

BLOCKSON CHEMICAL NIOSH OUTREACH MEETING

ORIGINAL

Report of Proceedings had at the
Blockson Chemical NIOSH Outreach Meeting held
at 150 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois,
on the Wednesday, the 24th day of January, 2007
at the hour of 7:00 p.m.

APPEARANCES:

MR. MARK LEWIS

MR. STUART L. HINNEFELD

MR. ROBERT STEPHAN

MR. THOMAS TOMES

MS. MARY ELLIOT

MS. LAURIE ISHAK-BREYER

1 MR. LEWIS: Hello everybody.

2 (A chorus of hello.)

3 MR. LEWIS: I really, really am
4 surprised by how many people are here, and very
5 pleasantly surprised. I appreciate you taking
6 time this cold, cold night and coming out and
7 talking to us, because the only way we are
8 going to get any information from the workers
9 is to look at you and talk to you. I really,
10 really appreciate it. I expected maybe a third
11 of this amount of people.

12 My name is Mark Lewis. I have
13 called a lot of you up and talked to you about
14 coming here. The Mayor of the City was nice
15 enough to let us use the facilities here. And
16 we are trying to work on this Power Point to
17 get it going, but we do have handouts to give
18 out as to the talking points we will be going
19 over tonight.

20 I am from a site myself in
21 Portage, Ohio, southern Ohio. I am real close
22 to Kentucky, that's why I have this accent.
23 I've worked in a nuclear plant, (inaudible),
24 been there about 33 years. I am on a leave of

1 absence now to help people get input to this
2 program from workers.

3 I was a union (inaudible). Of
4 course, you know there was a union here years
5 ago, but it went on strike and there's no
6 union. With that being said I am still here to
7 represent former workers in getting the story
8 brought out.

9 We do have a reporter here,
10 court reporter tonight. And I am kind of
11 stalling for a little bit of time here while we
12 get this Power Point going. If it doesn't go,
13 then we will still be all right. But tonight
14 mainly what we are doing is we want to talk to
15 former workers. I know there's a lot of
16 survivors here, too, and you all have stories
17 to tell, too.

18 I would like to get the former
19 workers so we can hear you. I don't know if
20 there's a microphone here, but people can move
21 around, but this microphone is stationary, but
22 if you can get up close to the front as much as
23 you can. You can sit right up here at the
24 table around us or whatever.

1 How many in here, curiosity,
2 with a show of hands, worked at the Blockson
3 cite yourself?

4 (Audience members raising hands.)

5 MR. LEWIS: I have 10 that I called
6 up and said they would probably be here, and we
7 got 10 tonight, so I hope that we have 10
8 tomorrow night, too. That's good.

9 Can I get you 10 workers, if you
10 don't mind, would you get closer to the front
11 here as much as you can? I really would
12 appreciate it. That way it would be better for
13 us.

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Inaudible.)

15 MR. LEWIS: All of the Blockson
16 plant.

17 : During that contract,
18 yes.

19 MR. HINNEFELD: I am not particularly
20 concerned about (inaudible). Everybody who
21 wants to talk, we would like to hear them.

22 MR. LEWIS: I want to introduce the
23 people up here, too. Like I said, my name is
24 Mark Lewis. I would appreciate it if you come

1 up, but, you know, if not and you think you
2 will be fine where you're sitting, that's good
3 too. We are here not to tell you anything. We
4 are here for you to tell us stuff. That's the
5 thing.

6 With that I would like to
7 introduce myself and I would like -- Stu, you
8 mind talking a little bit? And I am going to
9 get involved and Robert.

10 MR. HINNEFELD: My name is Stu
11 Hinnefeld. I am the Technical Program Manager
12 for the office of NIOSH, National Institute For
13 Occupational Safety and Health, that is engaged
14 in this program. This program being the Energy
15 Employee Occupational Illness Compensation
16 Program.

17 NIOSH's role in this program is
18 to reconstruct, if we can, radiation doses
19 received by people who worked at a designated
20 covered facility, Blockson is one of those
21 facilities. These various companies and
22 locations did work for the Atomic Energy
23 Commission or the Department of Energy, those
24 predecessor agencies as a part of the nuclear

1 weapons program.

2 And the Energy Employee
3 Occupational Illness Compensation Program
4 provides a means of providing essentially
5 workers compensation judgments on certain types
6 of diseases for atomic weapons employers. Only
7 Part B of the law applies. And the diseases
8 covered there are cancer, silicosis and
9 (inaudible). So our part at NIOSH, our only
10 involvement is with Part B of the law, only
11 with radiation-caused cancers. And so that's
12 the extent of what we can do anything about and
13 work on.

14 We are trying to gather
15 information about the work at Blockson and how
16 the work occurred as the uranium was recovered
17 during this 11 year period, in the early '50s
18 to the early '60s, to try to inform us and
19 allow us to do the best job possible in
20 reconstructing the radiation doses.

21 And then once we have determined
22 how high this radiation dose has been, then
23 there are risk models that relate how risky it
24 was for pretty much any kind of cancer, what

1 was the risk of that cancer resulting from that
2 amount of radiation exposure. If that risk is
3 high enough, then the claim becomes
4 compensable.

5 So that's our role in this. And
6 that's what we are trying to do, find out what
7 we can about how the work proceeded there to
8 help us in our role of doing radiation
9 reconstruction. Sorry, I wasn't supposed to
10 tell you anything before Mark, but I thought it
11 would be helpful if you understand what our
12 agency's role is and what we can do something
13 about. What we are here to try to do is the
14 best job we can. I also grew up close to
15 Kentucky, so that explains my accent as well.

16 Now Mark, who else? Are you
17 going to introduce

18 MR. HINNEFELD: Robert Stephan is a
19 staffer with Senator Obama's office, and he's
20 shown quite a lot of interest in our program.

21 MR. STEPHAN: Thank you, Stu. Good
22 evening. Just very quickly a couple of things.
23 First I want to make sure that I introduce John
24 and Debbie, and they are with Congressman

1 Dicker's office and Congressman Weller's
2 office. They have been working on this for
3 five or six years, so certainly we appreciate
4 them being here to work together on this
5 issue.

6 When we asked -- When Senator
7 Obama asked the Board several weeks ago to host
8 this meeting, there were several folks from
9 Blockson, both workers, and claimants, sons,
10 and daughters, and spouses who said, you know,
11 we have been through so many meetings that we
12 don't want to go to another meeting. I just
13 want to reassure you that tonight is different
14 than anything that you have done before.

15 Tonight is specifically a
16 meeting on the record so that we can listen to
17 workers and use what you have to say to
18 potentially help you, to potentially help you
19 become compensated, maybe not. Something
20 someone has to say here tonight may in no way
21 be useful. Go ahead and say it, and let these
22 experts figure it out later on. If you think
23 something is important, just blurt it out.

24 But I do want to stress that

1 tonight is just mainly for us to listen and
2 hear from the 10 workers who are here. Okay.
3 So certainly there are many children here, and
4 spouses here of workers who have passed on, and
5 you have active claims. I think we will listen
6 to them. If you feel there's something you
7 have heard from your parent when they worked
8 there or your spouse that you think may be
9 useful, please, you know, jot it down, keep it
10 in mind, but let's wait until all the workers
11 are done speaking first before we let any of
12 the non-workers talk, okay? Just by way of a
13 ground rule.

14 The other thing is that, guys,
15 if we have questions -- I know I got a lot of
16 calls on the way up here. People who just have
17 questions in general about their claim, the
18 status of their claim, different questions.
19 Tonight is not really for that.

20 But is there something, maybe
21 afterwards, where folks can come up and address
22 those with you?

23 MR. HINNEFELD: Yes. Let me
24 introduce my colleagues from NIOSH. Laurie

1 Breyer in the back of the room is one of my
2 colleagues. She is a Communication Specialist
3 in our office. Tom Tomes at the end of the
4 table is a colleague. He, like myself, is a
5 health physicists, which mean we are radiation
6 protection people, radiation measurement type
7 of people. That's our occupation.

8 At the conclusion of gathering
9 information in general, the general information
10 about the site, we will stay and answer
11 whatever questions we can. We don't have
12 access to claim files here, so we can't tell
13 you exactly what's going on on your claim, but
14 we will try and answer any questions we can.

15 If you have questions about the
16 process, questions about some sort of
17 correspondence you have received, anything like
18 that, we will try to answer whatever questions
19 we can or at least get back to you with answers
20 after the meeting if we can't answer them
21 tonight. We will continue on with that.

22 I would prefer to have those
23 discussions after we have the more general
24 discussion about how things worked at the

1 plant.

2 MR. STEPHAN: Perfect. A couple of
3 items. We have been through a few of these
4 meetings and they usually go very well. They
5 are always useful, but sometimes workers are a
6 little leery of saying things in public. And I
7 think we do have a couple of reporters here.
8 And I just would ask the reporters to in your
9 articles only refer to the workers in some
10 generic fashion as a worker, not by their name,
11 or just approach them afterwards and ask them
12 if it's okay to use their name, but I know some
13 workers would rather their name not be used.

14 Just so we establish that ground
15 rule. And I think we talked about that and
16 everybody is okay with that. Just to reassure
17 the workers nothing here is going to be used
18 against you. This is not a legal proceeding.
19 This is designed to help you.

20 And then last, I want to make
21 sure that all of you understand where we are in
22 the process, which is that in Naperville -- at
23 the Board meeting in Naperville, Blockson had a
24 group petition before the Board, and it's

1 called an SEC. I think everyone is familiar
2 with what that means. Basically it's kind of a
3 Government version of a class action lawsuit,
4 but it doesn't take place in court. It's just
5 a waiver many of you (inaudible) together.

6 And the Board was potentially
7 going to vote on the SEC that day. They
8 elected to postpone their vote so that they
9 could get more information and so that they
10 could seek essentially a second opinion from an
11 outside agency, which they have done. So we
12 have NIOSH's opinion, we have an outside
13 agency's opinion of that group application.
14 And most likely that petition will be decided
15 upon in May or will be discussed at the next
16 Advisory Board meeting in May.

17 Is that roughly -- The agenda
18 hasn't been determined. The point I am trying
19 to convey here is that what you say here
20 tonight hopefully will be used -- it will be
21 reviewed over the next couple of months and it
22 will be used at the meeting in May when the
23 Board meets again. Is that fair to say, Stu?

24 MR. HINNEFELD: That's our current

1 plan for a schedule. We have research to do in
2 the meantime. This meeting is gathering
3 information and there's other information to
4 gather in order to address all the questions
5 that need to be addressed in that petition, but
6 it is our current plan to complete that
7 research and have the report available in the
8 May meeting.

9 MR. STEPHAN: And the last item that
10 I received dozens of call about, and hopefully
11 we can clear this up tonight, the group
12 application that has been submitted for you,
13 it's called an SEC, Special Exposure Cohort.
14 NIOSH had developed an opinion and a
15 recommendation about that group application,
16 and they have since withdrawn their opinion so
17 that they can study the matter a little bit
18 more.

19 And then, Stu, can you also just
20 clarify for me, because some of the workers are
21 very confused, as to what it means by their
22 dose reconstructions? Does that mean that all
23 of them are going to be reopened and reviewed,
24 because so many folks have already been denied,

1 etc? Can you speak to that?

2 MR. HINNEFELD: Any case that has
3 been decided so far will be re-evaluated
4 because of additional research. What has
5 happened is essentially a policy decision that
6 was arrived at after the original SEC petition
7 was written up that requires us to address
8 additional radiation exposure beyond what we
9 thought had to be addressed when we did the
10 original petition for it. So that prompts the
11 rewrite of the SEC petition evaluation.

12 It also means that those
13 reconstructions that have been done up to this
14 time have to also be re-evaluated in the light
15 of this additional radiation exposure that has
16 to be considered. So any completed dose
17 reconstruction up to now will have to be
18 reconsidered and re-evaluated once we have
19 completed the additional research.

20 Now, that doesn't mean
21 necessarily that the compensation decision will
22 change in every case. There's a chance that
23 certain of them will. They will all be
24 reconsidered after the completion of the

1 current research.

2 MR. STEPHAN: So if you have a claim
3 in, okay, you don't have to do anything. You
4 don't have to reapply, you don't have to send
5 anymore information. It just means that in a
6 sense even if you were denied, your claim has
7 lived to see another day even though it was
8 denied before. It does not mean that you will
9 be paid, but they are taking a look at some
10 more scientific information and they are trying
11 to take that into account. Okay.

12 I know people had several
13 questions about that from the article that was
14 in the newspaper. Thank you again.

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you for
16 holding this forum.

17 : My name is

18 I worked in Olin Chemical from 1972 to
19 . I have in my possession pictures of the
20 drumming operation with engineer
21 (inaudible). You've probably seen this picture
22 before. It also shows the (inaudible) which
23 proves there was a dusk collector on the
24 system. I would like to present the Board with

1 these pictures. And there's some questions
2 that you may possibly want to ask some of these
3 employees who were employed there during that
4 time.

5 MR. STEPHAN: I am going to turn that
6 over to Mark. I think is going to
7 address the group. And then that information,
8 that's exactly what we are going to discuss
9 tonight. Okay. If anybody has any questions,
10 certainly of me or the representatives from the
11 Congressman's office, we will be here, but we
12 are not going to participate in this group
13 discussion. I just want to make sure that's
14 clear.

15 : You have 10 workers,
16 but you have my husband who was a worker and
17 who I am the Power of Attorney of. And I have
18 my legal paper here. He was interviewed by
19 NIOSH on 2006, at the nursing home
20 by two of your men, if you recognize the names.

21 MR. STEPHAN: By NIOSH?

22 MS. : Yes.

23 MR. STEPHAN: If you have information
24 that you think is pertinent, Mark will, you

1 know, call upon survivors after all the workers
2 have finished giving their input.

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I have a
4 question. Even though you were denied, why
5 would you save the application? Even, you
6 know -- If the claim was denied, we don't have
7 to refile anything; but if it was denied, why
8 would you keep the application?

9 MR. STEPHAN: Stu, you want to speak
10 to that?

11 MR. HINNEFELD: You mean why do we
12 keep it?

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah. If you
14 denied it, why would you hold on to the
15 application so I don't have to refile?

