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U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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DRAFT SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL  
IMPACT STATEMENT

+ + + + +

PUBLIC HEARING

+ + + + +

THURSDAY  
AUGUST 23, 2012

+ + + + +

The Public Hearing was held at the Meridian Street United Methodist Church, 5500 North Meridian Street, Indianapolis, Indiana, at 7:05 p.m., Colonel Luke Leonard, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Louisville District Commander and SEIS Decisionmaker , presiding.

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

2 (7:02 p.m.)

3 MS. ROSEBROCK: Good evening and  
4 welcome. My name is Anne Rosebrock, I'm the  
5 Senior Pastor at Meridian Street United  
6 Methodist Church, and this church has a long  
7 history of welcoming the community to come  
8 and discuss various issues. So, we are  
9 honored to serve you this evening. We  
10 welcome you and ask that you will remember  
11 that you are in this sacred place where we  
12 come to worship each and every week. And so  
13 we would invite you, knowing that this is a  
14 discussion where many people have certainly  
15 deep interests, that you will discuss it  
16 with a sense and attitude of respect. We  
17 would invite your patience with one another  
18 as you listen to opposing views, and just  
19 remember that you're in this beautiful  
20 sanctuary.

21 This is a church that serves the  
22 community in many, many ways, and we are

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1 happy to have you here this evening and hope  
2 the conversation is one that is open and  
3 inviting to all. So, if you are a person who  
4 prays I would invite you to join me as we  
5 begin this evening and offer our prayer.

6 Gracious God, move in our midst  
7 this evening. Help us to be open as we  
8 listen to one another. Give us wisdom and  
9 vision and clarity as we explore the issues  
10 that are before us. And for this day and  
11 every day we give you thanks, amen.

12 It is my privilege to introduce  
13 you to Colonel Luke Leonard, Army Corps of  
14 Engineers, Louisville District Commander.  
15 And he will lead us from this point.

16 COL LEONARD: Thank you,  
17 Reverend. Thank you very much, and thank you  
18 for opening the doors for your beautiful  
19 church to our meeting today. Ladies and  
20 gentleman, I also want to thank before I get  
21 started, the City of Indianapolis Public  
22 Works Department, especially Director Lori

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1 Miser, who is here in our presence today, and  
2 who serves as your sponsor for the City of  
3 Indianapolis for the North Levee project.

4 My name is Colonel Luke Leonard,  
5 Army Corps of Engineers, I am the Louisville  
6 District Commander and District Engineer.  
7 I'm assisted tonight by people from my staff,  
8 including Ms. Sharon Bond, Civil Projects,  
9 and my chief economist; Mr. Steve Durrett, my  
10 Chief of Engineering Division; Ms. Bonnie  
11 Jennings, who is the project manager; and Mr.  
12 Mike Turner, Environmental Resources, all of  
13 whom have spent a lot of time working on this  
14 project.

15 We have a transcriber recording  
16 these proceedings so that we'll have a  
17 complete formal transcript of the public  
18 comments. As a kindly reminder, smoking is  
19 prohibited, if you must smoke, please step  
20 outside. As a precaution, in case of  
21 emergency, exits are located behind you and  
22 to my right through the set of doors. As you

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1 came in this evening you had the opportunity  
2 to stop by our registration tables and sign a  
3 card that looks kind of like this. We ask  
4 that you fill out one of these cards if you  
5 would like to make a statement tonight, most  
6 of you have already done so. You may also  
7 fill out a card to help us update our mailing  
8 lists for the Supplemental Environmental  
9 Impact Statement. If you have not yet  
10 completed one, and would like to, just raise  
11 your hand and we'll get one. There's some  
12 hands back there, Todd, right behind you.

13 The Indianapolis North White  
14 River Flood Risk Reduction Project involved  
15 construction of flood walls and earthen  
16 levees along the east bank of the White River  
17 in the Broad Ripple, Warfleigh and South  
18 Warfleigh neighborhoods, which will reduce  
19 the flood risk. The project helps preserve  
20 lives and livelihoods. Our overall project  
21 is designed to remove an estimated 1,500  
22 businesses and homes from the 300 year

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1 floodplain. Approximately 1,300 of these  
2 structures are located within the 100 year  
3 floodplain and the Broad Ripple, Warfleigh  
4 and South Warfleigh neighborhoods. We are  
5 two thirds of the way complete with realizing  
6 the benefit of this project. Two of the  
7 three levee sections are finished.

8 After completion of the entire  
9 project, homeowners and businesses behind the  
10 levee system will likely experience cost  
11 savings in flood insurance, pending levee  
12 certification and FEMA remapping of your  
13 town. The Corps of Engineers is poised to  
14 begin construction of the third and final  
15 phase of the levee, but the construction will  
16 only start presently at the northern end.  
17 This area is the upstream section of the  
18 levee segment, you'll know it at Kessler  
19 Boulevard up to Friedman Park. This will  
20 start this fall, and this is progress. Let  
21 me clarify, this initial stretch of levee is  
22 not the alignment to be discussed this

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1 evening at this public meeting, but we will  
2 have an open house to discuss it before  
3 construction sometime this fall.

4           Tonight we are here to take  
5 public comments on the Army Corps of  
6 Engineers' draft Supplemental Environmental  
7 Impact Statement, referred to as the draft  
8 SEIS. This product has been prepared to  
9 evaluate alternatives and impacts from those  
10 proposed modifications to project features,  
11 including realigning the South Warfleigh  
12 section and the proposed additional tree  
13 clearing along the already completed levee  
14 work in the Broad Ripple and Warfleigh  
15 neighborhoods. To complete the project the  
16 Corps recommends the Westfield Boulevard  
17 alternative among the three alternatives.  
18 This plan describes construction that would  
19 begin at the south end of the Riviera Club  
20 property, cross the canal at the intersection  
21 of Westfield Boulevard and North Capitol  
22 Avenue, and end in the vicinity of Butler

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1 University.

2           Additionally, some trees and  
3 shrubs will need to be removed on completed  
4 parts of the levee in Broad Ripple and  
5 Warfleigh. This vegetation removal is  
6 required to meet current engineering levee  
7 safety standards, render the levee  
8 structurally sound for certification and FEMA  
9 remapping, and most importantly, ensure  
10 public safety.

11           The draft Supplemental  
12 Environmental Impact Statement does not  
13 recommend the Rocky Ripple alternative.  
14 However, when you read the draft SEIS you'll  
15 see that we did examine this alternative in  
16 detail. The Corps of Engineers evaluated  
17 assimilating Rocky Ripple into the three  
18 phase project. We conducted significant  
19 engineering and cost analysis to explore the  
20 city's request. The analysis determined that  
21 adding a flood wall component that would meet  
22 current engineering standards to include

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1 Rocky Ripple was not economically viable.  
2 The cost of adding Rocky Ripple to the  
3 project would substantially exceed the  
4 economic benefits. The cost of the Rocky  
5 Ripple alignment outweighs those benefits.  
6 With the Rocky Ripple included the entire  
7 project in the federal's eyes would no longer  
8 be economically viable. That said, by law no  
9 selected alternative may increase flood risk  
10 levels in any community, including Rocky  
11 Ripple by law.

12 I'll now move into the purpose of  
13 this hearing. I will cover the public  
14 hearing guidelines and ground rules to accept  
15 your oral statements, so this is the comment  
16 guidelines. The purpose of this hearing is  
17 to accept all oral and written and public  
18 comments in response to the SEIS, which I  
19 will consider when the final SEIS is prepared  
20 and signed. I will consider a wide range of  
21 public interest factors relating to the  
22 impacts of the specific proposal. The draft

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1 impact statement is intended to disclose  
2 environmental impacts associated with the  
3 proposed project, as well as reasonable  
4 alternatives to the proposal and their  
5 environmental impacts.

6 The factors which will be  
7 considered include, but are not limited to,  
8 economics, aesthetics, fish and wildlife  
9 values, flooding, land use, recreation,  
10 historic properties, water supply, water  
11 quality, and safety. This information will  
12 inform me as the decision maker regarding the  
13 impact on the human environment. Then the  
14 final SEIS will be circulated to agencies and  
15 to the public for a minimum of a 30-day  
16 review period, after which the Corps will  
17 make a final decision on the future direction  
18 of the project and sign the record of  
19 decision. This record of decision completes  
20 the review process for that environmental  
21 impact statement.

22 If you would like to discuss this

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1 proposed action in further detail you may  
2 consult with members of my staff that I  
3 brought with me who are available in the  
4 parlor next door, and most of you have  
5 already talked with them, but they'll remain  
6 out there while we're going through the  
7 public comment period. Please understand  
8 though that any statements that you make to  
9 them will not be included in the public  
10 record. So, if you think of something and  
11 want to include, you have to come back in  
12 here and read it into the record, or submit  
13 it in written form at a later date.

14 When you make any comments on the  
15 proposal tonight I ask that you direct your  
16 comments to me. Everyone will have an  
17 opportunity to speak. If you indicated so on  
18 your registration card, please raise your  
19 hand if you have the intent just so I can  
20 gauge just how much time we're going to need.  
21 Please raise your hand if you have intentions  
22 of making a comment. Okay, thank you.

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1           So, we had anticipated that we  
2 could give everybody about three minutes, but  
3 I don't think we need to be too strict  
4 because I only saw 30 perhaps hands go up.  
5 But, get to your points quickly so that  
6 everybody gets a chance, we only have until  
7 11:00 p.m. before we need to get out of the  
8 church. During your remarks you will be cued  
9 with a yellow card when you have a minute  
10 remaining, and then with a red card  
11 signifying the end of your three minutes or  
12 so. Carol will be judicious with her card  
13 use.

14           Your oral comments will be  
15 included in the record. In addition, you may  
16 submit more written comments to our staff  
17 tonight, or you may mail them into the  
18 address on your comment card, even if you  
19 made an oral statement. The format will be  
20 to first ask for statements from elected  
21 officials and government agency  
22 representatives. Following these comments

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1 I'll open the floor to anyone else wishing to  
2 make a statement. And as a final reminder,  
3 we'll accept written statements tonight, or  
4 you can mail them to us, again both written  
5 and oral will be included in the hearing  
6 record.

7 The hearing record will now  
8 remain open, and this is new information,  
9 until close of business 28 September 2012.  
10 This second extension was brought at the  
11 request of the city, which will bring the  
12 total public comment period for this impact  
13 statement to three months. Okay, so now I  
14 will ask for statements from elected  
15 officials. I have Senator Schneider, sir are  
16 you in the audience still? Okay, did he go?  
17 Okay, and Representative Delaney, Liz Pelloso  
18 from EPA Region Five. Oh, I'm sorry, sure,  
19 right into the microphone, please, sir.

20 MR. DELANEY: I got out of the  
21 Navy a long time ago, Colonel, so I'm not  
22 used to paying attention to the audience. I

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1 just have a few remarks. I've been studying  
2 this for several months.

3 COL LEONARD: Let's hang on a  
4 second.

5 MR. DELANEY: I can lift this up,  
6 does that help?

7 COL LEONARD: Sir, state your  
8 name for the audience.

9 MR. DELANEY: My name is Ed  
10 Delaney, I'm the State Representative, I  
11 currently represent Rocky Ripple. Come  
12 November I hope to be representing the East  
13 Bank. They've changed my district, but I'll  
14 be on one side or the other, so this canal  
15 project will go through, this wall project  
16 will go through my district either way.

17 I wanted to clarify a couple  
18 things that concern me up front. First of  
19 all, the display is helpful, I think the  
20 visual of the wall going across the canal is  
21 attractive, it looks a lot more like a canal  
22 lock than an ugly wall, so the Corps has to

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1 be congratulated on that. I have a deep  
2 concern about what I want to call the urban  
3 legend that our problem with Rocky Ripple is  
4 that they said no 20 years ago. I'm hopeful  
5 that the Corps is ignoring that no and  
6 looking at what people feel today. I think  
7 people know a lot more, people have changed  
8 in the neighborhood, they've learned more, a  
9 lot of them have moved out, others have moved  
10 in. So, I hope that there's no, hangover,  
11 let's call it, from this past attitude of  
12 rejection. I don't hear that.

13 I participated in the  
14 demonstration the other day and I saw, I was  
15 interested, the chant was that they want  
16 protection, not that they don't want the  
17 government, not that they don't want the  
18 wall, they want protection. That was the  
19 chant of hundreds of people. So, that is the  
20 core concern, is that the people of Rocky  
21 Ripple are going to be excluded.

