they would be routed on the south side 
of the street so they would not have to cross at the 
Bayfront Connector. And in their project newsletter, 
they’ve described that they’ve abandoned that because 
it, frankly, was never feasible.

So this is a situation where we’re 
exposing children and poor people to danger, to noise, 
to pollution in the city of Erie, where you have the 
21st most particulate pollution in the state. And all
of this --- they have been totally disregarding that
this is an environmental justice issue.

And thank you for your time.

MR. JONES:

Thank you.

MS. PERVIS:

Hi, I’m Cindy Pervis. I live in the
city of Erie.

First, I’d like to thank you very much
for coming and asking us to speak and for listening to
us.

I would like to first say that the
location of this meeting is concerning. So then, that
--- and although this is in a wonderful, wonderful
location for most things, environmental justice should
be right smack in the city of Erie. So I invite you,
next time you have a meeting, to have one there.

The lead poisoning --- I don’t know what
the connection is between this Department and --- and
speaking to the legislators, but this is a real
concern. And as we look at our school systems that
are going bankrupt, and they’re having to deal with
students that are victims of lead poisoning and the
special needs they have, the money’s just not there.

So from not only a health standpoint, a
moral standpoint, but also economically, I think it would be good if this Department can speak to our legislators about what's going on there.

In the city of Erie, the Erie Coke Plant continues to be a major concern. It's located right across the street from the Barber Center, a wonderful institute. And all of those people there — and they have the training facility across the street — are breathing that air, as well as elementary schools that are very close and also a large area of an area of poverty. So they're all having to breath that air coming from that plant that continually violates the rules.

And last, renewable energy — you know, the thing is, there's a lot of people that want renewable energy. And people with means are putting renewable energy on their homes and on their businesses.

But we have schools that certainly — and there's no tax breaks for these schools, because they don't pay taxes. I think it's high time we start developing programs where schools — especially schools in these inner-city, impoverished neighborhoods — have some renewable energy that would help them financially as well as help them grow.
with renewable energy and show the community that we care about them.

So thank you very much.

MR. JONES:

Thank you.

MS. ALWINE:

Anyone who hasn't spoken yet who would like to ---?

MR. KISSEL:

Good afternoon. My name is Ed Kassel, and I represent civic organizations under the State Coastal Zone Program, and I also have been involved in a lot of activities along our bay front.

And just recently, I've been involved in some permitting activities that were approved by DEP and by the Corps of Engineers that --- a document was submitted, the permits were submitted to the Corps and to the state. And there were conditions written in there, in the permits, to provide accessibility to low-income and the handicapped along our bay front, which, in the end, did not get done by the developers.

There's a court case that's on --- going on now on this. And the judge has ruled in favor of our zoning board by permitting activities that are contrary, I believe, to the permits that the state and

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Corps signed that were submitted by the developer for the public to enjoy the waterfront and have access to the water. And hopefully, something can be looked at.

After these permits were issued, a change took place prohibiting 600 feet of 900 feet of access along our waterfront to the Commonwealth waters with a stone barrier preventing handicapped, young --- young age groups and elderly people to access the water's edge in a very low income area on our west side. That can be checked out on the lower west side from State Street over to Cranberry Street within the poverty area.

So I encourage some help, possibly, to look into those promises and/or regulations that were permitted and then not followed up, per the permits that were issued by the state allowing the people to the water's edge.

So I thank you.

MR. JONES:
Thank you.

MS. ALWINE:
Ms. McCarthy, remember to state and spell your name.

SISTER MCCARTHY:
Thank you.
Ann McCarthy, A-N-N, M-C-C-A-R-T-H-Y, OSB. I'm a Benedictine Sister, and I live on that East side. And I live right upwind from the coke plant, and I live in that --- in the census track in the area of high poverty.

A few things I'd like to say. One --- Cindy mentioned the placement of this hearing. Also, the timing --- I don't know if you're aware that there's a major candidate's forum for mayor, and it's the one that's put on by the African-American Concerned Clergy. The people specifically who are doing the most work on environmental racism are organizing that mayoral candidate --- candidate forum at the MLK center. It starts at six o'clock.

So --- so that's another reason, I think, we're split. I know there are people that are running that forum that are very passionate about the impact of the benzene from the coke plant, the number of times that the complete ineffective action taken by any --- anyone to stop the benzene coming from the coke plant.