16 MR. HINNEFELD: We retain all the
17 information on all the claims just as a matter
18 of course. All cases that are complete,
19 whether they are judged to be compensable or
20 non-compensable, we keep all the information
21 that we have generated on every claim in our
22 file, and we retain that. So we would just
23 pull that information back out from the
24 completed part, and we would go from what we

1 have. So there's no need to reapply. It will
2 be -- You won't have to do anything. We will
3 initiate that ourselves. We've retained
4 everything we've ever had on the file.

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: On microfilm?

6 MR. HINNEFELD: It's actually
7 electronic. It's actually a series of computer
8 files. The paper copies are all stashed away.
9 We could get them back out. They are all, you
10 know, images, computer files.

11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Even though I
12 was denied, I kept all of my papers.

13 MR. HINNEFELD: And we kept all of
14 them that we have generated for your claim.

15 MR. LEWIS: There's one more
16 gentleman I would like to introduce,
17 was real instrumental in
18 (inaudible) and Dow Chemical a few months ago.

19
20 : I am very happy to see
21 such a big turn out. What I am going to try to
22 do tonight -- I am a retired physician. I was
23 on the faculty of Medical School for
24 years as a pathologist, but I have been working

1 with the workers from Mallinckrodt, from Dow
2 Chemicals in Madison, Illinois and also from
3 General Steel Industries in Granite City,
4 Illinois.

5 And we are -- At all of those
6 cites we were working on Special Exposure
7 Cohorts. And some of you may understand that
8 Mallinckrodt downtown Special Exposure Cohort
9 was the first petition that was awarded under
10 this program. All the previous SECs had been
11 done by legislative action. So by now there
12 are many SECs of which Blockson is one of the
13 most material. It has been through a lot of
14 different stages.

15 And since I had a lot of
16 experience (inaudible) with me tonight, having
17 worker meetings at General Steel and at Dow, I
18 am really here to help facilitate the work that
19 Mark is going to be doing. And I would like to
20 talk to the workers in particular and stress to
21 you that tonight is a real serious opportunity
22 for you all.

23 The reason this meeting is being
24 held is because everybody acknowledges that our

1 knowledge of what went on at Blockson is
2 incomplete. We do not know all the processes,
3 we don't know how many people were involved in
4 the different processes. And really, you know,
5 the workers who were there are the only people
6 who really know that.

7 Now, obviously workers talk to
8 their spouses and so there may be other
9 knowledgeable people here, but what we need is
10 new knowledge that has not come forward and to
11 help elicit that in this handout called NIOSH
12 Outreach Meeting Topics. Mark, and several of
13 us; the people from NIOSH, myself, we raised a
14 number of issues, scientific issues primarily
15 that we need information about and that we want
16 to use as the focus for you all's remarks.

17 And I think Mark plans on going
18 through these very systematically. So these
19 are all things we need more information about.
20 And I would like to encourage you all -- I
21 believe that between NIOSH and the Department
22 of Labor approximately 60 invitations to living
23 workers were sent out for this meeting, so
24 there are at least 50 other people who did not

1 make it tonight.

2 So I am asking you, for all of
3 us, to please urge those other workers that you
4 may know that didn't come tonight to please
5 come tomorrow. And also point out to them, and
6 I think Stuart would endorse this, the folks
7 from NIOSH would be happy to hear this kind of
8 input anytime in the future by phone, by
9 letter, etc.

10 But tonight we are going to
11 concentrate on these topics. And I would
12 strongly encourage anybody, you know, the
13 information that you, as working there, may
14 think is routine and trivial and all of your
15 fellow co-workers know is really probably the
16 very information that we need to know about.
17 And so if you see a topic here that seems to
18 relate to anything you did in the workplace,
19 please stand up and talk about it because we
20 need a much richer record than we already have.

21 And I will also tell you that
22 the topics that you see here are the very
23 things that are causing the Advisory Board and
24 NIOSH to do some more research. So these are

1 the central topics that we need more
2 information about. And with that I will let
3 Mark take it from there.

4 MR. STEPHAN: As
5 mentioned, if there are workers who are not
6 here, hopefully you can contact them and
7 encourage them to come tomorrow, but we also
8 have made arrangements that they can speak to
9 Mark and NIOSH staff. We will schedule a time
10 where they can speak to them by phone.

11 So please, if there's somebody
12 you know who can participate who is not here
13 today, please make sure you get with Mr. Lewis
14 and get his card afterwards so that we can
15 arrange for them to speak to him. So with few
16 living workers, we need all of them that we can
17 to give input. Okay.

18 MR. LEWIS: Thanks, Robert. I have
19 been getting a few calls this week, too, from
20 people who said they couldn't be here all the
21 way from Mississippi, lot of people in
22 Missouri. But we will start.

23 Do you want to stay anything?

24 MR. TOMES: No, I am fine.

1 MR. LEWIS: My name is Mark Lewis.
2 And of course the purpose of the meeting you
3 see on the handout there with the topics on it.
4 The purpose of this meeting is to collect
5 information from former workers to help NIOSH
6 better understand the working conditions of the
7 plant during the time it did work involving
8 uranium recovery for the Atomic Energy
9 Commission between 1951 and '62.

10 This handout I gave you, don't
11 feel limited by this thing. This handout is
12 just intended to help raise issues for
13 discussion. We initially were going to have a
14 Power Point put up here behind us with the
15 topics, but we had some technical difficulties
16 with the Power Point. But we do have a
17 handout. Thank God we did bring the handouts.

18 So does everyone have a handout
19 while I'm up?

20 (No response.)

21 MR. LEWIS: Well enough. Don't feel
22 limited to this. Your information you feel is
23 helpful is welcome like Robert mentioned and
24 mentioned. Don't feel limited to the

1 questions that are listed here, but these are
2 some of the questions.

3 So now we are going to the part
4 that says Radiation Protection. Radiological
5 controls. Were radiological controls in place?

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No

7 MR. LEWIS: The answer is no.

8 : There was none. None
9 whatsoever.

10 MR. LEWIS: Does anybody got any
11 other answer besides no? Radiologic controls
12 in place we have a no consensus.

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: He's right.

14 : Mark, can I make a
15 suggestion?

16 MR. LEWIS: Sure.

17 : My suggestion is since
18 these remarks are going on the record, I think
19 it would be useful to also read into the record
20 the specific questions, you know, not just
21 radiological controls. Make sure that
22 everybody understands that we want to know
23 whether there were any training courses, etc.

24 MR. LEWIS: I have not got that far

1 yet.

2 : Okay. All right.

3 MR. LEWIS: As the doctor mentioned,
4 training courses, were there any training
5 courses?

6 (A chorus of no.)

7 MR. LEWIS: There's no need to worry
8 about who taught them if there were no training
9 courses, right?

10 Yes, sir.

11 : Wouldn't it be
12 easier, you only have 10 people here, to let
13 them come up and tell their story instead of
14 all this stuff? Everything is different. I
15 think if everybody tells their own story, where
16 they worked, how they worked, how they were
17 exposed to it, you would get a better cross
18 section of how we were involved.

19 MR. LEWIS: I was hoping as we go
20 through this, that it would all kind of fall
21 in.

22 : I went over it already
23 and there are not too many positive answers to
24 this thing. I will be very honest with you, as

1 far as I was concerned. I was not a full-time
2 employee on the plant. I had a specific job
3 of -- I had a secret clearance from the Army
4 and then I got a secret clearance again from
5 the Navy Department because I was in
6 office when the Department was
7 activated.

8 And my job was to go there into
9 the plant twice a day, 11:30 and 4:30, visit
10 with the chief chemist and take a quality
11 control report and a quantity control report,
12 go back to the office, put it in a special
13 envelope, and it would be mailed to the Atomic
14 Energy Commission. No film badge, no mask.

15 The shoes that I wore at the
16 office, I walked through the plant and I went
17 home with it. Never gave it a second thought.
18 That's my story. Very limited. I was not
19 there eight hours a day. I was there from -- I
20 went to work in 1955 in the office as a
21

22 A year later when they merged
23 with Olin-Mathieson, I went into
24 office as his assistant. At that time we took

1 over all the chemical plants and the Olin
2 Chemical Company, and Blockson happened to be
3 one of them. I never knew about Building 55
4 until I was given that job to collect that
5 information over the next six years, and that
6 was it.

7 I chose not to transfer to
8 New York. I quit and went into my own business
9 from that point out. I have no ill effects at
10 all. Because after I got out of the Army in
11 '55, I had to serve seven years in the Reserve.
12 So I had to go for an annual exam at the
13 arsenal because it was still an active Army
14 reservation and they had to document it, so it
15 was required that I have an annual exam.

16 The last few years I got
17 concerned after all this stuff surfaced. At my
18 own expense I got examined, and I have no
19 residual radiation. But again, I don't know
20 whether my family suffered or not because I got
21 married in I used to go home every day.
22 My wife became a cancer patient in my
23 daughter is mentally challenged out of
24 kids. I don't know if it has any affect

1 at all. I can't really say that it does.

2 I think you're entitled to know
3 the entire story from everybody here of how it
4 affected them.

5 MR. LEWIS: We are going to give them
6 an opportunity to say that.

7 How about the workers who worked
8 there during that time, like you suggested,
9 just come on up and do that then.

10 Just state their name as they
11 come up or what?

12 MR. STEPHAN: It would be good for
13 the reporter if you're willing to state your
14 name.

15 : My name is
16 And I was in that building right after the
17 construction. I was the Blockson millwrite
18 with the ironworkers. Blockson did not hire
19 outside millwrites. I helped install all of
20 that equipment in that building. The tanks
21 were put in by laskers (phonetic). And the
22 ironworkers were putting in all the mixing
23 equipment, the Kellys, you name it, all the
24 equipment necessary for the operation.

1 When it came to do the final
2 regular run of a piece of equipment, or pump,
3 or whatever it happened to be, I was the one
4 that went and did the final alignment and gave
5 the okay that that was ready to run. When I --
6 Also I worked on the repairing of every pump in
7 that building because I was a pump specialist
8 at that time.

9 I did all the work on the 2CGs,
10 the 3CT, to whatever they happened to be and
11 also on all of the valve systems They had what
12 they called Durco valves. I was the only one
13 in the plant that worked on Durco valves. If I
14 removed one, I took it back to the shop, I
15 stuck it in a water bath and tried to get the
16 stuff off of it.

17 If I just repaired the pump in
18 place, I would chip out all of the "Yellow
19 Cake" that blocked up everything using the
20 scraper or whatever it happened to be. I had
21 no protection whatsoever. Okay. So I was in
22 there all the time because I had a P and a Q
23 clearance.

24 I did -- Like I said, I did

1 total maintenance. I didn't do any
2 pipe-fitting or welding, but if I had to go
3 inside of a tank to change the sweeps in there
4 that kept the material moving, I went in there
5 and did it. And they were four-by-fours that
6 were in there. If something happened to the
7 Kelly press when they opened it up, and down in
8 the mixer if the chain broke, I would have to
9 go down there.

10 Now, as far as protection,
11 nothing. There was nothing. I also -- You're
12 talking about equipment. Now, when the stuff
13 was loaded, how did they do it. They put it in
14 some pans that were about as square as this top
15 is, about two inches deep. It was the mud.
16 They put it into this rack. This rack went
17 into a steam oven. It was dried. It came out,
18 and then they dumped it into a hopper, and that
19 hopper was piped in with a dusk collector.

20 The dust collector was right
21 behind it. It was about a six-by-six dust
22 collector barrel that was underneath that
23 hopper where the pan was dumped into. And the
24 dust collector would take any dust off. Any

1 special equipment, that hood, or anything else?

2 No.

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: ?

4 : Yes.

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Where was that
6 dust ejected to?

7 : It went right into that
8 dust collector.

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: What happened
10 to it? Was there any stockings outside of the
11 dust collector?

12 : No. The dust collector
13 would collect it in a big -- they had stockings
14 on the inside. And then that dust collector
15 then would be shaken by chains on a daily
16 basis. The dust would come down into a hopper
17 in the bottom, and eventually a gate would be
18 opened up and the stuff would go into a barrel.

19 When it came time that that
20 stocking inside was coated far enough to where
21 it wouldn't be working anymore, then somebody
22 had to go and change that stocking. There was
23 some doors; one door up on top, one door on the
24 bottom that was about 2 foot by 1 foot. You

1 had to reach in there inside and unhook the
2 stocking on this bar that ran across it, then
3 you had to unhook it down below and pull it out
4 of there.

5 What did they do with it? It
6 went out to the junk pile south of the plant,
7 just like those timbers did. As far as what
8 they did during the day as far as anything --

9 MS. ANONYMOUS: There's the dump.

10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Did you wear
11 special clothes when you did that?

12 : No, there were no
13 special clothes.

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So you took
15 all that stuff home?

16 : You just used your
17 regular work clothes that you went in with.
18 The precautions taken at that time, as you came
19 in there was a guard there. Usually it was
20 either , or or --

21 :
22 : Yeah. One of them was
23 in there. You had to come in one door first.
24 They checked you in and then you went through

1 the second door. Now, if you were bringing
2 over some supplies, or a pump, or something
3 like that, then they had opened a door that was
4 on a ramp for you to bring that stuff up the
5 ramp, and then they closed it.

6 Now, all the time they jotted
7 down when you came in and when you went out of
8 the place. The one fellow who -- his
9 name was. was the first one that
10 would be dumping all this material. And
11 was the first one that came up -- that
12 had colon cancer, was operated on and he had
13 ended up with a bag on the outside. And
14 eventually he became a janitor. He got out of
15 there and went up on top.

16 I got colon cancer. I was
17 diagnosed in -- 15 years ago, and I was
18 operated on. They took a 12 inch hunk of me
19 out, and they piped me back together again. I
20 go every year for a colonoscopy.

21 Now, as far as that equipment in
22 there, let me put it this way, if a pump came
23 out of there and was taken over to the shop,
24 the only precautions taken was you washed it.

1 You went ahead then and ripped it apart, did
2 what maintenance had to be done on it, got it
3 back together again, it went to the warehouse
4 in the stock. It's a pump put into the
5 category as a pump. It was not designated that
6 it came out of Building 55. Yes, ma'am.