22 The negative, the biggest

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1 negative that I see is the apparent decision,  
2 and I'm happy to be corrected, that there  
3 will be electric walls on the bridges at 52nd  
4 and 53rd Street that will close on or at  
5 those bridges. Is that right Colonel, is  
6 that the way that's set up?

7 COL LEONARD: I don't think  
8 that's accurate.

9 MR. DELANEY: It is accurate?

10 COL LEONARD: Sandbags.

11 MR. DELANEY: Sandbags will go  
12 up?

13 COL LEONARD: Correct.

14 MR. DELANEY: At the time someone  
15 declares an event, the sandbags will go up,  
16 okay.

17 COL LEONARD: Yes, sir.

18 MR. DELANEY: That will isolate  
19 the people in Rocky Ripple, that is I think  
20 the ultimate concern. If they haven't gotten  
21 out, if they haven't gotten their goods out  
22 that will be literally a visual

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1 representation of the isolation that this  
2 wall represents. That concerns me the most.  
3 Next, it seems to me that the most important  
4 thing we can do is send a good message to the  
5 people of Rocky Ripple, which is that we do  
6 care about them and we want to protect them.  
7 That's the most important message. I'm not  
8 sure the current design provides for that, in  
9 fact it sends the opposite message.

10           Lastly, there's a lot more to  
11 learn. I, for example, am very interested in  
12 the flood insurance aspect. I have no idea  
13 what can happen to the people on the other  
14 side of this wall. I can't think that it's  
15 good for their flood insurance or its  
16 availability or its price. I'm also  
17 concerned about whether the overall structure  
18 of the wall actually increases the risk to  
19 the people of Rocky Ripple.

20           As long as you're putting this  
21 wall to the north, areas that once would have  
22 perhaps drained off some of the water in the

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1 flood event, that water will be concentrated  
2 on Rocky Ripple. So, those are my main  
3 concerns. I will work with the city, I'm a  
4 state legislator I'm not a city official, I  
5 will work with the people from the city to  
6 see what we can do to do something that's  
7 fair to these people and sends a right  
8 message.

9 I do have a concern that others  
10 do about the visuals. I use that path all  
11 the time, I'm concerned about turning it into  
12 a treeless plain. That bothers me, but it's  
13 the people of Rocky Ripple that I'm most  
14 concerned about, and I thank you for your  
15 attention and I hope you'll keep your eyes on  
16 this currently as we move forward. Thank you  
17 very much.

18 COL LEONARD: Thank you, sir.

19 (Applause.)

20 I got you loud and clear.  
21 Senator Taylor.

22 MR. TAYLOR: I'm going to turn

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1 around and speak to the Colonel in a second,  
2 but I want to introduce myself. My name is  
3 Greg Taylor, I'm the State Senator for  
4 District 33. District 33 happens to include  
5 portions of Butler-Tarkington area, and it  
6 includes the entire Rocky Ripple area. So,  
7 I'm here to speak for my constituents who  
8 live in, hopefully for my constituents who  
9 live in Rocky Ripple.

10 Thanks, first of all, Colonel,  
11 for being here and opening up the dialogue  
12 for conversation in regards to the flood  
13 wall, and what you have to do. And  
14 respectfully I want to thank you for your  
15 service to this country and what you do as a  
16 Colonel.

17 First off, I don't know how they  
18 do it in Kentucky or any other areas in your  
19 region, but typically in public hearings is a  
20 question and answer situation, and I don't  
21 know if there's any questions that are going  
22 to be answered here today. But I hope that

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1 we will leave open the idea of getting  
2 together to answer some additional questions  
3 that may come up as a result of this meeting.

4 Third, Rocky Ripple is an area  
5 that I've come to know and grow and love as a  
6 representative of my district. And one of  
7 the things that compels me to stand up here  
8 before you today, I wasn't even going to  
9 speak until you asked for comments from  
10 elected officials, was that Rocky Ripple is a  
11 neighborhood that is very prideful about what  
12 they have and who they are. They have a  
13 little community center there, they have, you  
14 know, whenever I go over there I can always  
15 go over to the community building and there  
16 would be some people there and we just sit  
17 around and talk.

18 If I look at this map and I look  
19 at the proposed wall that you're talking  
20 about putting up, I think you're going to  
21 cause the property value in that area to go  
22 down. Because this is going, this could put

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1 Rocky Ripple in a floodplain.

2 Now, I didn't say it would, but  
3 it could. And just to bring you a little  
4 history, in Indiana we have a thing called  
5 property tax caps, and if you lower the  
6 property value you're going to lower the  
7 taxes that the city uses to provide public  
8 service to the people.

9 The flood insurance is an issue  
10 that my colleague brought up earlier, and I'm  
11 very concerned about that as well. I think  
12 that when you go out and you look for  
13 alternatives, I think one of the things you  
14 need to understand is what are the far  
15 reaching ramifications of what you do. I  
16 don't know if the Corps understands this, but  
17 if this is a 300 year floodplain and there  
18 hasn't been a flood, instead of causing an  
19 issue, why don't you just leave it alone?

20 (Applause.)

21 I live by the motto of "Do no  
22 harm," and hopefully I say that to you

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1 respectfully Colonel, not to do any harm. If  
2 the wall is going to cause harm, and you're  
3 predicting what you have to do with the wall  
4 based on what could possibly happen in the  
5 case of a 300 year flood, hopefully you would  
6 err on the side of doing no harm at all. And  
7 I ask that you consider that in your  
8 proposal. I know that funding still needs to  
9 come through, there's a lot of things, red  
10 tape, in government, so I understand how that  
11 works. But I ask that you really consider  
12 the net effect and maybe the way you  
13 evaluated the situation and your group as to  
14 whether or not this is going to cause more  
15 harm than benefit.

16 Maybe you need to hear about what  
17 some of the people who live in Rocky Ripple,  
18 what the harm would do to them. And maybe we  
19 need to have one of them on the team that  
20 decides where this wall finally goes. That's  
21 how we do it here in Indiana, we put people  
22 who have interest in it, even though their

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1 interest may be adverse from ours, we still  
2 put them at the table so they can have a  
3 voice. And I ask that you do that on this  
4 proposal, and before you make the final  
5 decision, at least consult with some people  
6 who live in Rocky Ripple. Thank you.

7 (Applause.)

8 COL LEONARD: Thank you, sir. Is  
9 John Barth here, please? John Barth, please,  
10 from the city council.

11 MR. BARTH: Good evening, I'm  
12 John Barth. I'm an at-large member of the  
13 Indianapolis City County Council. I am a  
14 lifelong resident of this neighborhood. I am  
15 former President and current board member of  
16 the Butler Tarkington Neighborhood  
17 Association. I'm here to say this, I  
18 support, as does Counselor Monroe Grey, the  
19 position of the Butler Tarkington  
20 Neighborhood Association, the position of  
21 Rocky Ripple, the position of Butler  
22 University, and that is that we need to

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1 listen carefully to the priorities of the  
2 neighbors.

3 I don't know, I came in late to  
4 hear Senator Taylor's comments, but I believe  
5 he said, "That's how we do it in Indiana."  
6 That is how we do it, we listen carefully to  
7 what neighbors want, we listen carefully to  
8 neighbor priorities, and we go forward with  
9 that approach. The thing I would also like  
10 to say, that concerns me greatly, is that  
11 there is no money for this project is my  
12 understanding, am I correct about that?

13 COL LEONARD: You are not  
14 correct.

15 MR. BARTH: There is money  
16 allocated for this?

17 COL LEONARD: Yes.

18 MR. BARTH: For this money, for  
19 the project as described?

20 COL LEONARD: Well, in order to  
21 apply for the money which, we have to have  
22 this impact statement complete.

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1 MR. BARTH: It's 100 percent  
2 allocated?

3 COL LEONARD: We're getting ready  
4 to start a section, it's incrementally  
5 funded. So, annually we get increments. We  
6 have an increment for 2012.

7 MR. BARTH: So the section --

8 COL LEONARD: Correct.

9 MR. BARTH: Okay.

10 COL LEONARD: The section that we  
11 have enough money to build on this year we're  
12 going to start building on.

13 MR. BARTH: Right, that section.

14 COL LEONARD: That's right.

15 MR. BARTH: So, going forward is  
16 yet to be funded, so my point is this. Since  
17 it's not funded to date I think there's a  
18 huge opportunity for us to sit down and work  
19 together, prioritize neighborhood issues, and  
20 really think through how it could work for  
21 the long term for the city, not for the short  
22 term for decisions that, to me, seem more

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1 appropriately made for engineers rather than  
2 priorities of neighborhoods.

3 (Applause.)

4 And I will leave it at that, with  
5 just restating Senator Taylor's plea, how we  
6 do it in Indiana is we listen to neighbors  
7 and we build on that and we go from there.  
8 We are your partners, let's do this thing  
9 together.

10 (Applause.)

11 COL LEONARD: Thank you, sir. Is  
12 Liz Pelloso here? Liz Pelloso, EPA Region 5?  
13 How about Dave Daugherty, Rocky Ripple  
14 Emergency Management? Carla Gaff-Clark?

15 MR. DAUGHERTY: I'm not very good  
16 at public speaking, but Colonel, I think the  
17 first thing said was something about this was  
18 for protecting lives and property, and the  
19 decision has been based on property. Can't  
20 hear me? Can you hear me now? I said, when  
21 he first started talking he said the decision  
22 was based on lives and property, and then the

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1 final decision right now is based on property  
2 value. And as head of the Rocky Ripple  
3 Emergency Management we devised a system kind  
4 of like Homeland Security of Yellow, river  
5 warning, Orange, river watch, or something  
6 like that, and Red, river alerts, which we  
7 have had one voluntary evacuation of Rocky  
8 Ripple since we formed this group in '98.

9 So, looking at the river in '91,  
10 I was sitting on the top watching it, about  
11 two feet from the top, and it was in January,  
12 freezing cold and the water was freezing  
13 cold. Since then we've had some near flood  
14 stages in summer time, but I've sat on the  
15 road to Rocky Ripple and watched the river up  
16 here. If the river should suddenly burst in  
17 the winter time I worry about hypothermic  
18 death and that type of thing on the river in  
19 Rocky Ripple. Because we tried to get our  
20 people out, but maybe they not all can or  
21 won't. So, that's all I got to say about  
22 that. And if anybody wants to join the Rocky

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1 Ripple Emergency Management, contact me by e-  
2 mail dockguitar@yahoo.com, or Carla. And  
3 we're having a benefit concert Sunday for a  
4 little gal that lost both her parents this  
5 year, from 2:00 to 7:00 at Holcomb Park, so  
6 come on out. Thanks a lot.

7 COL LEONARD: Carla, Carla Clark.

8 MS. GAFF-CLARK: I'm Carla Gaff-  
9 Clark, and I am a senior board member in  
10 Rocky Ripple. I have been on the board for  
11 approximately 18 years. And I guess with  
12 that said, you know that I was here when we  
13 went through this before in '94 and '96. And  
14 the interesting things that I think are still  
15 here today is in '94 and '96 when Rocky  
16 Ripple decided they didn't want in, things  
17 were different with this whole landscape and  
18 the development up on the north side.

19 Since that time, the water gets  
20 very high, very quickly. And other things  
21 that have happened, of course, have been  
22 almost 20 years of decay to our levee. At no

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1 time did the residents of Rocky Ripple say no  
2 to flood protection. We have always asked  
3 for flood protection. That particular plan  
4 that the Army Corps had at that time is what  
5 Rocky Ripple said no to.

6 But I kind of see this when I  
7 look at it historically, I kind of look at  
8 this as a figure eight. Like if my children,  
9 if I lived in a house where the middle of the  
10 figure eight is, and they can get on the  
11 school bus at 7:15, or I could let them sleep  
12 and they could get on at 8:20. The reality  
13 of it, this is kind of how Rocky Ripple is.  
14 We opted out, the town opted out and a few  
15 years later we said, whoa, too much changing  
16 going on in our river, we want back in. And  
17 the project wasn't to us yet, it wasn't even  
18 to us yet.

19 At the point in '94 and '96 when  
20 we opted out the project was a \$10 million  
21 dollar project. Now, before you've even  
22 gotten to us, we haven't been left out, it's

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1 not like you'd have to band aid us in, you  
2 haven't gotten to us yet, and now suddenly  
3 the project is \$50 million. It's gone from  
4 \$10 million to \$50 million. We don't really  
5 understand why that could be.