So they've been fined. They keep --- they pay the fine. It doesn't change, and the number of children that live in our area --- it's a high concentration. A lot of immigrants, a high
concentration of poor people.

We have our climate march this weekend.
It's starting at --- it's going to be Saturday, and
we're reflecting on the quality of water. And it
could be threatened by fracking, and we're very
cconcerned that permits would be given in the Lake Erie
watershed for fracking. And then, we're going to walk
past the coke plant and walk a few blocks up to the
park in front of the schools for a rally just to
highlight that.

One other thing I wanted to mention
about the lead --- almost every house that we've done
on our block --- we've rehabbed 14 houses, either
rehabbed or taken them down, old houses.

There's still a number that were not
rehabbed. But those that are not rehabbed and still
have the lead have young children living in them, but
the homeowners are not doing anything about the lead.

So there are programs available, but the
homeowners --- well, are not interested. And so we
have, again, the poorest children of our neighborhood,
and around our block, it's huge, living in lead,
ingesting it.

Thank you.

MS. ALWINE:
Would anyone else like to give testimony who has not?

**MR. TROTT:**

I'll take a second ——.

**MS. ALWINE:**

Okay.

A second round?

**MR. TROTT:**

Okay, thank you.

I just happened to come out —— oh, Adam Trott. I just happened to come out at the luncheon today that the subject was community engagement. And a couple points that came out of that luncheon that I think we're sharing here today. One is that —— and I'm an architect, I work with developers and all kinds of projects. And they always begrudge, you know, public hearings and things like that.

Right?

So I see that side of it, Erie CPR. One of our main objectives is to foster community engagement in the planning process. So I see the other side of that.

What came up to me in our discussion, one of the items was that when they talked about advertising a public hearing and things like that, it
became apparent that the mechanisms in place today provide access, but that access is just an open door, that's it.

The people that have the most trouble taking advantage of that access really don't have mechanisms to show up at these things. Their lives are very restricted, between multiple jobs, daycare, things like that. That access is not the same as actually getting engaged.

So another item that came up was whether --- the municipalities, like City Hall, for example. If they could empower somebody in City Hall to be an advocate for community engagement so that state agencies, such as the DEP --- obviously, we don't expect you to know all of the community advocate connections that are here in Erie. I mean, you're covering the whole state.

But if there was a point source at Community Hall or the Township Building or what have you where there is one person you call and say yes, this issue's coming up. Who do we need to get directly in touch to --- with that they can then, in turn, encourage and empower the residents to make more of an effort to come here.

And also, to help define to those
residents what their stake actually is in this. Because we've been finding that people are so disfranchised, when a project comes up, they have no idea what they have a right to expect. They're so detached from the system. And we need that medium to connect the two.

Because I think --- granted, there's a lot of people that wouldn't know what to comment to you about. But they can sure share their daily life experiences and how that could be impacted to help you assess impact.

So that was something I felt worth mentioning. Thank you.

SECRETARY MCDONNELL:
Thank you very much.

MS. TEPFER:
I'm going to testify again. So again, working with the community in that census track and the names by the --- it's just constantly apparent to us that people don't understand what is being proposed. That a facility that they use is going to be taken away from them.

They still think it's going to be fixed up or maintained or whatever. And we're constantly telling them, no, it's actually going to be
demolished, unless we can do something about it.

In the study, there were supposed to have been two more public meetings that didn't happen. And the Citizens Advisory Committee had hardly any actual residents on the committee.

I totally agree with Adam, that the City needs to have a better way to get into process. I've been trying to get on boards of the commission in the city for several years. And it's a very who do you know kind of thing.

I would also like to be on my conservation district board. I think as a soil scientist, I have a superior background to be part of that. And I might be able to get more knowledge about how to do that.

I do want to commend the DEP, I have called in some air quality violations. And you did go out and look at that. And it turned out the factory was not using proper -- they weren't cleaning their filters. A choice that was using chemicals and we were smelling chemicals in the air.

I was concerned about a seepage coming out of the banks near the water factory. And apparently, there is some pollution in that area. But I think there were four of you on the phone with me.
And so I do want to commend you for that you did actually get back to me and try to address my concerns.