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Did you have a
8 special place to eat, or did you eat in that
9 same building?

10 : You mean the workers?

11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah, the
12 workers.

13 : You know, I don't
14 remember that to be honest with you.

15 : They had a lunchroom
16 upstairs in the locker room.

17 : That's right. Now as
18 far as an exhaust system in the building, they
19 were -- On the outside walls all around they
20 had these great big fans and there was a
21 (inaudible). They just turned those on and
22 that's it.

23 The clean up operation was if
24 anything got spilled, you wash it down the

1 sewer. Now, what extra precautions were taken?
2 None. I don't think there was a thing.

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Where did that
4 sewer go?

5 : Where did it what?

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Did all that
7 water go into the river?

8 : Sure it did.

9 : It went through a
10 purifier first.

11 : It went through a
12 purifier first, ?

13 : Yep.

14 : Now, I worked for
15 Blockson from '47 to ' , so I was there and
16 a half years. In 1957 Blockson went on strike,
17 October of '57.

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: November.

19 : October. October 1st.

20 Anyway, about October I got a job at
21 Argonne National Lab as a
22 because of the clearances I had. I worked for
23 Argonne National Lab for months
24 as a They had special

1 clothes. They also had some beautiful patent
2 leather shoes that were yellow. You went from
3 one locker room into another locker room and
4 did that.

5 You also had a monitor that you
6 stuck in your lapel to monitor your exposure to
7 any radiation. I only had one time that I
8 had -- to where it was overloaded, and I had to
9 get out of there and change my clothes and
10 things like that. My main function, I had
11 hoped, would be total maintenance of the
12 because they did all of their
13 own.

14 Like I said,
15 (phonetic), who was the head of the group. I
16 was there with him. Most of the people that
17 was learning how to operate that reactor were
18 Government people, like warrant (phonetic)
19 officers, Navy people, whatever it happened to
20 me. I happened to be one of the few civilians.
21 When Blockson went back off of strike in
22 January of '58, I went back there because I
23 knew I was going to go to supervision. And
24 that's where I ended up as a supervisor,

1 maintenance supervisor.

2 Just to give you a little
3 background, I eventually became a
4 by the way.

5
6 : , when you went from
7 Argonne back to Blockson and you noticed what
8 you did at Argonne, did you at all ask or talk
9 about it when you got to Blockson? Question
10 it?

11 : No, because I kept my
12 mouth shut about what I did up there at
13 Argonne.

14 , her dad was my
15 boss. And as far as the maintenance in that
16 building at various times as I became the
17 man, the and eventually
18 , I no longer went in there as a
19 worker. But I used to put people in there to
20 do the work. So offhand most of them are dead.
21 There's very few of us that are left.
22 , and the maintenance people. I am talking
23 about the maintenance people.
24 Yes,

1 : You stated about my
2 father. Thank you. And he did pass away five
3 years ago from lung cancer.

4 : Since then I go back
5 every year for a colonoscopy. And I just went
6 a month ago and I got cleared, so I am all
7 right. I have a stack of papers that's got to
8 be that thick about Olin. I have a stack from
9 Argonne National Lab. And the surprising thing
10 is that the Federal Government never said to
11 me, yes, you worked up at Argonne National Lab.
12 They had me up there for 10 days. And just
13 recently I got an inquiry to finally where they
14 recognized I did work at Argonne as a
15 . That's how long it took.

16 (A round of applause.)

17 MR. LEWIS: After they got done with
18 the phosphate production, what activities moved
19 in there after the uranium extraction was done
20 in Building 55? Do you know what happened to
21 that? Were you there then?

22 : What happened?

23 MR. LEWIS: What happened to Building
24 55 after --

1 : All the equipment was
2 dismantled. I don't know who bought it. I
3 feel sorry for the people who bought it because
4 it was contaminated. And it was sold as either
5 used equipment or junk, one of the two. There
6 were tanks in there, these big Kelly presses,
7 pumps of all kinds. The pumps by the way were
8 manufactured in Blockson. It was a Blockson
9 design pump. They did not buy outside pumps.
10 So they made all their own parts.

11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: After the
12 building was dismantled inside, they still used
13 it as a warehouse.

14 MS. ANONYMOUS: Yes. My husband
15 worked in there. He was one that went in there
16 to clean up when they had the spill in there.

17 MR. LEWIS: It was a warehouse after
18 that?

19 : Yes.

20 MR. LEWIS: Because that was one of
21 the questions we will be going through.

22 MS. ANONYMOUS: Here's what they did
23 with Building 55. They blew it up.

24 Thirty-pounds of dynamite. Then my husband

1 helped clean up the mess and put down the big
2 pile, which is here.

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Can I just add
4 the fact that after they closed the plant down,
5 I was informed that my father taught welding
6 classes in that building. , if you can
7 vouch for that. Did my father teach welding
8 classes in Building 55 when they took
9 everything out?

10 : Yeah.

11 : I am . And
12 I worked at Olin Chemical. And I worked in
13 Building 55 from October of 1954 until October
14 of . A lot of the things that I was going
15 to say had already said. But to go over
16 this sheet of paper that we have here, the
17 radiation protection, there was no radiation
18 protection, there were no film badges, and
19 there was no urinalysis program whatsoever.

20 As I stand before you I am going
21 to tell you the truth, and I am going to tell
22 you exactly how the operation went. There were
23 two operators on each shift with the exception
24 of days when days had three operators. There

1 was a day man on there.

2 Now, the job that the day man
3 did was he did the filtering of the finished
4 product. When I say filtering of the finished
5 product, he would go through some cloths. And
6 I would help him open the cloths up and we
7 would scrape the "Yellow Cake" into a deep pan
8 about the size of like so.

9 After it gets into a deep pan,
10 we take it and we put it into an oven, and we
11 let it cook overnight. After it cooked
12 overnight, then we took it out and we dumped it
13 into barrels. And the way we dumped them into
14 barrels is we had something shaped like a cone,
15 and we would dump it over in there. And there
16 was also a dust collector there, which had
17 said.

18 Now, I was the
19 operator. And the number one operator, he's
20 the one that took care of all the filtering and
21 all the liquor that came into the building. He
22 operated his job whereas when the Kelly -- it
23 was a Kelly press he operated. When the leads
24 in the Kelly got high pressure, it meant that

1 the liquor had come through and the cloths were
2 plugging it up, so he would open the press up
3 and he would wash down the Kelly clothes.

4 His job as he washed down the
5 Kelly cloth was to look to see if there was any
6 leak in the cloths. If there were leaks in the
7 cloths, then he would shut the unit down and
8 call me. And I would come over there and we
9 would take the leads from out of the Kelly
10 press with an electric lifter.

11 During the time that we were
12 taking the Kelly cloths out, they were held
13 into the press with four nuts and bolts. And
14 there was a total of maybe 8 or 10 cloths that
15 were in there. And these 10 nuts and belts,
16 you had to take your gloves off in order to get
17 the nuts and bolts off. That's when you come
18 in contact with the liquor, when you took the
19 nuts and bolts off. So if you were working in
20 contact with liquor, that's where you came in
21 contact with liquor.

22 Now, when you wash the Kelly
23 cloths down, all the dirt on the Kelly cloths
24 doesn't always come out. So when you take the

1 Kelly cloths out to make a change and put new
2 Kelly cloths in, you give it an acid bath and
3 you change the cloths. When you change the
4 cloths, you pull the old ones out. And when
5 you pull the old ones out, there is still mud
6 sticking to the cloth.

7 And when you take the electric
8 lift and lift them over to a platform where you
9 can take the Kelly cloths off and replace them
10 with new Kelly cloths, you have a hard time
11 cutting the Kelly cloths off; therefore, you
12 had to take your gloves off with your open
13 hands and a knife and cut the cloths. That's
14 where you come in contact with the liquor.

15 Now, as we all know, if you get
16 something that's plugged up and you pour liquor
17 in that unit that's plugged up, you know if
18 there's a hole there, it's going to drain out.
19 If there was a small hole in the Kelly cloth,
20 it will take a long time for all of the liquor
21 to drain out. That's when you come in contact
22 with the liquor again. Okay.

23 My job was to help the number
24 one operator out. And I ran -- I took track of

1 putting a material they called Salt A
2 (phonetic.) And there were so many grams of
3 Salt A that had to be added to this tank every
4 hour. That was my job. And my other job was
5 to use hydro in another tank. Now what the
6 hydro did, I can't answer that.

7 But during that time, the
8 changing of the cloths and putting new cloths
9 on, there was material that would drop off and
10 fall down on the floor. And we would have to
11 go down and clean the floor up by washing it
12 down and using a squeegee. When we used a
13 squeegee, the material was real slick. And
14 that's about all that we did.

15 Now, I had made a list of what I
16 was going to say, and came up here and he
17 took about half of it off. There was no dose
18 reconstruction, we did not go to a doctor and
19 there was no protection as far as the clothing
20 protection was concerned. Some of the guys
21 would shower and some wouldn't shower. I would
22 shower everyday, but at the end of the shift
23 that I was working, I would take my dirty
24 clothes home, and that's when my family comes

1 in contact with it, because I have spent four
2 or five days or longer working in those same
3 clothes.

4 Now number one, I liked to work
5 overtime, everybody knows that. And I am very
6 glad that I did because it was a good place to
7 work. So when you take and you make a dose
8 reconstruction of a unit that has been blown up
9 and you say that you can make something that
10 will be comparable to that, I don't think you
11 can. And if one person out there works more
12 overtime than another person works overtime in
13 the same building, he is more susceptible than
14 the ones that's working there. Why? Because
15 he puts in more time. I like money like
16 anybody else, you know. But that's the facts.

17 So everything that I told you
18 tonight is actually what happened. And I think
19 I've got everything covered here. And there
20 was no protection as far as clothing was
21 concerned.

22 : What physical ailments
23 have you had?

24 : Oh, my physical ailments

1 were in 1995 I had prostate cancer. In 1902 --
2 : 2002.
3 : In 2002 I had bladder
4 cancer. And I (inaudible) both of them. I
5 made my last trip back to my cancer doctor with
6 my bladder. I have been five years since then,
7 and everything has turned out good, so I am
8 happy about that. Thank you very much.

9 (A round of applause.)

10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So you were
11 there during whole the duration. I started
12 there in '73. I worked in and around the same
13 building you're talking about. Now that
14 building was fully operational as far as
15 filtration was concerned when I started in
16 October of '73. (Inaudible) Was that building
17 ever shutdown for a short period of time when
18 they moved out all of the equipment? I know
19 the equipment off the first floor was removed.
20 : Well, see, I signed out
21 of there in 1957. And the plant was a straight
22 operation. You see, in 1957 they took the
23 restriction off of it, that anyone could sign
24 in. But see, when I went in there, I had to go

1 before the FBI, had to be investigated.

2 And during the time -- During
3 that time I did not know what they did over
4 there. The only thing I knew was that it was
5 Government work-related. Because where I
6 worked at I never got around to talk to any of
7 these fellows over there. And I didn't find
8 out that they were actually using -- making
9 uranium until I got in there.

10 And then when I got in there,
11 there was no safety that says you shouldn't be
12 in this area here, or you shouldn't be in that
13 area there, or what harm the material would do
14 to my lungs. I had no knowledge of that. They
15 never gave us anything in writing to say, hey,
16 if you eat here, you're going to get this; if
17 you eat there, you're going to get uranium. It
18 was just take a chance.

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And I think
20 that it was so unfair that they didn't tell
21 people.

22 : That's true.

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And if they
24 had known this, maybe people would not have

1 come and worked there. And I don't think that
2 was fair.

3 : That's true.

4 MR. LEWIS: , you have a
5 question?

6 : Yeah, I do. How did you
7 find out that you were working with uranium?

8 : When did I find out?

9 : How did you find out
10 that you were working with uranium?

11 : Someone told me.

12 : Who, fellow workers?

13 : Fellow workers, yeah.

14 : One of the things we are
15 interested in and have not really talked about,
16 so there were absolutely no markings at all in
17 Building 55 that this was a radiation process?

18 : No. I do not remember.

19 I never seen it.

20 : And was there a general
21 idea there among you or people that worked in
22 Building 55 that there were other operations in
23 the rest of the plant that involved uranium?

24 : The only thing that I

1 knew was they were extracting uranium from the
2 product from the phosphate where they made the
3 material all up. And it came -- most of it
4 came over in our department, and that's how
5 come I knew it was uranium.

6 : Can you put that in the
7 context of Building 55? Where was the
8 extraction made, the first extraction, the acid
9 extraction step?

10 : I can't answer that.

11 : Was it outside of 55?

12 : It was outside of 55,
13 but it was in Olin Chemical.

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Was it coming
15 from Building 25?

16 : I can't answer that.

17 : So when you saw it, you
18 were only working inside Building 55?

19 : Yes.

20 : What did you get in 55?
21 What did it look like when it came in?

22 : What the liquor looked
23 like?

24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Milky.

1 : Just milky.

2 : So this was the acid
3 extract, right?

4 : Uh-huh. Yeah.

5 : How did it come in?
6 What was it in?

7 : They piped it over where
8 it was coming from.

9 : Piped it into what?
10 : A tank.

11 : An open tank, closed
12 tank?

13 : It was a closed tank.
14 : It had a wooden top on
15 it.

16 : So the first chance that
17 you all got to come into actual contact with
18 the liquid itself was in the presses that you
19 were talking about?

20 : Right.

21 : Changing the cloths?
22 : Right, right, right,
23 right, right.

24 : But you don't know

1 anything about the extracted material outside
2 of Building 55?

3 : No, I don't. I couldn't
4 answer.

5 : I want to comment
6 that's one of the things we want to really find
7 out about. In other words, the uranium came
8 out in the original acid extract. So we are
9 interested in anybody here he would know about
10 those other operations.

11 : I don't know.

12 : That's fine.

13 : I may be wrong, but I
14 am pretty sure that the acid was pumped in from
15 Building 40 into 55. And then from there they
16 took care of that.

17 : And it went in two
18 storage tanks.