6 One thing that has been said over  
7 and over by those who have stood up here in  
8 front of me is above all else, "Do no harm."  
9 And this project looks like, not only is it  
10 something that was totally surprising to the  
11 residents of Rocky Ripple, at the time things  
12 were said like what the wall would look like.  
13 So, when the wall was built, to me it looks  
14 like what you told me it was going to.  
15 Things were said like, this is it or nothing.  
16 People said later, even in the last year, we  
17 didn't know it was all or nothing. Well,  
18 people hear what they want to hear, and you  
19 said that to us, I heard that. But what was  
20 never said to us is if you don't get in we'll  
21 build a wall along the canal. In fact, we'd  
22 asked that question many, many times. If you

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1 stop at river then is it high enough, could  
2 you stop the project there, and the answer  
3 was yes.

4 So, imagine the surprise of Rocky  
5 Ripple residents about 18 months later when  
6 they started talking about a wall. At first  
7 it was a little tiny wall about 18 inches  
8 tall on one side of the canal, with the  
9 condition of the canal not being able to  
10 support that wall. Then it was changed a few  
11 years later to what you're looking at today.  
12 And this is an alarming type of thing to  
13 those of us in Rocky Ripple. We don't know  
14 how you can do no harm with this project.  
15 And so with that I guess I'm asking you to  
16 re-include us in some way and let us work.  
17 As the council folks have said in front of  
18 us, let us work with you on this. Thank you.

19 (Applause.)

20 COL LEONARD: Thank you, ma'am.  
21 Brad Barcum, please.

22 MR. BARCUM: Hi, my name is Brad

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1 Barcum, and I'm a member of the Rocky Ripple  
2 Town Council, and I second what Carla just  
3 said. And mine is a question for you,  
4 Colonel. I read the DSEIS, all 109 pages or  
5 so of it, and am I correct, the decision, or  
6 the proposal that was put forward in the  
7 DSEIS was put forward for financial concerns,  
8 it was going to be too expensive to include  
9 Rocky Ripple. Is that correct, my  
10 understanding?

11 COL LEONARD: Of the three  
12 alternatives?

13 MR. BARCUM: Yes.

14 COL LEONARD: That's correct.

15 MR. BARCUM: Rocky Ripple was  
16 left out for financial reasons?

17 COL LEONARD: Not financial,  
18 economic.

19 MR. BARCUM: And by economic,  
20 what does that mean?

21 COL LEONARD: I'm not parsing  
22 words, as I stated in my intro, "We must

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1 maintain a positive benefit to cost ratio,"  
2 or it doesn't, it's no longer a legal federal  
3 project and I can't do any work.

4 MR. BARCUM: Understood. My  
5 comment is that's how I took it, see, when I  
6 read the DSEIS. If it's going to cost \$54  
7 million dollars to include Rocky Ripple and  
8 \$14 million dollars to go down Westfield, and  
9 that's the crux of the argument, I would have  
10 thought it would have been itemized, we would  
11 have been told why it's going to be \$54  
12 million versus \$14 million, you would have  
13 given us some substance behind those numbers.  
14 And without substance, you could have said a  
15 trillion, because there is not substance  
16 behind them.

17 COL LEONARD: Well, you know,  
18 while that's not in the EIS you can ask my  
19 staff members. They may be able to give you  
20 more detail.

21 MR. BARCUM: We have.

22 COL LEONARD: Okay.

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1           MR. BARCUM: And we still have no  
2 definition of why it's going to be \$54  
3 million versus the \$14 million. And some  
4 people, and I am one of them, believe that  
5 the \$14 million may be underestimated and the  
6 \$54 million may be overestimated.

7           (Applause.)

8           And I'd like to let you know that  
9 we've got 700 signatures in the last two  
10 weeks supporting, these are signatures from  
11 Butler Tarkington and Rocky Ripple,  
12 supporting or asking the Army Corps of  
13 Engineers and the City of Indianapolis to  
14 include Rocky Ripple in the levee project.  
15 And I'd like to reiterate one of the things  
16 you said in your introduction, you said the  
17 top priority is the preservation of life, and  
18 I don't see it. Do we not live -- there are  
19 700 homes, or there are 330 homes in Rocky  
20 Ripple, and there are over 700 of us and we  
21 all live there, and our lives are at stake,  
22 and we're asking to be included like everyone

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1 else is in this project.

2 (Applause.)

3 I'd like to give you our  
4 resolution from Rocky Ripple. There is a  
5 resolution from Butler Tarkington  
6 Neighborhood Association asking for the  
7 inclusion of Rocky Ripple in the levee  
8 project, and here's our formal resolution.

9 COL LEONARD: Robert Tomey.

10 MR. TOMEY: I'm Robert Tomey, I'm  
11 Rocky Ripple's Town Board President.  
12 Throughout our conversations with the Corps  
13 and the City of Indianapolis, they keep  
14 speaking to one Rocky Ripple as we are some  
15 kind of a second class citizen behind the  
16 wall. Our point is Rocky Ripple is a  
17 community, but our communities do not stop at  
18 the bridge. All of our communities are  
19 Butler, Butler Tarkington, Warfleigh area,  
20 we're all one community. But you keep  
21 speaking of not being economically viable.  
22 Well, the one point of that is if you pick

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1 any 330 homes at any one point of this  
2 project, are they economically viable for  
3 just those? But if you add everybody into  
4 the whole project, which we should in your  
5 preservation of life, that if you include our  
6 330 homes along with the 1,500 other homes  
7 that are involved, it is economically viable  
8 for us to be there. And also, Congress can  
9 allocate that money to get this done if the  
10 Corps goes after the money for this project.  
11 I believe that the Corps can do this, and it  
12 can do it right.

13 We do not want to split up one --  
14 put a wall down you're splitting communities.  
15 And I was appalled to see, at 5:00 o'clock,  
16 Channel 59 news, when you said that if Rocky  
17 Ripple tries to be included that this project  
18 will stop and it will never get finished.  
19 That, sir, right now, is trying to divide  
20 communities before we ever get started, and I  
21 am appalled at that.

22 COL LEONARD: Michael Bergitoff?

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1 Peg Sharpes?

2 MS. SHARPLES: My name is Peg  
3 Sharples. I didn't just get off the boat,  
4 I've lived here for 51 years. I live on  
5 Capitol Avenue. I've written down my  
6 statements here. If a flood wall along the  
7 river was successful for the first two  
8 phases, why change? We want all our  
9 neighborhood protected. None of us are more  
10 privileged than others. Let's do the best  
11 job to protect all of us. A lesson learned  
12 from New Orleans can't be forgotten so  
13 quickly.

14 COL LEONARD: Sue Moge.

15 MS. MOGLE: I'm Sue Mogle, I live  
16 in Rocky Ripple. I've got a few things  
17 prepared, and I'm going to kind of abbreviate  
18 most of them because most of them have  
19 already been said. First do no harm I think  
20 is very significant. Bonnie Jennings, the  
21 Army Corps of Engineers project manager is  
22 quoted in one of the articles as saying

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1 public safety is our number one concern, when  
2 the levee is complete homeowners and  
3 businesses can rest assured that the levees  
4 and flood walls, the complete system, will  
5 reduce risk that flooding causes. If this is  
6 true, then why is any other alignment other  
7 than the Rocky Ripple alignment even being  
8 considered?

9 The Army Corps of Engineers own  
10 documents, the PDF that's on the website,  
11 states the Rocky Ripple alignment is the best  
12 alignment for flood protection in  
13 Indianapolis. An alignment along the Central  
14 Canal would wall off an entire community of  
15 Rocky Ripple into the flood way, deliberately  
16 exposing roughly 300 homes and almost 1,000  
17 people to the risks that flooding causes.  
18 And the emergency plan, in writing, in the  
19 proposal, is to sandbag the two bridges to  
20 Rocky Ripple, cutting off all access and  
21 escape routes, including emergency vehicles.  
22 The current proposal allowed hugely increases

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1 the immediate danger of a flood to a  
2 significant population to provide a flood 300  
3 years in the future for few.

4 (Applause.)

5 COL LEONARD: Dennis Faulkenberg.

6 MR. FAULKENBERG: My name is  
7 Dennis Faulkenberg, I live at 177 West  
8 Westfield Boulevard, in the Butler Tarkington  
9 neighborhood. My wife, Jill, and I, have  
10 lived here since 2004 after 28 years in the  
11 suburbs. We were drawn into this  
12 neighborhood for the very feature that you're  
13 out to destroy, the Indianapolis Central  
14 Water Canal. The incredible  
15 beauty, nature and history of this area and  
16 this neighborhood that we were drawn to are  
17 all under attack by this plan that you've  
18 proposed. The crossing of the canal right in  
19 front of my house, with an industrial-like  
20 gate that will come across, this flood wall,  
21 four foot, six foot, whatever you, whichever  
22 you want to call it, four feet and then you

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1 add two feet on of removable wall, whichever  
2 it is, will become a graffiti magnet, weeds  
3 will grow up behind it.

4 I would challenge the water  
5 company folks here who own that canal to tell  
6 us how they're going to maintain it. The  
7 weeds will grow up behind it, folks like us  
8 will be behind it with weed eaters trying to  
9 keep the weeds and the brush down. Trash  
10 will gather up by it. Graffiti magnet, we  
11 know this mile long wall will become when it  
12 doesn't need to be that way. You don't need  
13 to breach this incredible, historic feature.  
14 That canal was built in the 1830's. That  
15 canal is probably the oldest manmade feature  
16 in all of Central Indiana.

17 (Applause.)

18 When you issued your  
19 environmental assessment document 18 months  
20 ago, when you weren't even going to have a  
21 public hearing then because of this minor  
22 change moving it across the canal, you didn't

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1 even address the historic features of that  
2 canal. And my comments, and many comments of  
3 the 300 people who gathered at the Riviera  
4 Club pointed out the history of this canal.  
5 I don't think you folks even realize that.  
6 Come to our neighborhood, talk to us, that's  
7 what these people are here tonight to tell  
8 you, about what a unique, incredible feature  
9 this canal, Rocky Ripple, and our  
10 neighborhood is. Your taking the cheap route  
11 out. The cheap route of \$14 million dollars  
12 versus \$50, I think \$14 is understated, I  
13 think \$50 is overstated.

14 You've given no detail, we've  
15 asked repeatedly for the detail of your cost  
16 benefit, of how you came up with the \$50  
17 million dollars cost, and the cost benefit.  
18 You've not included the benefit of saving the  
19 canal in the cost-benefit ratio. This is 60  
20 percent of Indianapolis' water supply, it's  
21 supplied by that canal. And if you go along  
22 the river, protect Rocky Ripple, and go on

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1 to, around the Butler fields, for some reason  
2 you arbitrarily cut down 53rd Street in Rocky  
3 Ripple, rather than protecting the entire  
4 area north of the canal, including the Butler  
5 fields. The cost benefit seems like it would  
6 be amazing if you would include the canal  
7 along with the Rocky Ripple homes you would  
8 save.

9 What does it take to get you to  
10 include the value, the benefit of that,  
11 saving the Indianapolis water canal and 60  
12 percent of our water supply, as well as it  
13 being this incredible historic feature? What  
14 does it take to get you to include the  
15 benefit of that in your cost-benefit ratio?

16 (Applause.)

17 COL LEONARD: Will Carlson.

18 MR. CARLSON: My name is Will  
19 Carlson, I am the President of the Warfleigh  
20 Neighborhood Association. We're a relatively  
21 fledgling, young neighborhood association.  
22 We don't have a full board, we just have four

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1 officers. But, it's been put to us for the  
2 last year or so, where does Warfleigh stand.

3 So, we had a meeting, we planned  
4 on July 23rd and had a meeting, asked  
5 everybody in the neighborhood, 650 homes, to  
6 show up. And 52 people showed up, 34 voted  
7 to go with the fastest way to get the wall  
8 done, because we were concerned about a flood  
9 coming between the time now and when you  
10 might finish it. So, our concern was get it  
11 done fast, and if it's got to be cheap, let's  
12 go cheap.

13 But, at the time there was some  
14 facts we didn't have, which have been brought  
15 to my attention by the president of the  
16 Butler Tarkington Association, Neil Bode,  
17 John Barth, that there's some discrepancies  
18 that we need to consider. Our position is  
19 officially, I have to represent how we voted,  
20 and that is we support the Westfield  
21 alignment. But in my heart, I can't go that  
22 way for my own personal opinion.

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1 (Applause.)

2 I know my neighbor geologist is  
3 going to disagree with me, but we'll talk  
4 about that later, Kevin. But my feeling is  
5 we are a city, we are a community, we are  
6 Rocky Ripplians, Warfleighans, Broadville  
7 Village Association, we can't be, say, okay,  
8 ours is done, we're safe, get it done. We  
9 have to support the entire community.  
10 Without that, the city would not be what it  
11 is, and it wouldn't stand for what we think  
12 it stands for. And that is we sit down and  
13 we talk with each other and we get the right  
14 thing done for the right reasons. Thank you.

