

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

\* \* \* \* \*

IN RE: POOL DOCTOR-BEAVER ALKALI PRODUCTS SITE  
HAZARDOUS SITE CLEANUP

\* \* \* \* \*

BEFORE: DIANE MCDANIEL, P.E., Program Manager  
PAUL VOGEL, Group Manager  
TERRY GOODWALD, Project Manager  
DON BIALOSKY, Emergency Response Manager  
MIKE TOMEI, Geologic Specialist  
LAUREN FRALEY, Community Relations  
Coordinator

HEARING: Wednesday September 4, 2019  
6:39 p.m.

LOCATION: 350 Adams Street  
Rochester, PA 15074

ORIGINAL

WITNESSES: Greg Muiteer, Conrad Bianco

Reporter: Jeremy Harris

Any reproduction of this transcript  
is prohibited without authorization  
by the certifying agency

I N D E X

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

OPENING REMARKS

By Lauren Fraley

4 - 6

TESTIMONY

By Conrad Bianco

6 - 7

TESTIMONY

By Greg Muter

8 - 10

CLOSING REMARKS

By Lauren Fraley

10 - 11

E X H I B I T S

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

<u>Number</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Page</u> <u>Offered</u>	<u>Page</u> <u>Admitted</u>
---------------	--------------------	-------------------------------	--------------------------------

NONE OFFERED

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

-----

MS. FRALEY: We're here to review testimony on DEP's prompt interim response under the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Program or HSCA to the Beaver Alkali Products Pool Doctor site in Rochester, Beaver County.

This hearing is held in conjunction with an open comment period on the administrative record.

DEP welcomes feedback on its decision to pursue a HSCA response, as well as any information the public may have about this site.

In order to accommodate the greatest number of residents interested in speaking, limit your testimony to five minutes. If, for some reason, we get through everyone and you want to add something else, in this instance, we will allow additional time for you if you have already registered and if everyone else has spoken. You will get an additional five minutes.

I will call out your name in the order that you registered to come up to the microphone and provide testimony. I will also announce the next person in line so that they can sort of mentally

1 prepare themselves.

2                   When it's your turn, please clearly  
3 state your name and address. You have five minutes  
4 to provide that testimony. You can do so at the  
5 microphone here.

6                   We still ask that you kind of come up  
7 here just so our stenographer can, like, fully hear  
8 you and see what you're saying.

9                   When you're down to about one minute  
10 left, I will say one minute. And we ask that no one  
11 in the audience interrupt our testifiers so that  
12 they can have every opportunity to say what they  
13 need to say.

14                   If you go over your time, I'll be a  
15 little bit more assertive, and if you have some  
16 written testimony that you'd like to provide, you  
17 can drop that in this public comments box following  
18 your remarks. If not, you can always provide that  
19 to us at a later date, or we're receiving it here so  
20 that's sufficient.

21                   And just to reiterate, if you ask a  
22 question or phrase your comment in a way that  
23 implies that you're expecting a response, we will  
24 not give you a verbal response during this hearing.  
25 Rather, responses will be formulated after the

1 hearing in the form of a comment response document  
2 that will be provided to you if you signed in, you  
3 registered and we will provide that to you and  
4 likely put that on our website as well.

5 We've got more basic ground rules and  
6 - just really want to stick to. Please be  
7 respectful to people who are here, to listen and to  
8 speak. If someone is up here speaking, don't talk  
9 over them and, you know, if you have to take a cell  
10 phone call, do it outside. Basic stuff like that.

11 So we're going to start with our first  
12 registered testifier. That's Conrad Bianco, and  
13 then Gene Zuff is next. I don't see him here, but  
14 we'll check and see if anyone else has come in. So,  
15 Conrad, you're up.

16 MR. BIANCO: Conrad Bianco on behalf  
17 of The Cellar Dwellers, the renters of the first  
18 floor space of the Beaver Valley Bowl, which I guess  
19 is next door to where you guys were firefighting. I  
20 guess I got five minutes.

21 The Cellar Dwellers have been  
22 performing on the third floor for over 10 years.  
23 They have costumes, set pieces, as well as studio  
24 equipment, on the third floor rental space that we  
25 would like to get access to because we don't know if

1 we're allowed back in there. And then our systems.  
2 I came down to the site the night of the fire, was  
3 told to leave by a fire medic. Next week, I saw -  
4 actually, it was two weeks after that I saw on  
5 Facebook the Beaver Valley Bowl was closed. No  
6 reason was given for the closure. I spoke with DEP  
7 crew on site.

8                   They informed me the building was able  
9 to be occupied. We had a show on the 9th, on the  
10 9th of August 2019.

11                   The next week one of our members got a  
12 call from Brenda, a worker at the Beaver Valley  
13 Bowl, and she informed us we are not allowed on the  
14 site.