19 : I never went in
20 Building 55, and I am glad I didn't, but anyway
21 I am pretty sure that that's how it happened.
22 It had to be pumped from some place, and the
23 only place that they made acid from the
24 phosphate, and it was carried up from the dock,

1 is in -- it was 25 and then it changed to
2 building 40, after Building 55.

3 : The liquid that came
4 back into that building was yellow. And when
5 it went in, it was two big storage tanks, that
6 was the color. And then the sweeps in there
7 just kept mixing it up until they were ready to
8 process it in the Kellys. And then the pumps
9 would pump it into the Kelly under pressure so
10 that the mud would accumulate on those Kelly
11 cloths. They were like a canvas, ship's
12 canvas.

13 : So you understand one of
14 the reasons we are asking questions like this
15 is we want to make sure that everybody who came
16 into contact with the uranium at any stage,
17 whether it was wet, or on the mud, or on the
18 presses, or the pure "Yellow Cake" itself, that
19 they get included as people exposed to the
20 uranium and that their doses get reconstructed
21 with that in mind.

22 So although we are highly
23 interested in what you individually did, if you
24 have knowledge of other parts of the plant and

1 what went on there, that also will be very
2 helpful.

3 : Well, I was going to
4 mention before I was interrupted that if the
5 liquor came -- if the uranium was in the liquor
6 when it came over to Building 55, then wherever
7 it came from, those people there in that
8 department were also exposed.

9 : That's my point. That's
10 exactly my point. If any of those people are
11 able to talk about that, that would be a great
12 interest.

13 : As I said before, the
14 people who worked at Building 55, they changed
15 clothes there, and they took their clothes
16 home, and their wives washed them, they are
17 exposed to it also.

18 : Did you go to lunchrooms
19 with your clothes, too?

20 MR. STEPHAN: Can you state your name
21 again?

22 : . I have a
23 comment about -- At a point you wanted to talk
24 about the uranium within the product. The

1 uranium was in the product when it arrived as
2 phosphate rock and (inaudible), which sat near
3 a storage. This calcite was completely dried
4 and it was produced into phosphoric acid in
5 Department 40, which occurred by making up a
6 (inaudible), which is a consistency of flour.
7 It went in the digesters, it trickled sulfuric
8 acid on it causing a reaction.

9 After that vessel came to a
10 certain level, it would cascade into the next
11 vessel, and then the next vessel. Then it's
12 phosphoric acid full of mud. It goes through a
13 filter. (inaudible) phosphoric would come off
14 of this stream. These were stored in tanks
15 outside. They were pumped over to next the
16 building, which was DSP and became a DSP
17 mixture, where you worked prior to your
18 retirement.

19 There by adjusting the
20 phosphate -- by adjusting the PH and
21 temperatures, they made monosodium and disodium
22 phosphate liquors. Of the monosodium liquor
23 they ran it into the back room of that said
24 building, which is called the Roosevelt

1 building. And they ran it through nine filters
2 for one part of the filtration process,
3 expelling the mud (inaudible) and to a gyp
4 pile.

5 After that it went into
6 Building 55 and went through a series of
7 approximately four filters, not necessarily
8 because (inaudible) needed to be produced based
9 on the (inaudible) of the entire site. After
10 the monosodium liquor that was brought back
11 into tripoly mix job where they made sodium
12 tripolyphosphate liquor off of that, out of the
13 sodium tripolyphosphate liquor, which everyone
14 used for detergent at the time, they made
15 trisodium phosphate and other products off of
16 that. That's the whole stream.

17 : Can I ask you about the
18 stream? Can you put a number of workers that
19 might be involved with those particular phases
20 like in Building 40? How many people were in
21 Department 40?

22 : What are you looking to
23 be the end point?

24 : How many people were

1 involved in that process?

2 : (Inaudible) I can give
3 you a general amount of people.

4 : We are particularly
5 interested in the stream that wound up in
6 Building 55 making "Yellow Cake".

7 : At that time we had a
8 dock crew of three to four people --
9 (inaudible.)

10 MS. COURT REPORTER: I am having a
11 hard time hearing him. Do you mind stepping to
12 the podium?

13 : You had phosphate rock,
14 which was delivered by Florida to Olin
15 Corporation via barge or by rail car. There
16 would be approximately at least four people
17 involved in the unloading and transport of
18 that. That would go to the storage
19 (inaudible). From the storage (inaudible) at
20 that time frame I believe it was calcite. It
21 was another guy named (phonetic),
22 who was the calcite operator. The pillar still
23 stood when I was employed there.

24 At a later date, at my

1 employment date calcite rock was already being
2 supplied from Florida. So they had natural
3 occurring radioactives in it. That's why it
4 was used. And it had a higher BPL or bang for
5 your buck for P205 phosphate production. In
6 building 40 there would be --

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Didn't it go
8 through a giant (inaudible) before it came --
9 : That was the calcite
10 that sat outside. That was the calcite where
11 worked.

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: There were
13 people involved there too.

14 : All I know is said
15 he did it. It could be around the clock.

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: The mechanics
17 went in welded (inaudible). All kinds of
18 maintenance inside this giant --

19 : There was an assigned
20 mechanic force when I was hired in '73. It was
21 approximately 12 people that were called the
22 dirty dozen that worked in the acid plants. You
23 were one of them. You were a plastic
24 fabricator.

1 In Building 40 there were
2 approximately four people on shift times a
3 seven day, approximately 16 people, with a
4 vacation there would 17 people there. There
5 would be approximately four more people that
6 worked in the front end of Building 40 which
7 recovered the sodium sulfur fluoride after the
8 phosphate production and created sodium sulfur
9 fluoride.

10 From there it went over into the
11 middle, which was the DSP, MSP mix area where
12 there would be 12, at least 13 more people in
13 the mill that produced the MSP, DSP mixes.
14 From there it would go to Building 55 where
15 there were usually two operators on that sat in
16 a non-environmental booth area just on a
17 make-shift bench and stuff. So there would be
18 at least eight people there that was just in
19 filtration just for the monosodium liquor for
20 phosphate -- for sodium tripolyphosphate
21 production.

22 MR. STEPHAN: Sir, you believe there
23 were eight workers at the dock, and not four
24 workers at the dock?

1 : Yes. The unloading of
2 phosphate rock was eight people. There were
3 two shifts of four. The crane operator, a
4 greaser and two pushing the stuff over. And we
5 had to sweep those barges because it was very
6 extrinsic stuff. We had no muzzles, no
7 nothing.

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: They came in
9 barges and they were unloaded with little
10 bucket trucks into a hopper. And then the
11 hopper was taken up this giant belt up to the
12 top. But there was a lot of dust around that,
13 getting that rock unloaded and everything. And
14 these guys down in the barges, I don't know if
15 that stuff would affect them or not, but there
16 was plenty of that being inhaled. And then it
17 went into the process he's talking about, to
18 the calcite and into 40.

19 I just want to tell --
20 mentioned something about tests. Me and
21 my best friends were lead burners there for
22 awhile, 15 or 20 years, I don't know how many
23 years, but we took a test every month for lead
24 poisoning and the urine test.

1 MR. STEPHAN: What years did you work
2 there?

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: 1950 to ... ?

4 MR. STEPHAN: And how often did you
5 do the urine test?

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Every month.
7 We were not supposed to have over 50 parts per
8 million. And I found out when the nurse
9 retired -- The tests would have made no good,
10 because if we were to get over 50 parts per
11 million, we would be notified and not do any
12 lead burning through -- I don't know the
13 period. We were never notified of anything.

14 At the end of the nurse's work
15 there, she called me in the office and told me
16 that myself I had 430 parts per million in my
17 blood in one of the tests. I don't know if it
18 was the last one. My buddy, who's passed away,
19 he had like 390. And the third man, who was
20 training with us at the time, had like 70 or
21 something, but he didn't do a whole lot of lead
22 burning.

23 We were never notified. And
24 probably some previous times to that we were

1 never notified if we had overdoses of it. So I
2 just want to let _ know that it wouldn't
3 have made any difference if they had tests or
4 not because we weren't informed of them.

5 MR. STEPHAN: has a
6 question for you.

7 : My question was that
8 NIOSH has some urine samples in which uranium
9 was measured. And we were interested in
10 particular -- So you had urine samples taken
11 from lead. We understand that.

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I just want to
13 say the tests -- They didn't tell us about the
14 tests. That's my point.

15 : Did anybody tell you
16 that -- Did you know they were testing for
17 lead? I mean, you were aware that's why you
18 were given a urine sample?

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes. To
20 protect us.

21 : I understand that. Did
22 anybody say anything about using your urine
23 sample to test for uranium?

24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER. No. No.

1 : That was very useful.

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: There was a
3 few union things there about things they did
4 that our union didn't know. This is in respect
5 to the company. It's got nothing to do with
6 this. The company was not a safe place to work
7 for. We didn't know this.

8 : May I stop you for a
9 minute? I must interject this. There is a
10 conception at NIOSH for this meeting that there
11 were no unions at Blockson Chemical.

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Oh, yes there
13 was.

14 : Now, this is a serious
15 question. We need to clarify that. If y'all
16 would tell us about that, that would help a
17 lot.

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: There was a
19 union, yes.

20 : What union was it and
21 the local number?

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Chemical
23 Workers Union.

24 : The union was Local 4,

1 International Chemical Workers Union. And it
2 was there from 1946, they started it. In fact
3 Blockson was on strike and they got rid of all
4 the people that was in that union. I think
5 there's eight people that came back, walked
6 across the picket line to keep a job. And that
7 was back in the '40s.

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That was
9 , wasn't it?

10 : Yes. He was the
11 president.

12 : See, now that's an
13 example of a fact that we are just learning
14 tonight. And there are multiple people who
15 confirmed that. So there's information that we
16 think we know, but we obviously we don't know.
17 And you fellows can you tell us about that.

18 MR. HINNEFELD: I would like to
19 confirm one thing you just said. You said
20 there was a strike in 1946 and eight people
21 came back across. Was that strike in 1946,
22 '47?

23 : It was declared a
24 Wildcat Strike by the International Union.

1 That's the one in '46. Okay. So what happened
2 is all these guys that were on that picket line
3 in June in that particular time of '47 were
4 offered their jobs back. They could come back
5 to the thing because the International Union
6 said that was a Wildcat Strike.

7 So what happened is X number of
8 people came back. And then Blockson hired
9 everybody from the outside. And I happened to
10 be one of them. And I went into maintenance,
11 and that's when I hired in, in of '47.

12 MR. HINNEFELD: Was there a union
13 after that?

14 : Oh, yeah. It continued
15 on with that same identical union. The
16 chemical union, International Chemical Workers.
17 They were out of Cincinnati, Ohio.

18 : It wasn't the best in
19 the world.

20 : No, it wasn't the best
21 in the world. They were crooked.

22 MR. LEWIS: Were they there the whole
23 time?

24 : Yeah. They were there

1 all the time.

2 MR. STEPHAN: Sir, did you have
3 anything else to add about the work there?

4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Just some of
5 my best friends are all gone. His wife
6 is here. She can tell you some of the sickness
7 he went through before he passed away as well.

8 I will tell you that -- I meant
9 to tell you this: My partner, _ and I,
10 (phonetic), we worked in
11 Building 55. We were lead burners. And all
12 the tanks out of Olin, almost all of them, were
13 lined with lead. And when they'd get a leak,
14 there would be steel, lead and then brick on
15 the inside to hold the lead. And it would leak
16 through them, the lead, and once it got through
17 the lead nothing stopped it.

18 So we were in Building 55 for --
19 Our shop was there actually. We handled
20 sometimes 50 foot pipe. And if we cut it, we
21 had to weld it back to together. So we didn't
22 cut it, if we could handle it. This was
23 plastic, not lead.

24 MR. STEPHAN: You did that in

1 Building 55?

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Pardon me?

3 MR. STEPHAN: You did that in
4 Building 55?

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes. I was
6 blown out of a tank in Building 55, a lead tank
7 on the floor. Maybe a thousand gallon tank.
8 It held sulfuric acid. And I cut into a bubble
9 in it and it had hydrogen. It blew me out. I
10 got scared to death. My watch stopped.

11 Anyway, we worked there for a
12 long, long time, and there was never a clean up
13 that I know of in one (inaudible).

14 MR. STEPHAN: The pipe that you
15 worked on in Building 55, where did that pipe
16 go?

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (inaudible)
18 Sometimes we fabricated them and did what we
19 could there before we took it on the catwalk.
20 And we did -- That's another little thing.
21 Then we went to the main shop. We went on a
22 bench. We did a lot of fabricating of lead to
23 be installed in the plant, and we asked for
24 suction to take away the fumes while we worked

1 there on the bench.

2 We had to call OSHA. Once we
3 called OSHA, within two days they were down
4 there putting a vacuum system in. The plant
5 didn't think about, you know, us as human
6 beings. We were just money makers.

7 MR. STEPHAN: Do you recall when in
8 your time that you worked there that you asked
9 for that to be done?

10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: When?

11 MR. STEPHAN: Yes. When you asked
12 OSHA to come, in what year did that happen, do
13 you recall?

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I would just
15 have to take a guess. It would be '80 or
16 something like that. But they did it
17 immediately. It was within days that we had
18 the vacuum there.

19 That's all I got.

20 : There's one thing I
21 want to let you people know about Blockson and
22 Olin Chemical. You'd think they were giving
23 away billions of money because they will not
24 let you know a dam thing that's going on out

1 there. They would rather let you die than tell
2 you you can be killed doing this.

3 (A round of applause.)

4 : I am here for the
5 mechanics. I am one of the operators from
6 Olin. I worked '53 -- years at Olin.
7 I got in Building 55. Fortunately I guess, I
8 am going to say fortunate because so many of
9 our members have been sick, I didn't work too
10 much in there. I operated the calcite rock,
11 the rock that came in from Florida, to the
12 river, to the furnace. And I cast ironed. I
13 took all the impurities out to go through the
14 process.

15 One thing, I don't know if we
16 mentioned we also had sulfuric acid pans and we
17 used sulfuric acid in the process. We used
18 (inaudible). And I really don't know why we
19 have to be telling you all these things because
20 you should be able to get all this information
21 from the Olin people or from Blockson. There
22 is a such a law that you can get all this
23 information.