15 (Applause.)

16 COL LEONARD: Mr. Zach Cattell.

17 MR. CATTELL: Good evening, my  
18 name is Zach Cattell, I live at 706 West 54th  
19 Street, Indianapolis, Indiana, in the  
20 neighborhood of Rocky Ripple. The draft  
21 Supplemental Impact Statement, in my  
22 estimation, is flawed for a number of

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1 reasons. As was stated earlier, and stated  
2 again, the preface that the DSEIS was  
3 designed to preserve lives and livelihoods is  
4 patently false. It leaves out 350 homes, 700  
5 and plus people in the town of Rocky Ripple.  
6 Irreparable harm is being planned, and we  
7 must stop it via political solutions or legal  
8 action.

9 The DSEIS does not adequately  
10 measure the cost-benefit of including Rocky  
11 Ripple in an alignment. The design footprint  
12 includes too many homes, artificially  
13 increasing cost via acquisition. The total  
14 area of the project, including Rocky Ripple,  
15 must be evaluated, and not just an  
16 incremental add-on through the DSEIS  
17 language. Further, the design includes sewer  
18 installation for impacted septic fields that  
19 could not be replaced. Rocky Ripple,  
20 evidently, I recently learned, is seventh on  
21 a list of communities in Indianapolis to  
22 receive septic tank elimination. That cost

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1 should be taken out of the DSEIS because it  
2 will no longer be a problem once the Corps  
3 comes through.

4 The \$35 million dollar  
5 incremental cost at Rocky Ripple, even if  
6 accurate, roughly equals the replacement cost  
7 of 350 homes at a low \$100,000 estimate per  
8 home. This in and of itself is a one-to-one  
9 cost-benefit analysis.

10 (Applause.)

11 The project, as a federal and  
12 city, or local sponsorship project, should go  
13 forward only with the cooperation of everyone  
14 here, the city and its communities. The  
15 city, as project sponsor, should not  
16 participate in any way in any project that  
17 permanently places life and property in  
18 harm's way.

19 The proposed alignment must be  
20 rejected. The Corps must conduct a general  
21 reevaluation review to re-include Rocky  
22 Ripple, and future design must preserve life

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1 and property. Thank you.

2 (Applause.)

3 COL LEONARD: Thank you. Clarke  
4 Kahlo.

5 MR. KAHLO: Good evening, Clarke  
6 Kahlo. I'll just take a brief moment to  
7 speak in favor of tree protection. I'm  
8 pretty concerned about the impact of the tree  
9 take that's been shown on your diagrams, and  
10 concerned also about the revision of the  
11 standards that apparently your engineers have  
12 come up with post-Katrina. And I just want  
13 to urge you to take a real close look at the  
14 tree take and whether you actually need as  
15 much take as your indicating that you do.

16 The riparian zone of White River  
17 is just threatened almost on a daily basis.  
18 It's kind of like death by a thousand cuts.  
19 For one reason or another people are opening  
20 up the canopy to get a view of the water,  
21 normal development and so forth, and we're  
22 losing our riparian zone. That, of course,

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1 is where the critters are afforded a habitat.  
2 So, I just urge you to take a look at it for  
3 the entire length of the levee, starting at  
4 Broad Ripple on south, including the portions  
5 that have already been constructed. Thank  
6 you very much.

7 (Applause.)

8 COL LEONARD: Thank you, sir.  
9 Susan Appel.

10 MS. APPEL: My name is Susan  
11 Appel, and I'm a member of the Butler  
12 Tarkington. I read through the entire 120-  
13 page document, and it's clear that this is a  
14 difficult problem without a clear solution.  
15 But, it's clear that the Butler Tarkington  
16 and Rocky Ripple neighborhood associations  
17 are against it, the Mayor of Indianapolis has  
18 come out against it, Citizens Energy, that  
19 operates the canal, has spoken out against it  
20 because it compromises the canal which  
21 supplies 60 percent of the drinking water for  
22 the city. Also, the removal of seven acres

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1 of mature trees is a huge concern in a place  
2 where this is one of the few neighborhoods  
3 that nature and urban exist together, and  
4 people have chosen to live there for that  
5 reason.

6 (Applause.)

7 I'm a mother of two young  
8 children, and we spend lots of time in  
9 Holcomb Gardens, and walking up the canal,  
10 and putting this in place will remove it.  
11 When I told my four year old daughter about  
12 the tree removal, she suggested a petition.  
13 So, please add her name to the petition, and  
14 hopefully we can tell her that all our work  
15 will be a benefit to save our trees and  
16 nature in our communities. Thank you.

17 (Applause.)

18 COL LEONARD: Thank you. Kevin  
19 Strunk.

20 MR. STRUNK: I'm Kevin Strunk,  
21 I'm a Warfleigh homeowner. I've been  
22 involved with this project since January 1st

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1 of 1991 when the big flood of record, most  
2 recent record, happened. And I have to hand  
3 it to these guys, they've duplicated the  
4 effort politically that we did in the early  
5 90's on this project. I have lots of friends  
6 in Rocky Ripple, so whatever I say I'll  
7 probably get lynched by somebody. I've got  
8 friends that live on the river and friends  
9 that live in the interior, so I'm going to  
10 let those guys work that out themselves.

11 What I'm most concerned about is  
12 living on the Warfleigh levee in my backyard  
13 is something that we discussed at length,  
14 Colonel, in the early 90's, was the tree  
15 situation on the levee. And the backside of  
16 the levee clearly is heavily treed, and we  
17 had extensive, I should tell you I'm an  
18 engineering geologist, and we had extensive  
19 conversations of a technical nature at the  
20 time about tree clearing. Because then the  
21 engineers, the Corps wanted to clear down to  
22 at least the tow, the backside slope on the

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1 levee. And we, at the time the design of the  
2 levee, is my recollection, was with the  
3 height of the wall on top of the levee, the  
4 sheet pile, and the tow drain, was designed  
5 specifically to accommodate continued trees  
6 on the backside of the levee.

7           The current plan, which I haven't  
8 heard anybody talk about, other than Clark  
9 just got it, was a shock to me to see that.  
10 Not only would the backside of the levee be  
11 cleared, but as much as another additional 15  
12 feet of trees, huge trees, would be cleared.  
13 Now then, that's not just the Warfleigh  
14 levee, that's the levee that's going to be  
15 built over here in Friedman Park, 15 feet on  
16 either side out from the tow slope. And then  
17 were there to be a levee built in Rocky  
18 Ripple, 15 feet there, resulting overall in,  
19 what is it, eleven acres of trees, or some  
20 number like that.

21           This has been justified to me by  
22 Corps staff, and also DPW, as being what is

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1 informally referred to as post-Katrina  
2 standards, although I know you guys don't  
3 like to say that. But I'm yet to be  
4 convinced that a probability analysis can  
5 show that that tree loss is justified down  
6 to, when you get into the equivalent of what  
7 a 300-year flood probability is. That is a  
8 smaller number than what you guys are  
9 actually designing for.

10 And I think it's just a travesty  
11 that you guys would come in here and clear  
12 out those trees on the existing Warfleigh  
13 levee or up in Broad Ripple, let alone what  
14 would happen here in Friedman Park, or I  
15 don't know if people understand what's going  
16 to happen at Rivey, which is going to be  
17 completely denuded down to the river's edge,  
18 and then on down into Rocky Ripple should  
19 that portion be built, and that the tree loss  
20 is significant and will alter this  
21 neighborhood.

22 So, I think that's something I'd

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1 like to have you guys go back and look at  
2 that. I understand there's a variance  
3 procedure, I've been told that it was kicked  
4 back from the D.C. Corps office. And I'd  
5 like to see the documentation on what  
6 submittal you guys made from Louisville to  
7 the D.C. office, and then what their  
8 justification for denying that vegetation  
9 waiver, which I think is an important part of  
10 whatever final solution comes out here. But  
11 it's just awful to do that.

12 Now, the justification for the  
13 tree loss is that, unless you guys certify  
14 it, FEMA won't drop the flood insurance. I  
15 understand that. But, that's something I  
16 think is really important, to do that. As a  
17 Warfleigh resident, and somebody who's been  
18 involved since the very first day on this  
19 project, you know, the thing that Warfleigh  
20 and Broad Ripple want to see happen is  
21 whatever project it is, let's get it  
22 finished. Because, you know, we've been

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1 waiting since 1996 for something to happen,  
2 and for better or worse, it's time to finish  
3 something up and move on. So, I'm going to  
4 also submit some more detailed comments  
5 later. Thank you.

6 (Applause.)

7 COL LEONARD: Thank you. Mary  
8 Walker, please.

9 MS. WALKER: My name is Mary  
10 Walker. I'm a 40 year resident of the Butler  
11 Tarkington neighborhood association, Butler  
12 Tarkington neighborhood. I'm a former  
13 president of the neighborhood association.  
14 I'm here tonight representing the Marion  
15 County Alliance of Neighborhood Associations.

16 We stand with the neighbors, the  
17 neighborhoods, and the City of Indianapolis,  
18 but we would stand alone if absolutely  
19 necessary. We're very disappointed that the  
20 Corps is determined not to change their  
21 decision. Communities should not be  
22 penalized today for a decision made 16 years

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1 ago.

2 (Applause.)

3 Placing a levee anywhere near the  
4 canal is the wrong place for a levee. The  
5 canal never floods, Butler Tarkington need  
6 not be protected from the canal. The river  
7 is what floods. Any levee should be placed  
8 where a flood could occur: at the river.

9 (Applause.)

10 In the interest of protecting the  
11 homes in Butler Tarkington neighborhood, why  
12 would you sacrifice our neighbors in Rocky  
13 Ripple? Why would you send flood debris into  
14 the Butler playing fields and their prairie  
15 and endanger their transmission tower? We  
16 suffered one fall of a transmission tower; we  
17 don't need another one.

18 Why would you compromise the  
19 beautiful Holcomb Gardens and the Carillon?  
20 The operation is down there in the gardens,  
21 although the Carillon is up the hill. Why  
22 would you destroy the unique tow path, a

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1 walking, biking trail connecting Broad Ripple  
2 with downtown, long before the green ways  
3 trail system was even dreamed of? I am a  
4 trail monitor, as the people behind me can  
5 see on my shirt, and the tow path is my  
6 trail. I have been protecting that and  
7 monitoring that for 40 years.

8 Why would you design a levee  
9 system that would deliberately destroy the  
10 primary source of the water supply for  
11 central Marion County?

12 (Applause.)

13 The canal is a fragile waterway;  
14 it could not withstand the onslaught of flood  
15 debris. I was president of the neighborhood  
16 association when one tree came down and it  
17 took out the west bank of the canal, and it  
18 cost hundreds of thousands of dollars to  
19 repair one small breach. They had to build a  
20 road down from Butler University, down the  
21 bluff, in order to repair that, and it was  
22 weeks before the water supply could be

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1 maintained in downtown Indianapolis.

2 It doesn't matter which side of  
3 the canal is strong enough to support a  
4 levee, either side of the canal is the wrong  
5 place to build a levee.

6 (Applause.)

7 Your plan has not factored in the  
8 effects, has not factored in the function of  
9 that canal. In your cost-benefit there is  
10 nothing in there about the water supply to  
11 downtown Indianapolis, has nothing to do with  
12 the greenways trail system, and if you think  
13 that it's cheaper to put a wall at the canal,  
14 just do it and see what it's going to cost  
15 when you have to replace the canal, find  
16 another way to get water to the water  
17 treatment plant, replace all those houses, or  
18 pay back those people who've lost their  
19 homes, or their lives, in Rocky Ripple. It's  
20 just not a cost-benefit ratio that we want to  
21 live with. You don't have to live with it  
22 because you're in Louisville. One more

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1 minute.

2 (Applause.)

3 Please listen to the people who  
4 live here and have invested in this area. We  
5 may not be engineers, but we know this land.  
6 We chose to live here, in this place. We  
7 appear to value elements of the community  
8 differently than you do. I realize that you  
9 have a legal obligation. Please design a  
10 system that protects what we think needs to  
11 be protected, what we hold dear. Thank you  
12 very much.

13 (Applause.)