Thank you.

MS. ALWINE:

Right there.

MR. RICHARDSON:

I'm Al Richardson and I am a member of the executive committee of the Lake Erie group of the Pennsylvania Sierra Club Chapter. And I came in late, I apologize for that. So I missed your initial presentation.

But I see that in your handout, there's a lot of information that would be useful, including your goals and I want to speak to them a little bit. One of them, empower communities to have a seat at the table.

So my first question is --- it's been a while since I researched the environmental justice. When I last did, there was environmental justice advisory board. Do you still have that? Can you tell me a little bit about how that functions and how we get on it? How you get onto that advisory board?

MR. MCDONNELL:

I'll just sort of redo what we did at
the beginning of the meeting since you weren't here for the introductory section.

As this is testimony that we'll be receiving, we won't be responding back to questions. We're here to receive feedback and comments from you about issues that need addressed.

MR. RICHARDSON:

Any questions was --- unable to question. Okay.

That's the question I'd like to hear more about, if you have some way to respond to that. The other thing is, I think when you were informed in 2002, you had a Citizens Advisory Council. And my question is the same, is that still existing and how you get on the Citizens Advisory Council? And in connection with both of those questions, if you're on it, how often do they meet and where do they meet?

You have your goals, you have your objectives, your guidelines, I guess. My next question is, how are they enforced? What enforcement mechanism do you have or when you make recommendations or when you are working on some environmental justice concern?

The next question is, last night I
attended the Invisible Hand Documentary and my question concerns the people living in Grant and
Highland Townships. And they are trying to protect their health of their community. And my question is,
why does DEP suing those communities for trying to protect their own environment?

MR. MILLER:
Yeah, my name is James Miller, too, but everybody calls me Sam, that's my middle name. So I just wanted to bring up three points.

Nora came up from Pittsburgh for several meetings involving environmental pollution on the east side of Erie. Mostly poor section of Erie. And I commend her for that, I commend this group for environmental justice actions that are happening.

But the point is, even this meeting here at the Tom Ridge Center is in the nice part of town. The part of town that should've been called in, is in the community centers or churches over on the east side. And that seems to happen a lot.

And one of our key organizers with the Urban Erie Development Corporation --- he's very discouraged this meeting was called here instead of in the disadvantaged part of town.

Next was the pipeline issue. Pipelines
are coming up through Pennsylvania left and right. And nobody --- it's like a big secret for further involvement.

John Quigley had its task force for pipeline --- meeting the means of natural gas that was coming out. But he left and I tried to get on that pipeline committee as an engineer, I couldn't. The pipeline was staffed with industry pro-people. More pipelines, more gas. Ignoring the monitoring of climate change.

It was invited here because I'm one of the organizers for the Erie People's Climate March on Saturday. And we're expecting many --- 1,000 to 2,000 people that are appealed --- Pennsylvania pushing fossil fuels instead of preparing for the coming clean energy. And it's going to happen.

Last comment was I watched from afar, an updated cracker plant that's going in northeast of Pittsburgh. And that seems to be another case where the community was only involved at the very last minute, not implanted.

So I hope this goes good. Thank you.

MS. ALWINE:

Would anyone else like to speak who has not?
MR. BURROUGHS:

My name's Paul Burroughs and I live in Fairview and work in Millcreek and I've spent a lot of time in this building.

Now, I first wanted --- I was looking at framing question number five. And it reminded me of the experience that Sam just mentioned, that Nora and Melanie Williams from the Northwest Region Office brought a group together and we did meet in the eastern part of the city where all the issues were taking place.

And the main focus was a number of the people had a number of questions about existing sites, Act 2 sites or what appeared to be neglected sites. And I thought, you know, I have tremendous access to DEP information. I've been involved on both sides.

But I started to think about the folks who were attending the meeting who, while they may have the access to a computer, don't necessarily know their way around. And we were fortunate enough to have these folks from Meadville and Pittsburgh come in and give us the information that we were looking for.

I'm not suggesting that it's a personnel intensive matter and you should make that routine, but I think having a presentation within the areas that
are affected that you want to focus upon, is a great idea.

You have the resources and, Carl, I think you even took the time to come to my office and meet me with Nora and I appreciate that. But having the opportunity to meet right in the core of the district, I think would be a great benefit, not only to the people in the area, but also to the reputation of DEP.