24 We have several chemists here in

1 Joliet that know all the involvements, but they
2 are not here to work with us because they
3 are (inaudible.)

4 : Can I mention this? In
5 response to your question, the headquarters,
6 office for Olin Brass Company is right in East
7 Alton, Illinois right now. But I believe that
8 this is the first time actually in the last two
9 days that we have initiated talks with them.
10 And you're exactly right.

11 But you got to understand the
12 management of these companies is not
13 forthcoming, so that's why your information is
14 so valuable. But I want you to understand that
15 I agree with you, there needs to be a lot of
16 work at the other end because the company's got
17 a lot of this information that we need.

18 MR. STEPHAN: You worked there 36
19 years. Did you have a urinalysis test done?

20 : Never. Never. In
21 all our time that all of us that worked at
22 Olin, we never had any compulsory anything.
23 When we worked -- If my job was done and maybe
24 I was unfortunate enough to go to 55, then I

1 worked there that day.

2 As we say you cook the stuff,
3 you dump it. The operator fills the trucks
4 outside. We use our same clothes. The same
5 clothes that are filthy, which we use everyday
6 at other places. We can use it if you want to.
7 We don't have to. There was no rule that you
8 had to use them. And safety hazards come into
9 I don't know when. But we just wore caps,
10 whatever. So that's why a lot of these
11 families are here.

12 We took the dust home. We took
13 the dust home with them. There was never,
14 never anything said to any of us because maybe
15 they didn't know themselves. I think so. They
16 are people smarter than me with a high school
17 education. No. Nothing about safety.

18 As says they worked there, we
19 touched, this (inaudible), you worked with this
20 today so you go take a shower. Not like that.
21 The only time that we started taking showers is
22 when we started working on dust collectors and
23 other places that we are so dirty, so sweaty,
24 they give us each a half hour to do it. Other

1 than that it was nothing about safety, about
2 uranium. I come in there just come out of the
3 service. I never knew about that stuff, you
4 know. And nobody ever questioned it, you know.

5 But the process started in 40
6 and (inaudible) sulfuric acid and started
7 pressing it down. And the operators that I
8 know, good Lord, they are deceased. The
9 operators that worked there, they're deceased.
10 But all of us that worked for those (inaudible)
11 years, sometimes we worked in there.

12 (Inaudible) If we were fortunate enough, we
13 were in there. And you say yes, we have to
14 sweep the yellow dust. If you want to wear a
15 mask or you didn't want to wear a mask, you
16 know, it doesn't matter.

17 : My question is this: So
18 you worked mostly outside of Building 55,
19 right?

20 : I worked about 60
21 feet away from the cast iron. I had an
22 operation, too. I had an operation about eight
23 years ago, but my operation turned out that my
24 growth was benign at that time.

1 : That's good. In
2 Building 55 you must have known that was kind
3 of a special building, right?

4 : The only way we know
5 it is a special building is because it's a
6 Government building. And we had --
7 Mr. (inaudible) was there. He is the one that
8 took the names. There was nothing -- There was
9 no reason to say it was a special building with
10 safety equipment. It was only because it was
11 Government.

12 : It was guarded, right?

13 : He was just there
14 taking the names of the fellows that come in
15 there.

16 : Here's the question:
17 One of your people just said you had to pass
18 through two locked doors to get through the
19 building.

20 : Or you knock on the
21 door. If you're a laborer you went back and
22 forth. It wasn't -- Maybe just for security
23 sake, but it had nothing to do with safety or
24 anything like that. We went in and out, we

1 filled bags, we swept the floor. What I am
2 trying to tell you, sir, is there was nothing
3 ever said to any of us like you have got to
4 wear this, you have got to wear that. We just
5 assumed it was like any other building.

6 : The yellow material on
7 the floor, the "Yellow Cake", that was uranium
8 oxide. Nobody ever mentioned that to you?

9 : Never. Never in all
10 my 36 years until I hear it now. And I know
11 some doctors in Joliet. And you know it too.
12 The incidents of death from Joliet and Blockson
13 Chemical. You pick the names of all the
14 fellows that passed away at Blockson Chemical.
15 I am sure. I don't have the information, but I
16 bet you.

17 MR. STEPHAN: You said that if they
18 offered you a mask, you can wear it or not?

19 : Yeah. In any of the
20 buildings.

21 MR. STEPHAN: What type of mask was
22 it?

23 : It wasn't no mask.
24 It was just a (inaudible), just a cloth.

1 MR. STEPHAN: Like you would use at
2 home?

3 : You take it home.
4 Throw it away.

5 MR. STEPHAN: How often did you go in
6 and out of Building 55?

7 : It depends. If we
8 were with the labor gang, we might have been
9 there all day off and on. And I will tell you
10 one thing, too, we didn't have a lunchroom
11 there until much, much later. If you wanted to
12 eat your lunch and if you were in that
13 building, you ate it there. And that's what
14 the operators did. They didn't have no
15 lunchroom. Everything was in the open.
16 (Inaudible). It pays your rent.

17 MR. STEPHAN: It's 8:30. We need
18 to --

19 : The only thing I have
20 to say is there was never, never no safety.
21 There was never -- Nobody ever told us, you
22 know, this place is bad, the whole thing.
23 Never.

24 MR. STEPHAN: Folks, I think we have

1 heard from seven workers out of 10 who are
2 here, and I hope we did not lose one.

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: My husband
4 would have been here today, but he's in the
5 hospital. He just went in today. I came in.
6 He's talked to several people here.

7 MR. STEPHAN: Let's go ahead, take a
8 moment and change the tape. Let's hear from
9 these other few workers here and then we can --
10 We do have to go through some of these
11 questions for pretty specific reasons, and then
12 if some of the survivors' wives and children
13 want to comment, then you can comment. We need
14 to hear from these other workers first though.

15 (A short break was taken.)

16 MR. STEPHAN: The court reporter is
17 ready. We are going to hear from the rest of
18 these workers and then -- Mark, maybe we
19 will take a break. It will be almost two
20 hours. And then we will get some of your
21 questions of the workers. And then if some of
22 the claimants have something to offer about
23 work, then we will hear from them.

24 : I gave my comments

1 when I was sitting down. My name is
2 middle initial

3 I want to make a political
4 comment for the people from the Senator's
5 office. This has been going on for three years
6 now. I am sure the Government has spent
7 millions of dollars in trying to reconstruct
8 all the information they need, trying to
9 adjudicate what the problem is. And I
10 understand they have only paid eight claims.

11 There was probably a couple of
12 100 people involved in this thing over the
13 years. I don't expect to see anything. I
14 don't want anything because at 77 I am still in
15 good health. The Government would have been a
16 lot smarter just to go ahead if they could
17 verify the dates that they were there and the
18 fact that they worked around those conditions,
19 give them \$150,000 apiece, they would be
20 millions of dollars ahead.

21 And this is going to drag on for
22 years. I will probably die.

23 (A round of applause.)

24 : I don't want anything

1 because because my health is more important
2 than getting \$150,000 that I probably won't see
3 anyway. I am tired. This needs to be
4 politically settled because you're going to
5 keep spending million of dollars to try to
6 reconstruct all the stuff. The records are not
7 available.

8 I've had at least 10 people call
9 me, how do I prove that I worked there. I
10 said, do you get a pension? They went back to
11 Prudential and found out they had records in
12 fact that they worked at Blockson during that
13 period of time. That's the only records.
14 There are no records. I tried to get records.
15 I was in the office there, but there are no
16 records. There are no records at all. Believe
17 me.

18 The plant is destroyed. It's
19 highly contaminated. They are going to turn it
20 into a dump. They are still out there
21 monitoring the soil out there. Contrary to
22 what they said, with me it was a good place to
23 work. I was out of the Army two weeks and I
24 got a good job. And then I went in as an

1 Executive Assistant to when the
2 company merged to Olin Chemical company. And
3 we took over about seven or eight chemical
4 plants throughout the country.

5 As far as I was concerned I had
6 a good boss, I made good money. I couldn't
7 believe I was making \$221 as a First Lieutenant
8 out of the service a month. And I got hired at
9 \$500 a month in 1955. I couldn't believe I
10 doubled my salary. But the thing is I think
11 you're spinning your wheels. You've been
12 working at this for three years --

13 (Audience yelling six years.)

14 : Six or whatever it is.
15 You've spent millions of dollars. You would
16 have been better off proving that I was there
17 during those years. Very easy to prove through
18 your pension records. All these people got
19 pensions from Prudential. I still get mine. A
20 lousy \$25 a month, but it's okay. It pays for
21 a tank of gas.

22 You would have been better off
23 verifying employment, give them all \$150,000 if
24 they worked in that vicinity, and they would

1 have been millions of dollars ahead. That's
2 all I have to say.

3 (A round of applause.)

4 : Thank you.

5 I want to talk a little bit about the equipment
6 that was in the building when we first started.
7 The dust collector, I think you want to know
8 what happened to them. I was there when they
9 took it out; the dust collector, the pans and
10 the small presses. There were two presses; one
11 press and one (inaudible). The other press
12 went down to Department 70.

13 The pans and the purchase part
14 was up in the hill, what they call it, bowl
15 (phonetic) yard. And there are Kellys. They
16 didn't touch anything with them as far as
17 taking them up. They were all stainless steel.
18 And I would assume when they changed over to
19 process liquor again through them presses, they
20 just changed the cloths on them. And let me
21 see what else is there. They would be too
22 expensive to pull them out and replace them.

23 And then another thing we are
24 talking about, NIOSH wants to talk about dust.

1 They had fans on the south side of that
2 building, three big fans that blew out from 55
3 itself out to the road. And when they did the
4 sweep, there was plenty of residue out there.
5 Well, anywhere there was a roof fan. It was
6 probably down at the dock even. I don't know
7 how they could determine what amount of, you
8 know, dust was in the air. It was too hard.
9 You couldn't do it. They did it for 10 years,
10 that was blowing out there.

11 And the people that came in
12 after that, it took them 16 years before they
13 came in and did a wipe. And we never knew
14 nothing about if it was contaminated or not.
15 They hid all of that from us. So there were
16 people, and I did too, I did greasing after
17 they started in there and crawling around in
18 there. I didn't know. I didn't have no clue
19 that it would be on my clothes. I don't know
20 what else I could tell you.

21 MR. STEPHAN: What years did you work
22 there?

23 : 1947 to years.

24 MR. STEPHAN: I am sorry, what was

1 your job title, your function?

2 : I worked maintenance at
3 the end for about 15 years, so I spent quite a
4 bit of time in there.

5 MR. STEPHAN: And how often were you
6 in Building 55?

7 : Quite a bit.

8 MR. STEPHAN: No, I mean like on a
9 weekly basis, a daily basis, a monthly basis.

10 : We would be assigned to
11 like say, your area you had like four or five
12 buildings. The boss would say well, this week
13 you're over in this building to work, you know.
14 So it depends on you, how much equipment you
15 had to work to grease it, or oil it, or
16 whatever it took.

17 MR. STEPHAN: You might be in there
18 everyday, but you might not. It just depends?

19 : True.

20 MR. STEPHAN: Did you ever have an
21 urinalysis?

22 : No. Never had one. The
23 only thing I did like I said earlier when I
24 first started -- not when I first started, but

1 I worked on the river on the phosphate rock.
2 And I put in my claim, but they already said --
3 NIOSH said, naw, that ain't no good, but yet
4 they got people down in Florida that were
5 getting compensated for working with the
6 phosphate rock, but us no.

7 MR. LEWIS: Do you know of any
8 changes in Building 40 that took place to
9 augment Building 55's functions?

10 : I don't think so, no.
11 If they made any changes to Building 55?

12 MR. LEWIS: Uh-huh.

13 No. They wouldn't have
14 to because they were already processing like --
15 I don't know. They were already making
16 monosodium, disodium liquor. They were already
17 making that.

18 MR. LEWIS: Any (inaudible) towers in
19 or nothing like that? You don't know?

20 : No, not that I know of.
21 I don't think so.

22 MR. STEPHAN: And you would do
23 maintenance in Building 40?

24 : Yes. Do the whole plant

1 really. There was four of us.

2 MR. STEPHAN: or Stu, do
3 you have any questions for this gentleman?

4 MR. HINNEFELD: I have a question in
5 general of this gentleman or someone else that
6 can help. I am trying to understand. I heard
7 people refer to the gyp pile or the gypson. I
8 was wondering, just to make sure I am clear on
9 that, at what point does this -- This is
10 essentially a waste or a byproduct?

11 : It was a waste.

12 MR. HINNEFELD: It was just discarded
13 in a pile, a discard pile on the side?

14 : No. They call it a
15 gypson pile, but it was phosphate rock at one
16 time.

17 MR. HINNEFELD: Essentially what's
18 the -- It's essentially the rock comes in, you
19 throw in some acid, the acid goes with the
20 stuff you want, what's left behind is this
21 gypson?

22 .: Right.

23 MR. HINNEFELD: It's just dropped
24 down the pile to dispose of?

1 : No. It's pumped out.

2 : It went into a pit, more
3 water was mixed into it, that was pumped to
4 some rubber line pumps that were outside of
5 Building 40. And there were six of them -- no,
6 four of them in a line. Three of them ran
7 always at one time. It went then to a pipeline
8 that was up in the air, and the pipeline -- the
9 pipe was all rubber lined. And it went all the
10 way out to the quarry where the gypson was
11 disposed of, okay, out of the pipe.

12 As the gypson level came up
13 higher, they had pipes that were four feet in
14 diameter where the liquid would flow off into
15 it. But as the gypson raised, so did -- they
16 would put spool pieces in there to raise up the
17 level of the gypson. So they just kept adding,
18 and adding, and adding on.

19 : Years before they had a
20 pile out there, all that went down a river.
21 Half of that -- Well, not half of it. Most of
22 it ended up in Peoria. Yeah. They were liable
23 a couple of times. They had to do some
24 drudging.

1 : Where is Splicer's
2 quarry?

3 : It's at the end of the
4 road. It's at the end of Splicer ROAD.

5 : At the end of Splicer
6 Road?

7 : Yeah.

8 : And that's where the gyp
9 pile sits?