14 COL. LEONARD: Thank you, ma'am.  
15 Glenn Pratt. I'm sorry, Glenn Pratt.

16 MR. PRATT: Thank you. My name  
17 is Glenn Pratt. My background is the federal  
18 public health service, the federal  
19 environmental agency, and I came down to  
20 Indiana to help form the state environmental  
21 agency. My background is in public health  
22 and environmental engineering at the federal

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1 and state level. My concern, and it's been  
2 stated but I'll repeat it, is we need a safe  
3 water supply.

4 As a couple of previous speakers  
5 had mentioned, is that 60 percent of our  
6 water comes from the canal. And some people  
7 say we'll put in pumps. If you look at the  
8 electrical cost, as well as installation of  
9 pumps in eliminating a canal, it's  
10 prohibitive. There are two places where the  
11 canal is extremely vulnerable, and your  
12 design has done nothing to protect them. You  
13 must stop moving ahead until you can harden  
14 the situation to protect our water supply.

15 It's a major economic impact. If  
16 all of a sudden Indianapolis loses 60 percent  
17 of their water, what does it do to industry,  
18 what does it do to, oh we have a big  
19 convention in town but you can only flush  
20 your toilet once every three days. So, we  
21 need to address protecting the canal.  
22 There's all the other issues, but I'm just

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1 saying you should not move ahead until you  
2 can assure the hardening of the canal.  
3 There's two very vulnerable places where what  
4 you're doing is directing water into the,  
5 undercutting the canal, and this is critical.

6 And I would add another point,  
7 it's interesting where the Corps of Engineers  
8 says, oh, we don't really treat everybody  
9 equal, screw the poor, we only protect the  
10 wealthy, we base it on the value of the homes  
11 not on the value of the people. And so I  
12 would say to the Corps, number one, protect  
13 our water supply. Number two, treat all  
14 people as humans. Thank you.

15 MR. LEONARD: Thank you. Ben  
16 Herriman, Mr. Herriman.

17 MR. HERRIMAN: Good evening, my  
18 name is Bart Herriman, I'm at 5340 Riverview  
19 Drive, in Rocky Ripple. I want to basically  
20 just kind of clarify a few things about the  
21 whole idea of Rocky Ripple opting out at one  
22 point. I think it's important that everybody

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1 understands it. This was a very, very close  
2 vote, this was a straw vote, it ended up  
3 being about a few votes apart. And at that  
4 point the town did, in fact, say that they  
5 did want to be out of that specific project,  
6 but not out of flood protection.

7 At that time the city granted a  
8 letter, issued a letter to Rocky Ripple  
9 saying if you want to come back in you can  
10 come back in, we'll let you in so long as we  
11 have the money to do this. Well, the fact is  
12 we don't have the money to finish this  
13 project anyway, so there's really no harm in  
14 letting Rocky Ripple back in at this point.  
15 All it does take is a general reevaluation  
16 review at the congressional level, which we  
17 could very easily have done from our  
18 congressman, who is here today but I don't  
19 see him, and I think it's very important that  
20 that get done to re-include Rocky Ripple.

21 Secondly, there's a legal issue,  
22 I'm a lawyer so I'm going to talk about legal

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1 jargon here. There's something called  
2 detrimental reliance, and detrimental  
3 reliance is when somebody basically tells you  
4 something and you rely on it to your  
5 detriment. That's what happened here with  
6 the city. The city said we could get back  
7 in, turns around four times now Rocky Ripple  
8 has approached the city and they said you  
9 can't get back in. So, we relied to our  
10 detriment on what the city had told us, and I  
11 think that is patently unfair and it is going  
12 to cause irreparable damage to our  
13 communities.

14 In addition to detrimental  
15 reliance there is something called inverse  
16 condemnation. And that's not when somebody,  
17 when the government comes and tries to buy  
18 your house and just take it from you, this is  
19 where the government does something that is  
20 so drastic that it reduces all the property  
21 values in your area. I guarantee by walling  
22 off Rocky Ripple, as is proposed in this

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1 plan, you're putting up a sign on Rocky  
2 Ripple saying they're not open for business.  
3 Our property values are going to drop  
4 precipitously, and we would ask you please do  
5 not do that to our community. We deserve the  
6 same amount of flood protection as everybody  
7 else, and we do not need our property values  
8 reduced in that regard.

9 Thinking about other government  
10 decisions that have been very bad over the  
11 years, I think of Plessy vs. Ferguson, our  
12 Supreme Court decision that decided that  
13 separate but equal was okay. Luckily that's  
14 been overturned over the years, but this plan  
15 basically treats us separately but unequally.  
16 We are basically on our own in Rocky Ripple,  
17 high water comes up we're sealed off, and  
18 it's a horrible decision. But unlike Plessy  
19 vs. Ferguson, which was overruled with ink  
20 and paper, in this case we're going to have a  
21 wall. We're going to have millions of  
22 dollars worth of construction of a wall

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1 that's going to be very permanent, it's not  
2 going to be a temporary type thing like a  
3 court's opinion, and it's going to be a  
4 permanent wall.

5 The fact of the matter is the  
6 Berlin Wall was up for almost 40 years before  
7 it came down. In 40 years I don't think  
8 Rocky Ripple will be here if the Corps  
9 doesn't provide us a little bit of  
10 protection. So, I would once again encourage  
11 you to work with the neighborhoods, and we're  
12 here for you, we're here to try to make this  
13 thing right. I think that reasonable minds  
14 can do a good job on this, and we look  
15 forward to working with you.

16 COL. LEONARD: Thank you, sir.  
17 Is Robert Falco here?

18 MR. FALCO: Hi, my name is Robert  
19 Falco, I live on Thornycroft Drive in the  
20 Butler Tarkington area, and I've heard a lot  
21 of comments from everybody and I just want to  
22 say what I have to say. I think the Corps of

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1 Engineers had it right the first time, but  
2 you backed off, you didn't let, when Rocky  
3 Ripple wanted to back out of it for some  
4 reason or other the door was slammed behind  
5 them. From seeing what I could with your  
6 drawing and your, the information in here,  
7 because I brought this up at another meeting  
8 as why aren't you building a, I called it a  
9 match steel pile driven wall, which is very  
10 narrow, and that's what you were going to do.  
11 You had an I-wall planned, and from what I've  
12 seen in here that was the best plan.

13 Some houses are going to be lost,  
14 that's just the way it goes, you know.  
15 Better to sacrifice 20 or 30 than 300. I  
16 believe that the Corps of Engineers had a  
17 good plan, but has now somehow backed off of  
18 it in light of a cost benefit ratio. I just  
19 want to say one thing, you as a military  
20 person, you know what happens when you fight  
21 a war on the cheap. And you should fight  
22 your war at the river's edge because that is

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1 the enemy, not the canal, not the people  
2 behind it. Put the wall where it's supposed  
3 to be, on the river, and we all will support  
4 you.

5 COL. LEONARD: Sylvia Scott?  
6 Okay, Margaret Drew? How about Larry and Amy  
7 KOENFMAN, am I saying that wrong? Okay, sir,  
8 Jeremy Stewart.

9 MR. STEWART: My name is Jeremy  
10 Stewart, I am current President of the Butler  
11 Tarkington Neighborhood Association. I just  
12 wanted to briefly state what we passed on  
13 August 13th. We had 65 people in attendance,  
14 we had a unanimous vote to support a plan  
15 that includes Rocky Ripple, protects historic  
16 Holcomb Gardens, and also includes the  
17 properties that Butler University owns, which  
18 has not been mentioned much in the cost  
19 benefit analysis.

20 As well, we request that we get,  
21 we know we got an extension to the September  
22 28th date, but we would request a 90 day

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1 extension for public comment. That's all I  
2 have.

3 COL. LEONARD: Thank you. Alice  
4 Poulsen? Alice Poulgen, sorry, how about  
5 George Fleetwood?

6 MR. FLEETWOOD: Yeah, I'm George  
7 Fleetwood, I live at 5530 North Capitol,  
8 that's the intersection of where the gate and  
9 the wall will come together. I've lived in  
10 the neighborhood for 27 years. I used to  
11 live at 54th and Kenwood and chose to move to  
12 the canal thirteen years ago, because of it's  
13 aesthetic qualities. I thank you today,  
14 Colonel, for having this opportunity. This  
15 is the first time in my 27 years in the  
16 neighborhood being invited to a meeting to  
17 the Corps to discuss this project. I  
18 appreciate the opportunity.

19 I have a number of concerns, as  
20 does my wife, Jenny, and my son Hank. First  
21 off is the aesthetics, what it's going to do  
22 to the neighborhood. I think it's going to

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1 devalue the property, putting up a wall that  
2 I believe will attract graffiti and protect  
3 very few people, actually, in Rocky Ripple,  
4 or in Broad Ripple. I mean, up in Broad  
5 Ripple they'll be protected, but not in my  
6 neighborhood, in Butler Tarkington. I think  
7 there's only like 20 effected homes that have  
8 flood insurance today.

9 Our concern is protecting  
10 everybody. I think we live in a classless  
11 society in the United States, I didn't  
12 realize there were two classes in the  
13 neighborhood that I live in. Those with a  
14 wall and those behind the wall, who will lose  
15 everything, I fear. The recreational value,  
16 I mean I live right on the canal, I'm on it  
17 every day that I'm in town as a walker. My  
18 son and I occasionally go over and fish in  
19 the canal. The fishing is not particularly  
20 good, but the experience is tremendous.

21 I share the concerns of the water  
22 supply, and I've also been told, I'm a

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1 business man, but I've also been told by  
2 engineers that there could be sewage backup  
3 to over 5,000 homes. So, in the event of a  
4 flood I would be protected, I might not have  
5 water, and I might have excrement in my  
6 basement. This is not an attractive thought  
7 to me. But I appreciate the opportunity to  
8 be here today. COL. LEONARD: Thank  
9 you, George. I have one with no last name,  
10 Carolyn from Canal Boulevard. Okay, Anne  
11 Traynor? Ron McNew, okay.

12 MR. MCNEW: My name is Ron McNew,  
13 and my wife and I have been residents of  
14 Butler Tarkington for about 36 years. And we  
15 live about four houses from the canal, and so  
16 if there is a flood our house would be at  
17 risk unless this current wall were built.  
18 But we are against the flood wall as it's  
19 proposed because we care very much about our  
20 neighbors and the environment.

21 I want to say that I am very,  
22 very proud of the Butler Tarkington

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1 Neighborhood Association, the Rocky Ripple  
2 town board, and Butler University, for taking  
3 what I think is a very responsible and  
4 principled stand in terms of protecting our  
5 environment and protecting Rocky Ripple. It  
6 seems to me that the role of government, one  
7 of the most important roles of government, is  
8 to protect it's citizens and citizens  
9 property. And that's not just the citizens  
10 of Broad Ripple or the citizens of Warfleigh.  
11 It includes all of us, it includes Rocky  
12 Ripple. And I think that the people here,  
13 I'm very proud of you, I think we are setting  
14 a good example for the Corps, and I think  
15 we're setting a good example for the city,  
16 and I hope that the city and the Corps will  
17 follow our lead. Thank you.

18 COL. LEONARD: Thank you, sir.  
19 Will Carlson? How about Donna Floyd?

20 MS. FLOYD: Thank you, Colonel,  
21 for hearing us. Can everyone hear me back  
22 there? Good. I didn't write anything down

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1 because I came up here to speak to you from  
2 our hearts. People in Rocky Ripple aren't  
3 just a community, we're family. We get  
4 together, we have gardens, we do everything  
5 just like it used to be in the 50's. It's a  
6 wonderful place to live, it's a safe place to  
7 live. I've heard a lot of technical  
8 information and it's all good and I've  
9 learned a lot listening to all these people.  
10 I want to thank all of you that don't live in  
11 Rocky Ripple, thank you for coming out and  
12 supporting us. My heart is just filled with  
13 so much love, I appreciate it.

14 My concerns are this, first of  
15 all, if you build the wall as you are  
16 proposing it, and I've been told, if we flood  
17 -- everyone in Rocky Ripple has septic, we  
18 don't have sewers because no one has gotten  
19 around to put them in yet. This is going to  
20 be an environmental nightmare when all of our  
21 sewers, septic, back up into the canal.  
22 Now, as he said he didn't want to find any

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1 stuff in his basement, that's the least of  
2 our worries. If 60 percent of Indianapolis'  
3 water comes from that canal, do you want to  
4 drink it? I don't, I don't even now.