MS. ALWINE:

Anyone else like to give testimony or speak?

MS. MARKLEY:

I mean, I didn't sign up to talk and I came mainly for information. But I'm going to ask, I don't know if it's relevant. My name is Bonnie Markley, I've been a resident off and on. My home is here in the ghetto for 150 years.

My question is --- well, the lead, for one thing. I'm renovating my home with no help from anybody except my bank account. My question is, and I don't know if you could project any information or anybody here can.

I have a classmate, who's also 78 years old, and she has two sons that are in their 50s and
are working in the area under the McBride Viaduct. It's a commercial building that they're allegedly --- she doesn't know much about it. Because, I guess, it's a secretive operation.

And the boys, for eight to ten years, they've been working there 12 years, up to 14 to 20 hours because nobody else will work there. And understandably, it's such a chemical jungle that her children, her children 50, 55, 60 come home with burns and scars.

And if there's a fire or an outbreak of any kind of emergency, the fire department will not enter the premises. They will give directions to the employees, which I don't know how many. Give them directions to tell them to put out this fire, what to do. But they will not enter the premise because it's so dangerous.

And I don't know the name of the company, I know it's allegedly owned by a German corporation who lives out of the Country. Can anybody give any information on that or know anything about it? It's under the viaduct, McBride, back in that collage of buildings back there. There's no name to it. But she didn't even tell me.

And it's hot and dangerous and I thought
for the sake of the east side, East, 12th --- East Avenue and 12th, that somebody might be aware of the chemical --- kind of dangers there. Anybody know anything about that? It might be something to be looked into.

And this poor mother is traumatic because the boys can't communicate. I guess it's a secretive operation, if we still have those in this country. But it'd be interesting to find out what is made, the chemicals, they come home with burns, congestion, serious complications.

So as long as I'm here, I thought I'd ask the question, thank you very much. I'd like to know more about you and be involved. Thank you.

MR. JONES:

Thank you.

MS. ALWINE:

The second round, anyone who wants to speak?

MR. KISSEL:

Me again, I was sitting up front because I rushed out of the house without my hearing aids and I wanted to hear.

But this People's Climate March was originally scheduled for downtown, Perry Square. And
what we heard about --- every report on the Erie Coke Plant over on the east side. I was horrified at how many health problems they've had. One block, the first block away from Erie Coke had nine cases of cancer reported over four years.

The benzene releases keep being cited by EPA and sometimes the DEP. And the company pays the fine and says we're going to fix it, they never do, they never do. The Erie Times or the Erie Reader record on it --- I've got extra copies if you'd like to see it.

Then last week, the Erie Times reported that there was --- anyway, the FBI came in, the DEP, the EPA and the Border Patrol or the Border security guards. They reported that they came into the plant on a fact finding thing or something. But unannounced, that there was no feedback to the public about why are they going in or what they found. And it's been over a week now since that happened.

It's just another area of where the people in the area, they're affected. Sort of feel left in the dark again. That's all I would like to say. Thank you very much.

MS. ALWINE:

Anyone else who would like to speak,
first or second round?

MR. JONES:

We want to thank you all for coming out this afternoon --- this evening to give us your testimony and things that have happened here in Erie and the Erie community. We have received all of this information and feedback and we'll be taking that as we go across the state and sort of process one of the next steps.

Again, I know a lot of people have made comments about people who cannot be here. Again, those comments can be received, and will receive the same amount of weight, electronically or mailed to us, we're also very easy to find. Our contact information is on this back sheet with our phone numbers and email addresses.

So if there are people who are not here who would like to be involved and give us feedback, please have them reach out to us and let us know what their thoughts are so we can continue this conversation.

And we look forward to this being a first of the many outs of the northwest. Nora is the Regional Coordinator for the Northwest and Southwest Region for the Office of Environmental Justice. So
she is this point of contact for the Department in this area.

Thank you all again for your time.

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HEARING CONCLUDED AT 6:00 P.M.

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CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing proceedings, hearing held before Director Jones was reported by me on 4/27/2017 and that I, Shannon C. Fortsch, read this transcript, and that I attest that this transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceeding.

[Signature]

Court Reporter
Shannon C. Fortsch