10 : Yeah.

11 : Does the gyp pile sit on
12 top of Splicers quarry?

13 : No.

14 : No, it does not?

15 : No.

16 : They kept building the
17 bank up around there making their own pond.
18 And they just kept pumping it, pumping it out.
19 That gypson, if it could be recovered, they'd
20 use it for wall board.

21 MR. STEPHAN: Sir, so when you would
22 be in Building 55 to do work, how many other
23 maintenance people were with you at times?

24 : It depends. If they

1 were in there changing the pump --

2 MR. STEPHAN: The maximum number.

3 : That would be hard for
4 me to say. I can't say.

5 MR. STEPHAN: Maybe 3, or maybe 10,
6 or it's hard to say?

7 : Too hard. You could
8 have pipe-fitters, you could have mechanics in
9 there, you can have a greaser in there.
10 There's not just one thing going to go down
11 each time. Maybe if a unit went down, you may
12 have 9 or 10 people in there working.

13 MR. STEPHAN: Can you come up with an
14 estimate of the maximum number of any workers,
15 not just maintenance workers, in Building 55
16 when you were in there? An estimate when you
17 were in there.

18 : For any period of time?

19 MR. STEPHAN: No. Just when you were
20 there.

21 : For one day?

22 MR. STEPHAN: Right then, yes. Like
23 I can estimate there are 60 people here or 50
24 people. When you were in Building 55, how many

1 people could you estimate that were in there?

2 : I would say at least
3 five to six.

4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: At one time or
5 the whole year?

6 : Just one day.

7 : Normally when
8 maintenance went in there, they went in there
9 and did the whole shot. Whatever had to be
10 done. Some things could be build up and, you
11 know, if it got like a pump you say, but they
12 always had back ups. They didn't have to be
13 changed right now, but they would put it on.
14 And then when they shut down (inaudible)
15 processing the liquor or putting the two Kellys
16 up there, then they would do it, organize it so
17 it would be convenient.

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER; When you
19 changed the pump, how many people were there,
20 one?

21 : Each had two to a pump.

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Was there
23 anybody else from maintenance there at that
24 time?

1 : Well, yes. I would be
2 there. I had to make sure the pump was oiled
3 after it was put in.

4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That's at
5 least three, plus you got the two or three
6 operators that were there.

7 : You weren't talking
8 about the --

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Any people --
10 His question is everybody in that building;
11 maintenance, electrical, laborer.

12 MR. STEPHAN: Anybody in the
13 building.

14 : You had two upstairs on
15 the presses, right. You had two downstairs on
16 the shed. That's four there. You had the
17 guard. Five. And then whatever maintenance
18 people that came in there.

19 But what's the reason for you
20 wanting to know how many people? It shouldn't
21 make any difference how many people worked in
22 there.

23 MR. STEPHAN: What we are trying to
24 determine is that we believe that -- And what

1 is trying to get at, and NIOSH, and
2 our office is how many people were in the
3 building at different points in time. How many
4 people throughout the whole plant went in and
5 out of the building? Those are the kinds of
6 things that we are trying to determine.

7 : You're trying to say the
8 people that were exposed by being in that
9 building?

10 MR. STEPHAN: Right.

11 : I just said before about
12 them (inaudible) throwing them it out on the
13 road and down the river. That could be
14 everybody.

15 MR. STEPHAN: Sure.

16 : So you can't just say
17 four or five people.

18 MR. STEPHAN: You're right.

19 : Let me pose the issue to
20 you a slightly different way. And I am not
21 sure my facts are perfect, but the number that
22 I have heard banded about is approximately 25
23 people were working in Building 55. But there
24 is other information that some people say

1 considerably more people than that, if you took
2 all people that worked at Blockson/Olin worked
3 in Building 55, you know, some people say there
4 were many more people. And what I have heard
5 tonight just from being here is that most
6 people said that most workers who were at the
7 plant came in and out of Building 55 at one
8 time or another. So I would like to
9 substantiate --

10 : Are you just talking
11 about when they processed uranium for 10 years
12 or all the time? Now there's another --

13 : The 10 years that went
14 on that's a particular interest.

15 : That's by itself.

16 : I think what we heard is
17 there were certainly people who processed
18 outside of Building 55 in the initial steps
19 where the uranium was extracted.

20 : Right.

21 : And then you have also
22 said that between 5 and 12 people may have been
23 in Building 55 at any one time. But if you
24 asked the question of all the people who were

1 there at the plant, you know, was it just a
2 group of 5 to 12 people who were there, and the
3 next day those same 12 people, and the next day
4 those 12 people? What you're saying I think I
5 have heard is that there were other people.
6 The pool -- The overall pool who worked in 55
7 was larger --

8 : Pretty high. Because
9 after they shut down for the uranium, they made
10 a warehouse out of that for awhile. So you had
11 truck drivers going there.

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: My husband.

13 : And people were on the
14 lift truck. And there was storage in there, so
15 they went in and out of there all the time.

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Painters and
17 electricians.

18 : We are talking about two
19 different times. We are talking about a period
20 when the restriction was on. That's when it
21 was confined down to 13 people at the most,
22 because you had to be investigated. But after
23 the restriction was taken off, anybody could
24 come in there.

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: How long is
2 it before the uranium disappears?

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It's still
4 there.

5 : Before it settles down
6 to non-radioactive it's 4.5 billion years.

7 MR. STEPHAN: You have anything else
8 to add?

9 : No, I don't think so.

10 MR. STEPHAN: Are you a worker, sir?

11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes.

12 MR. STEPHAN: Would you like to come
13 up?

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Everything
15 said covered it. He's done a good
16 job.

17 : I would like to speak
18 to one thing and then I am going to leave you
19 people alone and go on home. You have got to
20 remember people working in 55 probably got the
21 biggest feel of it, but everybody and anybody
22 that worked in that plant is getting just as
23 bad as they were in 55.

24 (A round of applause.)

1 MR. STEPHAN: Mark, do you want to
2 try to take a break?

3 MR. LEWIS: Yeah, let's try to take
4 about a 10 minute break. And the people who
5 want to talk to (inaudible). There's some
6 things in there -- I want to make sure for the
7 workers and the site, is there anything in here
8 that we really didn't get to?

9 MR. HINNEFELD: I just have a couple
10 of things that are on the list that I wanted to
11 cover. I want to make sure I understand the
12 solid waste and the liquid wastes that are
13 generated. I heard about -- The gypsum was
14 essentially a solid waste, right, disposed of
15 in a pile; is that correct?

16 : Yes.

17 MR. HINNEFELD: Were there other
18 quantities of solid waste from the various
19 presses and filtrations that were not -- that
20 were not going to end up as product, they were
21 just going to be disposed of? And was there
22 special treatment to those? Where they hauled
23 to a particular place? Were they used for some
24 other secondary process like a fill for

1 construction or something like that, or a dump,
2 or was there some other waste generated
3 besides the gypsum of any particular magnitude?
4 And if so what was its destination? And if
5 there were liquid wastes, liquids that were
6 attached to the filtration where in this step
7 the filtration -- it was good stuff, you were
8 going to have a liquid waste, did anything
9 happen with that besides just going off to the
10 sewer?

11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Liquid wastes?

12 MR. HINNEFELD: Yes.

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: There were
14 four ponds on the property. And all of a
15 sudden they are all like filled in. They have
16 radioactive signs all over. Because our
17 father, he worked in Building 55. And then for
18 overtime he would sit by this water to protect
19 the wildlife. He sat there with a shotgun.

20 MR. HINNEFELD: Does anyone know if
21 there was a liquid waste discharge pond of the
22 liquids that they didn't want to send --

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Why were these
24 things just filled in all of sudden? Just all

1 of a sudden they got filled in.

2 MR. HINNEFELD: I will talk to you
3 about that in a little bit. I got some
4 guesses, but I don't know.

5 : Can y'all tell us the
6 time frame you're talking about? When were the
7 ponds there?

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: The ponds were
9 there -- My sister will be here tomorrow night.
10 And we have pictures of the ponds. They were
11 there two, three years ago. All of sudden they
12 are gone now.

13 : What I really want to
14 find out is when did they first appear.

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It had to be
16 in the '50s because my father was protecting
17 the wildlife with a shotgun.

18 : So you think they were
19 there all along?

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Yeah.

21 : The ponds he's referring
22 to are on Patterson Road. (Inaudible)
23 happening on the site anymore. They expanded
24 these ponds and they were called Purity 1,

1 Purity 2 and Purity 1-A. It was a (inaudible)
2 operation where they would sell P205 to
3 farmers, P205 is phosphate (inaudible) and sold
4 to farmers twice a year. That operation to the
5 best of my knowledge is still in effect at the
6 facility there. It's manned by someone other
7 than Olin. It may be manned by electricians or
8 something like that.

9 One of their total retention
10 ponds, I have documentation not with me
11 tonight, but when Olin was in operation they
12 were applying that to a test field in
13 New Lenox, Illinois. It was a testing outfit
14 out of New Lenox that did testing on this
15 filter.

16 They gave _____, who was the
17 head of Environmental at Olin Chemicals at the
18 time, a heads up that it was a radiological
19 concern coming up with that test field in
20 New Lenox, Illinois and it wasn't at action
21 level yet, but nonetheless they gave her a
22 heads up on it.

23 So there was affluence that
24 didn't go to the gyp pile that went to these

1 ponds, and that (inaudible) sunlight probably
2 evaporated or being recycled as (inaudible).
3 And yes, there was an automatic shotgun out
4 there that needed to be gone up to and refilled
5 with Winchester ammunition to keep the wildlife
6 from it, because once the wildlife hit the
7 (inaudible), they never got out of it again.

8 I: My dad reported -- My dad
9 is . And he had various positions
10 out there at the plant. I would like to have
11 you people call him. He's out in Arizona right
12 now. But I do recall him saying that at one
13 time they were selling some of the gypson to
14 grape vineyard owners. It was supposed to be a
15 good fertilizer for grapes. I think he said at
16 one time they tried to make concrete blocks out
17 of it, but it didn't seem to pan out too well.
18 I don't know what else they did to it.

19 MR. LEWIS: Give me a number so I can
20 call him.

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: One of the
22 ponds out there they are still selling
23 fertilizer to the farmers. I don't know the
24 name of it. My husband knows it. They are

1 still selling it the other (inaudible). He
2 worked out in the pond there. And they sold
3 that to the farmers to put out in their fields.
4 When Olin quit there, they sold it to somebody
5 else and they are still getting stuff out of
6 the pond.

7 MR. STEPHAN: Ma'am, would you do us
8 a favor too and make sure you get Mark's cards
9 because Mark will call your husband because he
10 wants to speak to him directly.

11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I have another
12 question to the panel. Right now there's talks
13 about making this big gypsum pile that they
14 have out there into a dump site.

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It's already
16 passed.

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And they also
18 want to cover over this gypsum pile. And my
19 question is: Where is the EPA on this? Who
20 has checked this out?

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: They want to
22 make a golf course out there eventually.

23 : You need to call Will
24 County. The whole Board meeting, I think

1 that's the same thing they were just talking
2 about. I think it passed the Board. You need
3 to call Will County. That's a County issue.
4 These folks have no idea what you're talking
5 about. I only knew because I was at the County
6 Board meeting, but you need to call the County
7 because they are the ones who work with Waste
8 Management to turn it into a recreation --

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Recreation
10 site.

11 : Call the County and
12 call

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: The Government
14 contracted that stuff to be dumped out there.

15 : What she's talking
16 about is a new dump site. The County just
17 approved one.

18 MR. STEPHAN: These folks here
19 wouldn't have any information about that from
20 NIOSH.

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I know they
22 don't. It's just the idea even of why anybody
23 would let them do something like that. What's
24 going to happen in a few years when it's

1 recreation and all of a sudden they are getting
2 sick too? (Inaudible)

3 MR. STEPHAN: Mark, do you want to
4 take a break? Stu or , you want to
5 make sure you get your questions in of the
6 workers? Are there any workers who are not
7 going to make it tomorrow night?

8 MR. HINNEFELD: Tomorrow night is the
9 same meeting. We are not going to do anything
10 different tomorrow, unless people come back
11 with information that they feel wasn't brought
12 up tonight that should have been mentioned. So
13 it's going to be the same meeting tomorrow.

14 MR. STEPHAN: I am just worried that
15 we may go a little bit more than two hours. If
16 we take a break, you may lose some of the
17 workers. We've still got several specific
18 questions that we need to get through.

19 MR. HINNEFELD: Robert, a lot of the
20 information on these have been answered.

21 MR. STEPHAN: , do you
22 have any questions?

23 : I think there's two
24 questions that haven't been answered adequately

1 at all that are really important. One is the
2 question about how the uranium oxide drums were
3 filled.

4 MR. STEPHAN: Can any of the workers
5 speak to how the uranium oxide drums were
6 actually filled?

7 : And the two competing
8 ideas are: Are they filled manually or either
9 with your hands, or with a shovel, or by a
10 machine? So we are interested in that. How
11 did the "Yellow Cake" get into the drums?

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: My husband
13 said both ways.

14 : When the "Yellow Cake"
15 came out of the oven after it had cooked
16 overnight, it came out in trays. The trays
17 might have been about this size here. All
18 right. Then we had a small -- we had a
19 conveyer, a cone. And that cone was hooked up
20 to a small dust collector. Okay. And we took
21 and we dumped the cake into this drum -- into
22 this shoot that goes down into the drum. I
23 think the drum was setting on a scale I
24 think.

1 : Here's the question: --

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Manually.

3 : Manually. By hand.

4 MR. LEWIS: Any ventilation there?

5 : There was a dust

6 collector there, a small dust collector

7 overhead.

8 : And when you took the

9 cake, the dried cake, how did you get it from

10 the pan through the cone into the drum? Did

11 you pick it up with your hands?

12 : We picked it up, picked

13 the tray up and dumped it over.

14 : All of it came off?

15 : All of it came off and

16 went down the chute. The chute was formed like

17 this and goes right into the drum.

18 : You got a pan. You

19 didn't have to scrape it with your hand?

20 : No. No. The only

21 scraping that was done there was when the

22 "Yellow Cake" came out and when it was wet,

23 then we had hand scrapers, and we scraped it

24 off the cloth, then it went down in the pan.