5 The other thing I'm concerned  
6 about is FEMA. FEMA will drop us like a hot  
7 potato. I know the government, I've worked  
8 in it long enough, we will not have flood  
9 insurance provided by them which means our  
10 mortgage company, those of us that have  
11 mortgages still, will insist that we have  
12 flood insurance. But I don't know any  
13 insurance company in their right mind who  
14 would even offer it to us unless it was three  
15 or four times what we're already paying.  
16 Now, half the people in the United States are  
17 losing their homes over unemployment, over  
18 losing their homes because they're  
19 underwater, sorry, the pun, with their  
20 mortgages, and now our insurance on flood  
21 insurance is probably going to cost as much  
22 as our mortgage payments. We're going to

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1 lose our homes. And can we sell our homes in  
2 Rocky Ripple, I don't think so.

3 So, I'm asking you today, please  
4 take these things into heart. Don't just  
5 look at, they're going to say, well we have  
6 enough money to do the -- if the septic back  
7 up into the canal we have enough money to  
8 clean that water. I say, today, to you, take  
9 that money that you were going to clean that  
10 water up with, we're all environmentally  
11 concerned, and put it in to put the wall  
12 along the river where it belongs, not against  
13 the canal. Thank you for your time.

14 COL. LEONARD: Thank you, ma'am.  
15 Tim Maloney, please.

16 MR. MALONEY: Thanks, Colonel.  
17 I'm Tim Maloney with the Hoosier  
18 Environmental Council, and we would like to  
19 express some comments and concerns and  
20 questions about the project and the  
21 environmental impact statement. The Hoosier  
22 Environmental Council has long been involved

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1 and commented on the Corps' flood control  
2 projects for the White River through  
3 Indianapolis, and as recently as submitting  
4 comments on the environmental assessment.

5 First, comments about the quality  
6 of the EIS document, it really contains a  
7 surprising lack of information and analysis.  
8 Beginning with the lack of a detailed benefit  
9 cost analysis for the various alternatives,  
10 quantitative comparisons between the  
11 alternatives in a user friendly and  
12 meaningful form, such as comparing acreage  
13 effected, homes effected, value of flood  
14 reductions by each of the proposed  
15 alternatives, so people can make meaningful  
16 judgments about the benefits or drawbacks of  
17 each of the alternatives. There is a lack of  
18 details on the mitigation plans. It was  
19 known as far back as a year ago, as described  
20 in the environmental assessment, that the  
21 original proposed mitigation was not going to  
22 work out. And it seems like the details for

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1 new mitigation in terms of the type and  
2 acreage of mitigation, is it preservation,  
3 restoration or enhancement, could have been  
4 included in this draft environmental impact  
5 statement.

6 I would like to point out an  
7 apparent discrepancy. In the environmental  
8 assessment the document indicates that the  
9 level of flood protection that would be  
10 provided would be to the 100 year level, yet  
11 the new draft environmental impact statement  
12 says the level of protection is the 300 year  
13 level. And I think that discrepancy needs to  
14 be explained.

15 Furthermore, we didn't find any  
16 response to public comments that were made on  
17 the environmental assessment included in the  
18 environmental impact statement, and that  
19 would be a very helpful feature in the  
20 environmental impact statement.

21 Finally, just to express some  
22 substantive concerns. As an environmental

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1 organization, clearly we're concerned about  
2 the project's impacts on natural resources,  
3 including the high quality riparian forest  
4 that lines the White River through this part  
5 of the city. We are very concerned that not  
6 all efforts have been made to mitigate the  
7 loss of forests, from the new part of the  
8 project as well as going back and removing  
9 more forest from the completed parts of the  
10 project. And as other commenters have said,  
11 we think more needs to be done to evaluate  
12 and reconsider a variance process and make  
13 sure that that extremely valuable  
14 environmental resource is protected. Thank  
15 you.

16 COL. LEONARD: Thank you, sir.  
17 Is Jonathan Elrod here?

18 MR. ELROD: My name is Jonathan  
19 Elrod, I'm the attorney for the Town of Rocky  
20 Ripple. I think a lot has already been said.  
21 And I think, particularly the comments by our  
22 last speaker, Mr. Maloney, really speak to

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1 our biggest concerns, it's just the lack of  
2 transparency. We're told that the economic  
3 analysis says that it doesn't make sense for  
4 us to go around there. Not only does it not  
5 make sense to go around there, but under  
6 federal law we can't go around Rocky Ripple  
7 because of that. There's an old saying that  
8 there's lies, there's darn lies and there's  
9 statistics, but maybe we should add economic  
10 analysis to it as well.

11 I think everyone here would like  
12 to have e-mailed to them the numbers. How  
13 did you weigh what this would cost, how did  
14 you weigh the concerns that we have about  
15 Rocky Ripple being put in the bottom of the  
16 bathtub, about us being walled in after the  
17 flood comes in, about having our drinking  
18 water on the wrong side of the flood. And I  
19 think if all of us could see with  
20 transparency where you guys are coming from  
21 we could have a much more constructive  
22 conversation about, well, why did you weigh

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1 this this way, and what do we not understand  
2 about this that your expertise might help us.

3 With that, I think it's wonderful  
4 that all these other organizations have come  
5 out for Rocky Ripple, and the board is truly  
6 grateful.

7 COL. LEONARD: Thank you, sir.  
8 Is Duane Etienne here?

9 MR. ETIENNE: Thank you, Colonel.  
10 My wife and I have been residents of Butler  
11 Tarkington neighborhood for 33 years. We do  
12 not live in the floodplain, but I'm here to  
13 be a good neighbor to my good neighbors, and  
14 to support them. I don't have to repeat the  
15 very fine comments that have already been  
16 made, but I'd like to make two observations.  
17 And one is that in the face of the relative  
18 cost, which seems to be a major factor in the  
19 decision, there's an awful lot of cynicism  
20 out there already about government. And my  
21 feeling is that Rocky Ripple and Butler  
22 Tarkington at large we're pretty positive

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1 people, but I would imagine if this decision  
2 as I understand it goes forward there's going  
3 to be a lot more cynics about government in  
4 our community. And I think that's really  
5 sad, that's kind of an emotional statement,  
6 but I don't hate government, I think there's  
7 a good role for government. But this kind of  
8 thing, I hope you're listening, I hope the  
9 Corps is listening.

10 And then, finally, it kind of  
11 makes me wonder, there's about, what 200, 300  
12 people here tonight. I think there probably  
13 should be three or 400,000 here tonight when  
14 you consider that's how many people would be  
15 effected if that canal gets flooded. Thank  
16 you.

17 COL. LEONARD: Thank you, sir.  
18 Is Mike Mooney here, Mike Mooney?

19 MR. MOONEY: Thank you, Colonel.  
20 My name is Mike Mooney and I live in Rocky  
21 Ripple, I have for the last 20 years. It  
22 strikes me, or one thing I want to thank you

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1 for, this public hearing that we're at. It  
2 seems to me it's the only public hearing that  
3 we have on this particular topic. And I  
4 think it's very significant to me as I come  
5 in and listen to this hearing where we talk  
6 about our problem, this is not just a hearing  
7 for angry people to vent, this is a time when  
8 the community comes together to give you some  
9 feedback. We think you're doing a great job,  
10 and we think you can do it better here or  
11 something, this is the purpose of this public  
12 meeting.

13 Now, I have been here tonight, I  
14 am aware, I read the papers like everybody  
15 else, I'm aware that the Indianapolis paper  
16 is against this plan in the Westfield area.  
17 I'm aware that the Butler Tarkington area is  
18 against it. Rocky Ripple, of course has  
19 always been against it. Butler University is  
20 against it. That every person that has stood  
21 up here tonight has told you, at this public  
22 hearing, your plan does not work, sir.

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1 They're saying to you, as I understood it,  
2 that the plan as it's laid out is a much  
3 greater danger to our life and to our  
4 community than the possibility of a flood.

5 And I respect you and your job.  
6 I realize that you, I don't know whether you  
7 personally are an engineer, but I understand  
8 the engineers. Engineers do what their slide  
9 rules, and I don't mean it in a denigrating  
10 way, what their slide rules tell them. And I  
11 appreciate you're up here and in many ways  
12 saying this is professionally what we can do.  
13 This may be as far as our conversation can go  
14 with you, I did get educated by an awful lot  
15 of people that seem to question even the  
16 information from the Corps of Engineers, I'm  
17 not in a position where I can do that.

18 But one thing I'm sure of is the  
19 City of Indianapolis is also here tonight at  
20 this public hearing. They have heard not  
21 just angry people, but the people of this  
22 community expressing to you the idea that the

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1 plan is just not viable, that we need another  
2 plan and the City of Indianapolis may be the  
3 ones that has to say, God bless you, you  
4 tried hard, now we want you to go back and  
5 try harder. But please listen, this is what  
6 we've said tonight. I'll quit while I'm  
7 winning, but please.

8 COL. LEONARD: Thank you, Mike.  
9 Jay Barbus? How about Mark Chatten?

10 MR. CHATTEN: Good evening, my  
11 name is Mark Chatten. I got off the boat a  
12 few years ago, but I happen to live in 5509  
13 North Capitol, and I'm strongly opposed to  
14 the current alignment along the canal. My  
15 family's preferred alignment is to protect  
16 Rocky Ripple, even though where we live our  
17 family home is protected by the current  
18 proposal by yourselves. And we think that  
19 flood protection should be to not just where  
20 we live, but also our neighbors in Rocky  
21 Ripple.

22 In particular, I have objections

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1 to the draft EIS. I think the proposal must  
2 be acceptable to everyone in the community,  
3 and I think that point is clearly missed in  
4 the EIS, it's not reported there. It's not  
5 acceptable for the locals at all, and there  
6 is widespread support for an alternative in  
7 the plan and this is not mentioned. This  
8 needs to be addressed in the next version of  
9 the EIS so it reaches the right conclusion.

10 Also, the draft EIS is not  
11 transparent and neither is it objective. It  
12 doesn't fully account for or emphasize non-  
13 monetary considerations. Also, when we look  
14 at the economic considerations in the report,  
15 the benefit to cost ratio is not appropriate.  
16 It talks about the incremental cost and the  
17 incremental benefit. But if we look at the  
18 wall today the wall protects nobody. Because  
19 if the flood was to rise tomorrow, Rocky  
20 Ripple, Warfleigh, Butler Tarkington and  
21 Broad Ripple homes would be unprotected  
22 because the current wall doesn't work as it

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1 currently stands.

2 So, when you look at, if we  
3 finish the wall we need to consider the  
4 benefit of the work going forward, the  
5 remaining benefit and the remaining cost.  
6 But if we look at the benefit cost ratio in  
7 that way we come to the different conclusion.  
8 I'm quite convinced that we've reached the  
9 conclusion that it does make good sense to go  
10 around Rocky Ripple. Also, that the  
11 replacement value of Holcomb Gardens and the  
12 canal is not considered, sir.

13 Also, when we look at the benefit  
14 it's not even mentioned in the report at all  
15 of the different options, you know, of all of  
16 these areas. And that should be in today's  
17 dollars, not back in 1996 when this was first  
18 delivered. So, I'm quite convinced that if  
19 we did the report, did this analysis  
20 correctly, we'd realize that the remaining  
21 costs and the remaining benefits would  
22 determine that the benefits far outweigh any

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1 costs of even the sensible option. Also,  
2 there's things which are not economic and  
3 that needs to be properly emphasized, sir.  
4 There's life safety of 600 residents at risk  
5 in Rocky Ripple. We know that the White  
6 River rises rapidly when there's heavy  
7 rainfall. In fact, I talked to the P.E. this  
8 evening, he's a levee safety officer, and he  
9 says he's not personally willing to sign off  
10 on a fully demountable wall that runs along  
11 for 700 feet because he's concerned that if  
12 there was a flood there wouldn't be adequate  
13 time to put up the flood defense. And I  
14 think we need to realize that evacuations  
15 don't run smoothly. We all can think of  
16 recent incidents in New Orleans which prove  
17 that, and we need to consider life safety.  
18 And that needs to be emphasized so you come  
19 to the right conclusions.

20 Also, I'd like to mention the  
21 canal and Holcomb Gardens, their cultural and  
22 historical assets. And this is not protected

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1 by the current plan, it's not mentioned, and  
2 their replacement value is significant. But  
3 more than that, even if we replace them and  
4 rebuild them they would not be the same  
5 again.

6 And then finally, this is the  
7 reason I chose to live where I do, is the  
8 fact the canal is a beautiful thing. It's  
9 actually park land, it's more than just a  
10 canal, it's more than just a water supply.  
11 And the aesthetics of this is not considered  
12 at all. So, I would like to ask you, please,  
13 to build a flood wall, I think we need a  
14 flood wall. But this is not reason to panic,  
15 this is a very extreme event, it happens once  
16 100 years or 100 to 300 years.