15                   I then called DEP and, again, got  
16 confirmation the building was not on the list of  
17 off-limits areas. However, local government may  
18 have put the building off limits.

19                   So we don't know anything about - and  
20 then, I guess my final questions are, I guess -  
21 which I know you're not going to answer me, who  
22 closed the site and how was it relayed? Because it  
23 seems like some people got the information that  
24 we're closing the site. Some people didn't get that  
25 message. It went back and forth. I mean, I was on

1 the site itself. I said, hey, is this place open?  
2 People said, yes, it's open. You can go in there.  
3 Matter of fact, even the night of the fire, I asked  
4 can I go into the building and get things? And the  
5 crew there said, yeah, you can go in and go. The  
6 fire is on this building. I said, okay, that's  
7 great. And I'm not even too sure now if I'm allowed  
8 in there or not, so I think that's all I got. Thank  
9 you.

10 MS. FRALEY: Thank you.

11 Just I guess a quick aside, if you  
12 have a moment, I think we can give you the best of  
13 our information but we'll still give you a formal  
14 response afterwards so if you maybe want to stick  
15 around?

16 MR. BIANCO: No problem. Thank you.

17 MS. FRALEY: Next up is Gene Zuff. I  
18 think he has left.

19 And then you, yeah, come up. Just  
20 make sure you say your first and last name so we can  
21 make sure we have that.

22 MR. MUITER: My name is Greg Muiteer  
23 spelled M-U-I-T-E-R. 694 Fourth Street, and that's  
24 in downtown Beaver. I was impacted on July 13, the  
25 morning of the second ignition.



1                   Unfortunately, I was in an open-top  
2 vehicle at the time, and I was driving on Route 65  
3 south. And I came to that plume that had just  
4 reignited, so it was --- to say it was thick was an  
5 understatement. It was so thick that I couldn't see  
6 my hands on the steering wheel. And, again, the  
7 vehicle was an open top. Think of, like, a Jeep.

8                   So within - really, within minutes,  
9 even seconds, I felt the impacts of the chlorine  
10 exposure. My question which I know can't be  
11 answered at this time, is the bromine and what type  
12 of bromine was it? Because a quick search after I  
13 just learned there was bromine in that smoke, you  
14 know, there's different types of bromine so I'd be  
15 curious to know the answer to that if that could be  
16 relayed to me, please?

17                   But within minutes of that exposure, I  
18 was shaking, convulsing. My fingertips were numb  
19 from my tips up to my elbows. My legs were shaking  
20 uncontrollably. My eyes were watering. I had to  
21 pull over, and I called 911. 911 was probably being  
22 overwhelmed with calls at the moment. They were  
23 very short with me, and when I told them I didn't  
24 feel well, they actually basically hung up on me.

25                   So I continued on down the highway and

1 when I got to my destination, which was Sewickley I  
2 collapsed out of my car to which 911 was called and  
3 I was taken to Mercy Hospital.

4 So I just wanted to go on record as to  
5 that was what happened. That's the very short  
6 version. I'm truncating a lot of the effects that  
7 happened to me afterwards and then I continue to  
8 feel.

9 So thank you.

10 MS. FRALEY: I think that's everyone  
11 we have on our list of testifiers this evening.

12 Given that there are no additional  
13 comments from the public, we will conclude our  
14 hearing.

15 We will note for the record that  
16 representatives of the Pennsylvania Department of  
17 Environmental Protection were present to hold this  
18 hearing.

19 As I said before, DEP will prepare a  
20 comment response document from the testimony tonight  
21 and we'll make a copy of that available as soon as  
22 it is prepared.

23 Public comments, questions and  
24 statements will be accepted until October 18, 2019.  
25 If you wish to submit them between now and then,

1 please use your fact sheet, the information sheet  
2 that you have to reference how to submit those. And  
3 a copy of the administrative record and additional  
4 information is on the Pennsylvania Department's  
5 southwest regional webpage and that is  
6 www.DEF.PA.gov/southwest with the navigation on the  
7 side to the Pool Doctor Beaver Alkali Products HSCA  
8 site.

9                   We thank you for being here. We thank  
10 you for your public involvement tonight. Thank you  
11 for providing the testimony because as we said  
12 before, it's that feedback, both from an anonymous  
13 complaint that we received and then your feedback  
14 today that is really helpful for us to do our work.

15                   And so we do appreciate your interest  
16 in this issue. So have a safe trip home and good  
17 evening. As we go off the record, we will stick  
18 around for a little bit if you want to ask us any  
19 other questions. Thank you.

20

21

\* \* \* \* \*

22

HEARING CONCLUDED AT 6:49 P.M.

23

\* \* \* \* \*

24


25

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing proceeding was reported by me on 09/04/19 and that I, Jeremy Harris, read this transcript, and that I attest that this transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceeding.

Dated the 25<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2019

  
Jeremy Harris,  
Court Reporter