1 We put the pan in the rack and we put it in the
2 oven.

3 : Then the other question
4 was: There is interest and concern with
5 another radioactive element which is generated
6 during the course of uranium extraction and
7 purification. And that's thorium. Is that a
8 word y'all ever heard?

9 : I never heard of that.

10 : Any of y'all?

11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Never.

12 : It's generated during
13 the course of decay of uranium. That was
14 really the question. Was there any information
15 about that?

16 : No.

17 MR. STEPHAN: We have a question
18 about the radium and when it was separated out.
19 Are we okay on that? Whether it was in the
20 phosphate acid stream or in the --

21 : I think we ought -- We
22 know that radium-226 is one of the elements
23 involved. In respect to that also radon. So
24 can any of the workers here comment on either

1 radium or radon?

2 (No response.)

3 MR. STEPHAN: We had a worker,
4 maybe we lost him, that spoke a lot about that,
5 the separation process.

6 MR. HINNEFELD: I think the situation
7 would probably be that nobody paid any
8 attention. There was probably no analysis done
9 to find where the radium went. From other
10 similar plants there is some.

11 : Just for the record and
12 for the court reporter, nobody who is here
13 tonight has knowledge of either radon or
14 radium.

15 MR. STEPHAN: , is that
16 right? You did some separation, you took out
17 some impurities. Do you recall radon or
18 radium?

19 : What?

20 MR. STEPHAN: You did some work in
21 the separation process, and you took out some
22 of the impurities you said.

23 : Yeah.

24 MR. STEPHAN: Do you ever remember

1 separating out radium or radon? Anybody ever
2 mention that word?

3 : No, not that I know.
4 I never probably -- I probably couldn't even
5 spell that word. I never knew nothing about
6 that, that we started making atomic bomb
7 equipment. No. Never. None of us, that I
8 know of, ever related to something like that.

9 And like I said, the security it
10 was really -- He's not here. He was
11 just, to me, taking names of the fellows that
12 went in and out. Nothing about shoes. Nothing
13 like that. And like I said, we just went in
14 with our old -- We didn't get plastic helmets
15 until about what, '47, '50 for safety. We used
16 our own gloves.

17 Sir, we had our sandwiches. We
18 all did. We had our sandwiches. We didn't
19 have a lunchroom. We had a locker room if you
20 want to eat, the locker room. Way up there.
21 You put a sandwich, like all of us, in your
22 pocket, and you ate that sandwich. If you work
23 in that building there, if wanted to, you ate
24 your lunch right there. We didn't have

1 lunchrooms until much, much later, a lunchroom.

2 Now, sir, Blockson Chemical
3 was -- the three Blockson brothers are the ones
4 that started that plant. To me now they are
5 looking at other things. It was very
6 primitive. It was a lot of stuff wasn't
7 improved. This other material that I speak of.
8 We also used to cook that, cook it in the
9 oven.

10 I say today that it should have
11 been a different way to have done that, but
12 that's the way it was done you know. So a lot
13 of, to me, primitive work that was there when
14 the Blockson brothers started that plant, and
15 they stayed for some reason or another. Thank
16 you.

17 : Robert, the last
18 question is the last question that's on the
19 sheet, and that is: Everybody is aware I
20 presume that the Government entity was involved
21 with the Atomic Energy Commission who
22 commissioned the process to exact uranium,
23 which was responsible for Building 55. Are
24 there any of the other workers who were aware

1 of the Atomic Energy Commission being involved
2 at Blockson or Olin at all, in any way; a
3 training program, rules and regulations they
4 had, inspections?

5 (A chorus of no.)

6 : No. I worked there and
7 I don't have any knowledge of any of this.

8 MR. STEPHAN: Atomic Energy
9 Commission. AEC for short.

10 : The only time they ever
11 came around was when they did a wipe, 16 years
12 later after the plant was done processing.

13 MR. STEPHAN: Who is they? You mean
14 the AEC?

15 : Yeah.

16 MR. STEPHAN: And you knew at the
17 time that that's who they were?

18 : No, I didn't know. I
19 never knew until I put the claim in.

20 MR. HINNEFELD: Sixteen years after
21 the uranium was closed would have been about
22 the time (inaudible) was doing their
23 investigation.

24 MR. STEPHAN: I just have a couple of

1 questions to make sure --

2 : The radon, I did hear
3 them talk about the radon out there in Building
4 40. And radon, I think, the phosphate rock and
5 acid mixed together would cause that.

6 MR. HINNEFELD: Yes. It would be
7 released during that, yes, it would.

8 : Well, that's where a lot
9 of it was.

10 MR. STEPHAN: That would be
11 consistent, right, with what they were saying
12 about Building 40 previously?

13 MR. HINNEFELD: Yes. That's where
14 the acid dissolution occurred and the acid
15 dissolution would probably generate radon from
16 the rock.

17 : I have a document from a
18 that came out of Florida. He's
19 involved with the Institute For Phosphate
20 Research of Florida. I did an investigation
21 because I used to have to clean the tanks in
22 Building 40. And in around the 1980s due to
23 EPA and OSHA regs, all of them were forced to
24 put in super scrubbers on top of these

1 digesters or phosphoric acid lines.

2 I was involved in cleaning the
3 vessels and I was involved in cleaning the
4 scrubber units. I became concerned about
5 radium and radon based on why we are here
6 tonight. e-mailed me back, as for
7 working in the digester, we call that the
8 attack (inaudible) or reactor down here, I
9 really can't say exactly what the chemical and
10 radiological characteristics of the mud or
11 (inaudible) materials might be.

12 I talked to this guy. He
13 doesn't know of any radioactive studies that
14 might have been done on them. They may or may
15 not have been radioactive. Now, I believe this
16 person is listed as a reference in one of your
17 dose reconstruction booklets that you put out.

18 The reason why I remember that
19 name is because I was also in contact with
20 and , who have
21 since passed. was the first initial
22 (inaudible) on this and was
23 directly assigned to AEC production right
24 afterwards, and then they both sent me

1 documentation.

2 But this person here is sort of
3 contradictory. He's the president of whatever
4 he is at the International Phosphate Research
5 Project in Florida and Florida State University
6 (inaudible). He's telling me here that he was
7 familiar with the Olin site and what he calls
8 (inaudible) went into these digesters and
9 shoveled it out. He doesn't know if there were
10 any radioactive properties to that.

11 MR. STEPHAN: Guys, I have two more
12 questions I just want to make sure we cover off
13 of your list. Is that okay, Mark?

14 MR. LEWIS: Sure.

15 MR. STEPHAN: , back to
16 your question about how the drums were filled;
17 manually or by machine. One of the things we
18 heard is that manually was done by shovel.
19 There was a pile of "Yellow Cake", and then the
20 "Yellow Cake" would be shoveled into a drum; is
21 that correct?

22 : (Nods head.)

23 MR. STEPHAN: That's correct. Okay.
24 Does anybody else know anything about that?

1 : I don't know anything
2 about that. When you hear me talk, I am
3 telling you about what happened during the time
4 when the restriction was on, when security was
5 on, when you couldn't get out of the building.
6 These other things what I hear, it happened
7 after I left. And I left during the time when
8 the restriction was on. But I told you we pull
9 out the buggy, and we put in a tray and we dump
10 it by hand. And we had a scale on it and we
11 weighed the drum.

12 MR. STEPHAN: So we have at least by
13 hand and and we also have by shovel.

14 : I don't know.

15 MR. STEPHAN: At least one by shovel?

16 : Yeah.

17 MR. STEPHAN: Sir, go ahead.

18 : Can I interrupt you?

19 You got a picture up there. All of you got one
20 up there of the process. If you will just look
21 at it, it will show you how it's done. That's
22 why we gave it to you.

23 : I think y'all need to
24 understand something. A picture tells one

1 story. The reason we are asking everybody is,
2 you know, at different times different methods
3 could be used. And some people said there were
4 machines that did it.

5 And we want to know among the
6 people who are here tonight, are y'all aware
7 that there was any machine used to load the
8 drums. And so the answer I think is, no, not
9 that the people here know about.

10 MR. STEPHAN: The second question
11 that I wanted to focus on is the dust. We
12 heard a lot about dust tonight. It's here on
13 your list of questions. So in terms of the
14 dust, was the average dust level non-existent,
15 was it medium, was it high, was it, you know,
16 visible? And if it was visible, how much did
17 you see and where was it in the building?

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: When they blew
19 the building up, the dust went all over.

20 MR. STEPHAN: True. When the
21 building was operational, when the building was
22 up, particularly for the maintenance folks,
23 , when you would go in and clean,
24 and some of the maintenance folks, how much

1 dust would you see or, if any, dust?

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It's all over
3 their clothes. It was yellow. When they
4 brought their clothes home, it was yellow
5 powder.

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: My dad would
7 come home and he looked like -- we would call
8 him the snowman. My mom used to make him strip
9 at the garage and (inaudible) and I used to
10 laugh. He came home looking like that. He
11 would have to go downstairs and take a shower.
12 My dad was there. There's no doubt my dad was
13 not there. My dad was there from '50 to '69.
14 He worked in Building 55.

15 But yet -- I know this is an
16 individual problem, but I mean my father died
17 from lung cancer. I thought I understood that
18 they were questioning, you know, the time
19 working, which he was there from '50 to '69.
20 The problem happened during '50 to '60 or '61,
21 or whatever that time is we are talking about.

22 I also thought -- My father died
23 from lung cancer. I thought the claimants were
24 deserving of it if they died from lung cancer.

1 But I understand there are still people that
2 are putting claims in who have gotten claims.
3 The people are still alive. But I guess I am
4 confused because my father's dose
5 reconstruction was 27 percent and he lived
6 there. He got pulled away from vacations.

7 My dad, even though he was the
8 maintenance supervisor, he did it all. He was
9 in there changing the things. My mom told me
10 how much he was doing. But, yes, my dad's dose
11 reconstruction was 27 percent. I think you had
12 to get 50 percent to get the claim. My mother
13 is trying to pay some of her bills. I don't
14 understand how -- Well, I want to know why
15 eight have already been settled, and my father
16 died from the lung cancer and he was denied? I
17 am confused, but I guess that's something I
18 have to have answered individually.

19 MR. STEPHAN: Can we get through
20 the -- It's a very valid question. Can we just
21 get through these last questions with the
22 workers?

23 J: I want to set the dust
24 problem in a different context for you. At

1 Weldon Springs, for example, in the building
2 where a lot of the "Yellow Cake" was used, was
3 produced, they had a brick floor. And there
4 was a practice everyday to wash that floor
5 down. And so the workers there tell about
6 layers of yellow uranium oxide in and under the
7 floor, and around the bricks and so forth. So
8 that's what we are asking.

9 We understand that your clothes
10 were yellow. Most of the plants where there
11 was any exhaust stack, the material that came
12 out of the stack was yellow. We know that.
13 But we are also asking when you walked around
14 inside Building 55, did you see yellow oxide on
15 the floors, on the walls, on the benches, in
16 the rafters, or did the place look clean and
17 dust free? In other words we are trying to get
18 some idea of what was the ambience like in this
19 building. In this building the air is clear?

20 : I know when work got
21 through after a day there, we had to clean that
22 building. How much dust we recovered in my
23 mind -- We had to sweep that building everyday
24 and wash it down everyday. If those dust

1 collectors were working pretty decent and put
2 in a new (inaudible), they were pretty good;
3 but if they were not working decent and they
4 had a defective head cover they had to change,
5 it was more dust.

6 : But you still had to
7 wash it down and clean it everyday regardless
8 of whether the dust collector was working or
9 not, right?

10 : Right. That was the
11 policy in probably all of the buildings. At
12 the end of your shift, you always had to clean
13 up before the next shift came. But we are
14 talking about 55 with the fans. That stuff had
15 to be awful light to go 25 feet up in the air
16 and suck it onto the roofs and go outside.

17 MS. ANONYMOUS: My husband was on the
18 clean up crew in 55, then he worked in the
19 temporary warehouse. And he's in a nursing
20 home now for four years. NIOSH interviewed him
21 in there just in August. We had a five-way
22 conversation. I gave you the names and you
23 copied them down. He answered the questions.

24 MR. STEPHAN: Thank you. Are we okay

1 on the dust issue?

2 : I think so.

3 MR. STEPHAN: You guys know all you
4 need to know about that. Any there any other
5 questions off the list that we have missed at
6 all? If not Mark, what do you want to do? Do
7 you want to take a break?

8 MR. LEWIS: I want to give the
9 people -- What I will do is speak to the
10 survivors. All of the former workers have
11 spoken and we got all we want to hear. I want
12 to make sure that people get a chance to say
13 their peace.

14 MR. STEPHAN: Why don't we skip the
15 break. If you have something to say, come up
16 and say it. If you need to take a break -- We
17 won't leave until everyone has said their
18 peace. We would like to focus on what you know
19 as a survivor of the work that your husband did
20 that has not been mentioned yet. That's what
21 we are trying to find out.

22 : I'm just going to come up
23 here real quick. My dad worked here for 30
24 years. His fame has no importance here

1 tonight, and everybody needs to understand
2 that. You guys need to open your ears and your
3 hearts as to what these people have tried to
4 tell you tonight. Building 55 was the hub of
5 that. I am not a chemist. I am not any of
6 that. That was the hub.

7 What they are trying to tell
8 you, and I heard it is as nobody, that this
9 stuff was everywhere, everywhere, everywhere.
10 In the plant, traced everywhere, blown
11 everywhere, blown out everywhere. I heard it.
12 They are trying to tell you that. And you keep
13 running the same question.

14 I am a Vietnam veteran. I get
15 the same thing at the VA. Don't do it to these
16 people. Don't do it to these people. They
17 have told you that stuff was everywhere. How
18 many times do they have to tell you that?
19 Every one of them brought it home. It got on
20 their families. But it was everywhere in the
21 cotton picking plant. It didn't stay in
22 Building 55. Open your ears and heart to that
23 fact.

24 (A round of applause.)