17 We don't need to rush to build  
18 the cheapest option, we need to build the  
19 sensible option. We need to even potentially  
20 consider reopening the project, if necessary,  
21 and resubmitting to consider Rocky Ripple if  
22 that's the best way politically to get the

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1 funding that we need. And I'd just like you  
2 and your team to do maybe a bit of a sharper  
3 job in the next version so we can come up  
4 with a report that allows our politicians and  
5 officials in the local government and the  
6 federal government to support a plan that  
7 provides protection to Rocky Ripple as well  
8 as where I live, and the other neighborhoods  
9 here in this room. Thank you.

10 COL. LEONARD: Thank you, Mark.  
11 Are Julie and John Bleakley here? How about  
12 Peter Boeger?

13 MR. BOEGER: Thank you, my name  
14 is Peter BOEGER, I live in Butler Tarkington.  
15 I've lived here for 19 years, and not in the  
16 floodplain or in sight of the canal. To me  
17 there's two things that I wanted to talk  
18 about tonight. One is the recreational and  
19 the beauty value of the canal. I really  
20 consider that canal to be a jewel, not only  
21 for our neighborhood but for the whole city.  
22 And I think it's incumbent on us here today

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1 to protect it, because that wall is  
2 permanent, and it will be a permanent scar on  
3 the beauty of that canal. And every time we  
4 go past it we're going to be reminded of what  
5 we did or did not do to protect the beauty of  
6 that canal. I don't believe that the  
7 recreational beauty and historical value of  
8 the canal is adequately represented in your  
9 draft SEIS.

10 The second reason that I'm here  
11 tonight is because of my concern about Rocky  
12 Ripple. Rocky Ripple is our neighbors in  
13 Butler Tarkington, I'm not directly effected  
14 by it. I do believe there are two reasons  
15 that we need to protect Rocky Ripple, one of  
16 which is a pure moral reason. The reason  
17 that I'm out here tonight is that I cannot  
18 picture myself watching a news program in  
19 five or ten or 20 years where Rocky Ripple is  
20 flooded out and there's the helicopters, and  
21 we're all going to ask ourselves at that  
22 time, what did we do to protect Rocky Ripple.

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1 And I hope, Colonel, that you ask yourself  
2 now, and envision that same picture, and ask  
3 what did you and what did your staff do to  
4 uncover all of the relevant details to make  
5 sure that Rocky Ripple got a fair shake in  
6 this flood control plan.

7 I am concerned that they haven't  
8 gotten a fair shake so far in your draft  
9 SEIS, just based on what I've seen. Other  
10 people have mentioned that there is a lack of  
11 detail regarding the cost benefit analysis.  
12 Clearly you state in the report that the cost  
13 benefit analysis does not pass your test.  
14 But I don't believe there's enough detail in  
15 that report for me, who is well versed in  
16 cost benefit analysis, or anyone else who is  
17 interested to be able to look at that and  
18 judge whether or not it truly does pass the  
19 test or not.

20 The other aspect is simply the  
21 basis for that 50 plus million dollar cost.  
22 I cannot look at what you've written there

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1 and determine whether or not it looks  
2 reasonable. I can't bring it to an expert  
3 and ask them whether they think your analysis  
4 is reasonable because there isn't sufficient  
5 detail in there as to the cost of protecting  
6 Rocky Ripple.

7 So, on those two basis, both the  
8 recreational beauty, historical value of the  
9 canal, and on providing us with enough detail  
10 that we can adequately comment on your cost  
11 benefit analysis, I would ask you to please  
12 think seriously about revising your draft  
13 SEIS.

14 COL. LEONARD: Thank you, sir.  
15 Travis Ryan.

16 MR. RYAN: Good evening. My name  
17 is Travis Ryan, I'm with the Department of  
18 Biological Sciences at Butler University, and  
19 one of the founding members of the Center for  
20 Urban Ecology. And I would like to talk  
21 about the thoroughness of the environmental  
22 assessment. When the Environmental

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1 Assessment report came out in early 2011 it  
2 focused almost exclusively on the White  
3 River, mentioning the fishes and benthic  
4 invertebrate. As it pertained to the central  
5 canal, the environmental assessment only  
6 states that algae and other aquatic  
7 vegetation are prevalent in the canal waters,  
8 however, with the limited shading and depth,  
9 the aquatic vegetation is likely a limiting  
10 factor for fish and macro-invertebrates use  
11 of the waters.

12 I responded to this Environmental  
13 Assessment in April of 2011, and I pointed  
14 out that my students and I studied the turtle  
15 assemblage of the central canal intensively  
16 between October of 2001 and August 2009.  
17 During that time we caught, marked and  
18 returned more than 3,000 individual turtles,  
19 representing all six aquatic turtle species  
20 native to Marion County. It is likely that  
21 the number of turtles actually inhabiting the  
22 canal is several times higher than what we

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1 were able to mark and return.

2 My letter either went unread or  
3 ignored, because section 4.3 of the DSEIS,  
4 made available June 2012 is essentially  
5 identical to the original environmental  
6 assessment. There is no mention of turtles  
7 among the aquatic resources in the central  
8 canal, nor an acknowledgment of the flawed  
9 assumptions that the physical characteristics  
10 of the canal, such as it's width, depth,  
11 shading, or the amount of aquatic vegetation,  
12 significantly limits animal biomass.

13 More troubling is that in my  
14 letter in 2011 I detailed the fact that the  
15 portion of the canal that will be most  
16 heavily effected by the proposed alignment  
17 will most certainly have a direct impact on  
18 the resident turtle assemblage. Both basking  
19 turtles, such as the commonly seen map  
20 turtles and red ear sliders, and less obvious  
21 species like snapping turtles, preferentially  
22 inhabit the regions of the canal that are

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1 bordered by wood lots. This is certainly  
2 true during the active period, but the  
3 habitat is even more important in the three  
4 to four months of inactivity during the  
5 coldest part of the year.

6                   Additionally,                   turtles  
7 preferentially reside in the specific area  
8 that will be cleared of trees by the Corps  
9 proposed alignment, along Westfield Boulevard  
10 between Capitol Avenue and Holcomb Gardens on  
11 the campus of Butler University. We have  
12 noted a greater density of turtles in this  
13 stretch as compared to anywhere else within  
14 the central canal. Given the number of  
15 turtles per unit surface area it is no  
16 exaggeration to say that this stretch of the  
17 canal likely hosts the greatest density of  
18 turtles in Marion County.

19                   Yet, the only potential impact to  
20 turtles mentioned in the 2011 environmental  
21 assessment was that the flood wall could  
22 prevent some reptiles and amphibian losses

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1 due to road kill, by preventing them from  
2 moving across the road. This section also  
3 says that the aquatic fauna is low and in  
4 both the number of individuals and species,  
5 therefore potential impacts are expected to  
6 be minimal. Despite specific information in  
7 the form of data that have appeared in  
8 national and international peer reviewed  
9 scientific journals that contradict the  
10 assumptions that appear in the environmental  
11 assessment, the language in the DSEIS is  
12 essentially unchanged.

13 I hope that prior to making a  
14 final decision the United States Army Corps  
15 of Engineers, and the mayor's office, will at  
16 least recognize the true threat to wildlife  
17 that the proposed alignment actually  
18 represents, even if they do not value that  
19 wildlife in the same manner as many of the  
20 residents of Indianapolis, who I have had the  
21 opportunity to talk with in the course of my  
22 field work over the past decade. Thank you.

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1 COL. LEONARD: Thank you. Do we  
2 have Mr. Spiegel here? Okay, Sam Carpenter?  
3 Cathy Hamaker?  
4 Mary Weber? Doesn't matter what order you  
5 come up.

6 MS. HAMAKER: My name is Cathy  
7 Hamaker, and I live at 5340 Canal Boulevard.  
8 So I live right on the canal, and pretty much  
9 everything that I was going to say has kind  
10 of already been said. I love my house, I  
11 love where I live, I love what I can see when  
12 I look out my front door. It seems to me  
13 that the primary concerns here are all easily  
14 grouped into about four categories. There is  
15 the life and property loss. If we do have a  
16 major flood event everybody in Rocky Ripple  
17 is looking at pretty much the loss of  
18 everything.

19 But, even if we don't have a  
20 flood event, there are the categories that  
21 everyone else has also brought up about the  
22 fact that we will lose the riparian area

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1 along the canal, which is of course of  
2 primary concern to me. But we'll also lose  
3 the canal itself, and it boggles my mind that  
4 the City of Indianapolis would not consider  
5 that as a major, major issue in the cost  
6 benefit analysis that somebody is going to  
7 have to pay to get all the junk that's in my  
8 garage and my septic tank, and all of my  
9 neighbors garages and septic tanks, out of  
10 that canal once an event occurs. So, it  
11 seems to me a very obvious choice that this  
12 plan, as it currently stands, is not  
13 acceptable to anybody. Not just Rocky  
14 Ripple, but everyone in Indianapolis who  
15 relies on that canal. Thank you very much  
16 for the opportunity.

17 COL. LEONARD: Thanks, Kathy.  
18 Mary Weber?

19 MS. WEBER: My name is Mary  
20 Weber, I live at 5112 Riverview Drive. I've  
21 only lived in Rocky Ripple for a year. I  
22 just thought the river was so incredible, and

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1 even though the house was a money pit I  
2 thought, man, this is cool, this is where I  
3 want to live. And I'm, you know, and our  
4 home is one of the red dots, so it's slated  
5 for demolition should the flood wall be  
6 placed along the river. But, when you think  
7 about the entire neighborhood, I mean it's an  
8 absolute, I mean if that's what has to be,  
9 that's what has to be. I mean, it's an  
10 absolute no brainer that, you know, you would  
11 want to protect the entire neighborhood.

12 But, having said that, feel like  
13 there are options out there if the Corps and  
14 the city were willing to think outside of the  
15 box. Even if the flood wall is placed along  
16 the river it doesn't, it seems like there  
17 should be options available to look at, such  
18 as the effect that, of looking at the 16th  
19 Street dam, for instance. I don't know if  
20 the Army Corps of Engineers addressed that,  
21 an inoperable dam downstream, and the effect  
22 that that would have on river levels, or the

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1 effect of the type of wall that would be  
2 constructed should that option be looked at.

3 So, I'm all for Rocky Ripple for  
4 flood protection, but I'm also for more  
5 brainstorming and looking at other, you know,  
6 other alternatives should the flood wall be  
7 placed along the river. Thank you.

8 COL. LEONARD: Thank you. Linda  
9 McLeaish?

10 MS. MCLEAISH: Thank you for  
11 taking our comments. I wasn't going to say  
12 anything, and everything that I wanted to say  
13 has pretty much been said. But we are a  
14 community, and I'm just part of Butler  
15 Tarkington, but I'm a citizen of  
16 Indianapolis, I'm a citizen of Indiana, and  
17 we need to protect this whole area. It is a  
18 beautiful area and people come from all over  
19 the state to see it. So, I don't know where  
20 our mayor is, I don't know where our governor  
21 is to help protect all of us. And I do like  
22 that we're all, you know, we're supportive of

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1 each other.

2 I have a garden spot in Rocky  
3 Ripple. They've been nice enough to let me  
4 come and garden there, and we just need, we  
5 need to save them, we can't drown them.  
6 Thank you.

7 COL. LEONARD: Thank you. Craig  
8 Pinkus, is Craig Pinkus here? Okay, I have  
9 called all the cards they have handed to me,  
10 so if anybody else hasn't had the opportunity  
11 to talk, now is the time.

12 MS. AGINATIS: I submitted a  
13 card, and I said I wouldn't speak. But, I  
14 submitted my comments in the form of a  
15 letter, but I wanted to --

16 MR. LEONARD: What's your name,  
17 ma'am?

18 MS. AGINATIS: My name is Ellen  
19 Aginatis, I live in Meridian Kessler, and I  
20 am involved in community associations. But I  
21 am speaking here now as a 25 year experienced  
22 chemical engineer. So, fluid dynamics,

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1 thermodynamics were among my specialties, and  
2 I worked in the chemical industry for quite a  
3 few years, and now I work for a  
4 pharmaceutical company. The last ten years  
5 most of it I'd had, one of my  
6 responsibilities has been on purification  
7 water systems. So I have the happy joy of  
8 seeing the city's water data on a bi-weekly  
9 basis.

10 The city barely passes the  
11 national drinking water standard. Any shocks  
12 to that system would cause loss of supply to  
13 the communities. It would probably cause  
14 equipment damage, because I don't know how  
15 good their systems are as far as shutting it  
16 down before they overload all their pumps,  
17 sifters, you name it. And I think that that  
18 cost estimate, the impact of Veolia, who now  
19 owns the city water and sewerage systems,  
20 that's not included in the cost benefit  
21 estimate. I think Veolia should have spoken  
22 up on that. And I think because they just

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1 took over the system, I don't think they're  
2 fully aware of what the damage is. You know,  
3 they need to do failure mode and effect  
4 analysis on their systems, other things have  
5 to be considered. But that could be in the  
6 tens of millions right there, just on our  
7 water system.

8           And as other people have said, 60  
9 percent of our water system comes from the  
10 canal, we have to protect the canal. It  
11 would require rebuilding of the canal, the  
12 system. It is the cleanest water we have  
13 supplying the city water system. The whole  
14 system of wells and other river supplies,  
15 streams, that is part of this grid network is  
16 much dirtier water. So, that's another  
17 concern, even without flooding, just the  
18 canal being down by itself without a flood  
19 would cause problems.

20           Also, we have a problem with our  
21 storm sewers empty into the canal. When we  
22 had May 1st the great downpour of water that

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1 flooded the downtown Broad Ripple area, all  
2 the sewer caps popped and started flooding  
3 the businesses. That was just with a hard  
4 downfall of one day, it wasn't even a 50 year  
5 flood and it already caused backup. So, we  
6 have to protect the canal all the way down.

7           The other thing is that the base  
8 was depicted in these diagrams, and it's  
9 possibly the diagrams are oversimplified,  
10 there are no footing on this, on the wall  
11 base, it's up in dirt and clay. You know,  
12 usually, I've been involved in a number of  
13 building projects where I was not the  
14 structural soil engineer, but I've seen the  
15 work they've done, and they considered a  
16 strata of clay, and there's different types  
17 of clay, before putting significant weight on  
18 it. So, what you built for a wall depends on  
19 the soil structure. I would say we have  
20 pretty lousy soil structure, when it gets wet  
21 it's very slippery, it's almost like graphite  
22 so I wouldn't expect that to be a very tight

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1 soil like it is in some areas. So, I think  
2 you really need to look at that again.

3 The other thing is, again, and  
4 I'm not going to berate this again, I read  
5 something recently that the canal was on the  
6 National Register of Historic Places. So, if  
7 it's on the national register it's supposed  
8 to be protected. I did not read that in too  
9 many places, but the point is, seeing that, I  
10 think that should raise that question right  
11 there.

12 Also, you have, if you include  
13 Rocky Ripple you have a cohesive line of  
14 defense against a major flood. Also, when  
15 doing these wall calculations, I have some  
16 concerns that, did they break it into it's  
17 components significantly to say that you've  
18 got both lateral thrusts and the forward  
19 thrust at the curves in the canal and the  
20 curves in the wall, whatever they would  
21 build. Even in the best or worse case, you  
22 know, consider those things. When you have

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1 turbulent flow, normally a lot of people say,  
2 well, that's forward throw. Well, actually  
3 when you do vector analysis on it, what  
4 they're talking about is an average, which is  
5 downstream, there are side velocities going  
6 on. So, that's an additional pressure on the  
7 wall.

8 So, I think all these things have  
9 to be considered. It would take a lot of  
10 time, but I think that would impact the kind  
11 of wall you have and where you place the  
12 wall. But definitely, structurally the canal  
13 wall is terrible. Thank you.

14 COL. LEONARD: Thank you, ma'am.  
15 Tamara Carr.

16 MS. CARR: Hi, thank you for  
17 having us, having this meeting tonight, can  
18 everyone hear me, and for all the  
19 neighborhoods that have been supporting Rocky  
20 Ripple. I have been a lifelong resident of  
21 Rocky Ripple. My family has been at the  
22 corner of 53rd and Lester for nearly 70

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1 years, and most of my family members were  
2 from Rocky Ripple. And for me, this is such  
3 a sad time, to think that someone is planning  
4 on changing the way our town has been for all  
5 these years, and I just wanted to say that I  
6 am extremely sad about the possibility of  
7 seeing a wall along the canal. I support  
8 having a wall along the river, and that would  
9 protect our town from flooding.

10 I hope that you will take our  
11 message back and reevaluate old plans and  
12 maybe come up with a better solution, because  
13 it would be heartbreaking for all of us to  
14 lose everything that we have in our town, and  
15 what we have to offer the communities around  
16 us. I know that people ride bikes out there,  
17 we didn't have to build cement riding ways,  
18 we didn't have to ask for funds for that, and  
19 they enjoy riding along the canal path,  
20 walking through the community, enjoying  
21 nature. I remember as a child my mom would  
22 tell us about the horse drawn barges that

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1 used to go down the canal to deliver goods  
2 through Indianapolis, and we could visualize  
3 that as children. And I've told my  
4 grandchildren and my great grandchildren  
5 about that. And I grew up in the river, and  
6 walking along it, playing in it, and I just  
7 think that there has to be a solution, some  
8 way to protect that levee and to protect our  
9 town.

10 There seems to be a lot of money  
11 for a lot of other things in the city,  
12 parking garages for example, that are very  
13 close to the canal, that I think is going to  
14 cause the canal to rise when it rains. But,  
15 everything has been said, I just wanted to  
16 voice how I felt, and ask that you reconsider  
17 and include us.

18 MR. SMITH: Thank you, sir. I  
19 also submitted a card, apparently it got  
20 lost. But my name is Vic Smith, my wife and  
21 I have lived in Butler Tarkington for 26  
22 years, and we love it here. And I want to

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1 add my voice to those who oppose this plan.  
2 As I analyze this program as a citizen I use  
3 three words that start with E to start my  
4 analysis. Environment, ethics and economics.

5 As for environment, the  
6 environment along the canal is just amazing,  
7 adds tremendous value to our lives, it's one  
8 reason we stayed here for a quarter century.  
9 It's about a half block from where I live.  
10 But we're on the side of the proposed wall  
11 that would protect our property.

12 Still, I move to ethics. Under  
13 ethics can you really, seriously ask me to  
14 support a plan that will protect my property  
15 but not the people of Rocky Ripple. And that  
16 doesn't make any sense to me ethically.

17 And thirdly, economics. If the  
18 cost is \$15 million dollars, and it's \$15  
19 million dollars for a plan that the community  
20 and no one wants, it seems to me that's  
21 wasting \$15 million dollars. And we should  
22 save our money until we have \$50 million

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1 dollars to do it right and put the wall along  
2 the river. Thank you.

3 MS. SCOTT: My name is Sylvia  
4 Scott, and I turned in a card earlier, just  
5 hoping to have that ready if I wanted to  
6 speak, and I have three questions. I spent  
7 over an hour talking with your  
8 representatives in the room over there, and  
9 looking at the pictures. And I will say that  
10 I often stood behind people and listened, so  
11 there is the distinct possibility that I did  
12 not hear it correctly. Therefore, I'm asking  
13 that people who are here who were in front  
14 listening to your representatives, if someone  
15 could clarify. I heard someone talking about  
16 the drinking water issue in the canals and I  
17 believe I heard one of your representatives  
18 saying, well that's just sewer water already.  
19 Now, if it was the kind of sewer water that  
20 we're not supposed to drink then I don't  
21 think we should be fishing in it.

22 The next thing, I could be

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1 mistaken, I'm saying that, but I thought I  
2 heard that said more than once that, well it  
3 is part of the sewer company right now, it's  
4 sewer water right now. Another thing I did  
5 have told to me that when Rocky Ripple sort  
6 of reconsidered and they asked to be included  
7 in the project, that they were asked to  
8 participate, to match funds for a feasibility  
9 study, and I was told by one of your  
10 representatives that they weren't able to  
11 raise the funds.

12 I hope that person is still here,  
13 but I know there's someone here who could  
14 speak to it, who was here earlier, Mr.  
15 Harriman, but I understand that our  
16 representative Julia Carson did raise the  
17 \$150,000 for the feasibility study, but it  
18 was taken away when Katrina happened, and  
19 they have petitioned to have that again, the  
20 money restored for the feasibility, and it  
21 has been denied. If I have heard wrong or if  
22 I've been misinformed, I would like to know

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1 that.

2 And the third one, one of your  
3 representatives said that the Butler playing  
4 fields, for instance, that they do not want  
5 to raise these flood walls for development,  
6 to bring in a lot of heavy buildings. But,  
7 in one of your pictures there where it shows  
8 the before and after picture of the flood  
9 wall, in Broad Ripple I believe, it shows an  
10 empty place, you know, with I think sort of a  
11 levee of a little thing originally. And now  
12 with the wall it shows three story condos  
13 behind it, which doesn't seem consistent with  
14 the fact that they are discouraging  
15 development. Thank you very much.

16 COL. LEONARD: Anybody else?  
17 Okay, well look, this is your faceless  
18 bureaucrat that is going to make a decision.  
19 I came here to gather lots of information,  
20 and I did get some. Do you want to say  
21 something, sir?

22 MR. REDMOND: Thank you, my name

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1 is Paul Redmond and I live in Rocky Ripple,  
2 and I've been in Rocky Ripple for close to 28  
3 years and I live along the canal. And you  
4 know, I'm in bewilderment of why you would  
5 want to build a wall into Rocky Ripple to  
6 hold the river into us. I don't understand  
7 that. You're the U.S. Army, it's like you're  
8 supposed to be watching out for our  
9 democracy.

10 All these people, with all these  
11 communities around, all negative against the  
12 wall being built on the canal, I don't  
13 understand why you haven't taken a different  
14 approach. I mean, there is Butler  
15 Tarkington, there's Butler University,  
16 there's Rocky Ripple, and all the other  
17 associations around us, don't want it. We  
18 want flood protection, but we don't want to  
19 be walled into the river. And I think that  
20 it's your responsibility, as part of this  
21 organization, to protect us from that. And  
22 with you protecting democracy we're not

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1 getting it. I don't understand.

2 COL. LEONARD: Okay, so let me  
3 tell you, anybody else? No?

4 MR. BAILER: I have a comment.  
5 My name is Bill Bailey, and I live at 340  
6 Ripple Road, which is on the river, and I'm  
7 about 30 feet above the river. And what I'm  
8 sad about is, I believe that Rocky Ripple  
9 should be protected. Yes, there should be a  
10 levee, the canal should be protected, yes.  
11 But, you know, everybody isn't thinking about  
12 the 20 folks who will lose their homes, you  
13 know. If the levee goes around Rocky Ripple  
14 20 folks will lose their homes. Think about  
15 that, okay. My back yard will be severely  
16 effected by probably at least 20 or 25 feet.  
17 I wont have a back yard, I won't see the  
18 river.

19 Those folks who say that they  
20 live on Westfield Boulevard, that's great,  
21 you could only see the canal seven months out  
22 of the year because of the foliage. I love

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1 the canal, I use it a lot, but what I'm  
2 saying is you've got to think about the folks  
3 who are going to be losing their homes in  
4 Rocky Ripple when that wall comes by. And I  
5 hope that Rocky Ripple supports those 20  
6 households when they say goodbye to Rocky  
7 Ripple. Thank you, and thank you for being  
8 here.

9 COL. LEONARD: Thank you. Okay,  
10 so here's what I heard in a nutshell. Is  
11 there more? Okay, I've got quite a book of  
12 notes here.

13 Clearly you are all a well  
14 informed bunch, and you're passionate, and  
15 you should be, and you don't believe my  
16 economists and my costs estimates, and that I  
17 need to be more transparent with those  
18 documents, either in order to check my  
19 peoples' work or to show it to you in black  
20 and white. And you've got my commitment that  
21 we'll do that, and I want to make sure that,  
22 to remind you that you have until the 28th of

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1 September to make any other comments, and  
2 those will all come to my office. Ma'am, do  
3 you have anything for the group here? I  
4 don't want to put you on the spot. So, this  
5 is Lisa Miser, our partner in this with the  
6 Indianapolis DPW, and who we work closely  
7 with.

8 MS. MISER: Thank you, thank you  
9 all for coming, thank you all for your  
10 passion. We've said it before and I'll just  
11 say it again, the city is committed to  
12 looking at this further, making sure that we  
13 protect all of our residents, and we'll be  
14 working closely with the Corps to do that.

15 COL. LEONARD: Okay, that's it  
16 for tonight folks. I'm going to stick around  
17 in the map room here for 20 minutes or so if  
18 you want to chat. Thanks.

19 (Whereupon, the above-entitled  
20 matter went off the record at 9:11 p.m.)  
21  
22

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