1 : My name is

2 My father was

3 : My name is

4 , and this is my husband

5 And I would just like to say we know some
6 things. We know that these people worked
7 there. We know they were not protected. We
8 know they worked under conditions which you
9 wouldn't want them to work under today. They
10 wore no badge disseminators, they were no
11 protective clothing. And they did not know
12 what they were working with. We know that.
13 We know for a fact that they
14 were there. We also know that they had
15 illnesses that could have been caused by
16 working in that environment. Because when they
17 made the claims, at some point in time they
18 would have given them an early denial, instead
19 they said stay with it, you may be compensated.
20 Don't give up. You may be compensated.

21 Now, what we don't know is we
22 don't know anything about Building 55's records
23 because there are none. The building is no
24 longer in existence. And we do know that there

1 was no site remediation done. And I know that
2 when you have a product like this, normally the
3 Government or whoever would go in, and clean it
4 up, and make sure that that site did not have
5 residuals left over.

6 That building stood for a long
7 time. And you heard these people say they went
8 in and out of the building. They were in the
9 plant and surrounding that building. Some of
10 that material could have been in the
11 surrounding areas. And we know that.

12 Now, when they tore the building
13 down my question is: How did they do it? Did
14 they clean it up? Did they clean up the
15 residuals or what? Because my husband had
16 worked there for 44 years. That means he could
17 have been exposed outside of that unit as well
18 as inside of that unit.

19 Now, how can you reconstruct
20 something that does not exist? I know you said
21 you base that on another unit that you have
22 somewhere else. But these are individuals, and
23 these people were in unique situations which
24 had nothing whatsoever to do with those other

1 cites that you're talking about.

2 Now you're going to tell them,
3 we are going to tell you that you can only be
4 subject to this because our dose reconstruction
5 says that you could not have -- your illness
6 could not have been caused because this is how
7 we formulated it. How can you formulate
8 somebody's illness when you don't have any
9 records, when you did not protect them? You
10 did not do routine physical exams. You did not
11 do an urinalysis. You kept no records about
12 about how long they worked in that building or
13 if they worked overtime.

14 And my husband used to work
15 overtime as much -- Anybody in this room that
16 knows him would say he practically lived out at
17 that plant. So he was exposed. Do you know
18 that? Does anybody? Can anybody tell me that
19 they know how much he was exposed? I don't
20 think so.

21 So you know I have to say this
22 before I go. I know that this is for the
23 workers, but I am his wife, and I am concerned
24 that he be treated fairly. And up to this

1 point I want to thank you for having this
2 meeting because this is the first time I felt
3 like he really had a chance to talk in a group
4 with some of his co-workers who could support
5 what he had to say.

6 When you talk to somebody on the
7 phone, they do a telephone interview, you don't
8 know who you're talking to, and that's
9 impersonal. And these are the people that's
10 going to make decisions about what happens to
11 him. And I just want to say I thank you for
12 this. I had to get that off my chest. And I
13 am done.

14 (A round of applause.)

15 : I am the eldest daughter
16 of the family. I am ' I just want
17 to compliment the group here. I went with my
18 dad to his meeting in front of the person who
19 was supposed to decide what was going to
20 happen. And I will be honest with you, when I
21 opened up your pamphlet and saw the questions
22 you asked this time, those are the very
23 statements we were trying to get across to the
24 examiner. And he heard us, but he didn't hear

1 us.

2 I just want to compliment you
3 guys for taking the time to ask the right
4 questions. I ran -- For 27 years I worked at
5 ComEd. I did training, ran the training
6 department for ComEd for seven of those years.
7 I am very much aware of what kinds of
8 qualifications, safety precautions you take.
9 And this is the first time I've heard somebody
10 ask those questions that are pertinent.

11 Again, thank you for that.
12 Thank you for taking the time to listen to them
13 because they've got something to say. None of
14 us would agree to go into a work situation like
15 that today. So don't make them martyrs or feel
16 guilty because they did. They did what they
17 were told to do. As said, they
18 just did what they were told. Again, thank you
19 so much for your time and patience.

20 (A round of applause.)

21 : is my name.

22 You asked the question of how many people were
23 in 55 at one time. During the strike they took
24 people from the lab to work in 55, 14 hours a

1 day. I know that because my husband was one of
2 them. So there were people from the lab in
3 there.

4 And when they went -- These
5 people in the lab had to go to 55 to get
6 samples when they weren't working there. He
7 had just started working there, so he was a
8 sample carrier. This is tracked back from
9 there back over. That's why I brought that up
10 because there were many more people in and out.
11 There were no restrictions. They slept out
12 there during the strike. If you weren't union,
13 you stayed there. You maybe got home for a
14 couple of hours a week. He worked there and
15 that I know.

16 I feel like up until now they've
17 waited for everybody to die, and they won't
18 have to give anyone anything. It's easy to
19 deny when you don't know people. And I am so
20 glad you had this meeting.

21 MR. STEPHAN: Ma'am, we are talking
22 about the strike that lasted four months,
23 right? There's two strikes. This is the
24 strike that lasted four months.

1 : The strike in the '50s.
2 And he was there 14 hours a day. And I have
3 proof that I sent in, but of course that
4 doesn't mean anything.

5 : My name is
6 My father also worked out there,
7 I remember when I was a kid, they used to have
8 family weekends out there or something. You
9 bring your family or kids out there, walk them
10 through the plant. Does anybody else remember
11 that?

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes.

13 : You'd see these guys as
14 a little kid. They would have their goggles
15 on, all covered with this powder. You walk
16 around the plant, the catwalks and everything
17 and see these guys, how hard they are working
18 and all that.

19 They go get your father, you
20 know. He would come up and see you. You would
21 see all these men working. He would come home,
22 like most other people have said, with this
23 stuff all over him. What it was, nobody knew.
24 As a kid you just think you're dad was working

1 so hard. But I guess it's true. I wish
2 something could be done about it. He's gone
3 now. He died of cancer. Thank you very much.

4 : My name is .
5 My husband went to work at Blockson in '51. He
6 worked there until the mandatory time in .
7 He died two months later. He worked in all
8 those departments and worked with
9 (inaudible).

10 There's a couple of things I
11 would like to remind people. Number one, when
12 they had the blowout, public service was right
13 next door. And they used to call the guys up
14 and tell them to cut it down because the air
15 was so bad.

16 Number two, when my husband came
17 home, especially when he was in 55, my kids, I
18 had four and one of them is mentally retarded,
19 anyhow, when he came home, he would take his
20 clothes off because he was solid with this
21 waste. And one time I caught my son, he had my
22 husband's shoes and he had a knife. He was
23 cleaning the "Yellow Cake" off the bottom of
24 his shoes. It was bad. Thank you.

1 : My name is

2 . My dad's name is (inaudible)

3 . My dad, he started to work at Olin

4 in 1951. My dad did not live to have a

5 retirement. My dad died in 1983. According to

6 NIOSH's report, my dad had chronic exposure

7 from 1951 to 1983. It's here on the report;

8 however, my father's claim was denied in

9 October. His claim went through until October.

10 My dad -- I was born in '54.

11 And my dad, when he came home, we thought he

12 had soap powder on his clothes. Our clothes

13 were all washed in the same washing machine. I

14 don't know if it has anything to do with it,

15 but my mom, my brother and I, we all have

16 thyroid disease.

17 My dad was a good man. And he

18 worked -- He volunteered for World War II. He

19 was just a great guy. I don't know. My

20 family, we really miss him. And he did work as

21 much overtime as he could because my mom was a

22 stay-at-home mom. And you know, that's all I

23 have to say.

24 MR. STEPHAN: You jogged my memory.

1 There were three people who called me talking
2 about fires and explosions. And two of them
3 were maintenance workers, and they would have
4 to go deal with the fire. Can any of the
5 workers who are still here speak about any
6 fire, or explosion of some sort, or the nature
7 of it, or even if it did happen?

8 : They did have a fire
9 crew out there on certain shifts that if there
10 was any fire or something, they would respond
11 to it. There were fires there in the sulfur
12 mix, in the acid area. It didn't take much
13 spark to start that sulfur on fire.

14 A few times in the
15 silos (phonetic) where there was unloading
16 sulfur from the dock, a couple of them went off
17 into the tanks. You get a piece of iron going
18 through, it would set off a spark and it would
19 blow. They had them all sealed where they
20 wouldn't contaminate the whole building.
21 That's part of that.

22 MR. STEPHAN: Were there fires that
23 you recall that were in Building 40 or more
24 importantly in Building 55 that you can recall?

1 (No response.)

2 MR. STEPHAN: They didn't know. So I
3 just wanted to make sure we clarified that
4 while we had the opportunity.

5 : They had people that
6 would --

7 MR. STEPHAN: Respond.

8 : Yeah.

9 MR. STEPHAN: Ma'am, I think you were
10 going to make a comment. Did you want to come
11 up?

12 : Yes. Thank you very
13 much. My name is . And my
14 husband was employed at Olin/Blockson Works for
15 years, having started there in 1957. He was
16 a . Consequently he went to the
17 departments that were doing the products and
18 ran the samples to make sure they were up to
19 quality control.

20 And he had brain cancer and
21 passed away in 1998. He was diagnosed in 1996
22 with brain cancer. But we just like for you
23 people to know that there were other people
24 besides Building 55 that were exposed to all of

1 the dust, the products being done, coming from
2 the river by barge. And these people are
3 exposed just as much as anyone else that was
4 employed at Blockson Chemical. And we want you
5 to take those concerns into consideration.

6 Thank you very much.

7 : I am . My dad
8 is . He had numerous positions
9 there at the plant. He was in maintenance, he
10 was a mechanic, he was also a crane operator on
11 the river. And he's not here tonight. He's in
12 Arizona enjoying himself. And hopefully you
13 will be calling him or someone will be calling
14 him.

15 I do have a minute detail that I
16 want to clarify. And it's a small, but very
17 important detail that needs to be clarified.
18 Building 40 where the (inaudible) was made was
19 previously known as Building 25, and they are
20 one in the same. And I want to make sure that
21 you people understand that because some guys
22 might refer to it as Building 25. Some of the
23 other people may refer to it as Building 40,
24 but it is the same building. And I want to

1 make sure that you understand that.

2 MS. ANONYMOUS: I don't care to have
3 my name in the paper. I am here trying to help
4 these other people. My husband did get the
5 money. He did not get the lifetime medical
6 they promised him. I have proof where they
7 blew up the building. The dust went all over
8 and my husband cleaned up the mess, him and his
9 crew. The crew is all dead.

10 (phonetic), (phonetic),
11 (phonetic). They had to use their last names
12 because a lot of them called -- their first
13 names were .

14 I have other documents here
15 showing the protective clothing was just a
16 vest. The gentleman wearing a white shirt, a
17 tie and a hat, that was , and he was
18 wearing protective clothing. When they blew
19 the building up, my husband was on the
20 (inaudible) truck. The Green Giant they called
21 it. And he cleaned up their mess, him and his
22 crew.

23 He's been four years in the
24 nursing home now. And NIOSH called him in

1 August of '06. And we had to have a password
2 to clear NIOSH to talk to us because I will not
3 talk to people that don't belong. But the
4 money, like I said I don't want this in the
5 paper, went for his care in there. And if he
6 had the money before he went to the nursing
7 home, I could have had some. I have nothing.

8 I am just hoping you people will
9 understand. Like they said, these are human
10 beings you are dealing with and their lives.
11 My husband has cancers in the arms that went
12 down to the bone. He's too ill to have the
13 rest of them removed. He's had other
14 illnesses. He's only got half the capacity in
15 both lungs from working out there. He's got
16 calcified deposits in both lungs.

17 I have three drums in my garage.
18 I have all the information that came up for
19 trisodium phosphate drums. We used that as
20 soap. Our daughter died from breast cancer.

21 worked there from 1950 to . And he
22 had a heart attack out there and drove home for
23 me to take him to the hospital. He wouldn't go
24 from Blockson or from Olin.

1 I have three drums in my garage
2 that we used as a toy box. Our daughter died
3 of breast cancer. I am battling breast cancer
4 right now. I use oxygen all the time. But to
5 bring the file in to help these other people, I
6 left my oxygen in the car and brought the file
7 in with my walker.

8 And I thank you for listening to
9 these people. And please, this radiation
10 dosage, I don't know how you can do it when
11 they blew that thing up, that building up, and
12 then the dust went all over. By the way, I
13 took a personal photo of them blowing the
14 building up. Some people borrowed my three
15 files, and that disappeared. I do have the
16 newspaper one that I gave to that gentleman
17 over there. He sat in front of me. And I have
18 more here. Thank you.

19 MR. STEPHAN: Mark, I think we are
20 close to done. I did not state my name in the
21 beginning. I apologize for that. I raise that
22 point just because -- My name is Robert
23 Stephan. I am with Senator Obama's office.
24 Debbie is also here from Senator Weller's

1 office -- Congressman Weller. I am sorry.

2 At any rate, if you have
3 something in the future that you would like to
4 add that was not covered tonight, you
5 absolutely can call back tonight. If something
6 has jogged your memory. Even if your claim has
7 been denied. Because at this time the claims
8 have been reopened. Okay. If you have trouble
9 reaching NIOSH or for some reason you feel more
10 comfortable speaking to us, you can certainly
11 call our offices, and we will relay that
12 information to them.

13 MS. ANONYMOUS: I have one more
14 question. They mentioned \$150,000 at that time
15 in lifetime medical. What happened to the
16 lifetime medical?

17 MR. HINNEFELD: I am afraid that I
18 don't know much about that part. The actual
19 administration of the benefits is from another
20 governmental agency from the Department of
21 Labor. And I am afraid I don't really know
22 what rules, and what applications --

23 MS. ANONYMOUS: He has the medical on
24 the cancer. But if you go to these doctors and

1 they (inaudible) these cancers. His whole
2 body's been cancered (sic). They don't know
3 how to send it to NIOSH. They don't know how
4 to. I have that little card. They said we
5 have to send it to Medicare first and then Blue
6 Cross/Blue Shield. They've never dealt with
7 the Federal insurance.

8 MR. HINNEFELD: Steve, do you have an
9 office or a number for the Department of Labor
10 District office in --

11 MR. STEPHAN: Kentucky.

12 MR. HINNEFELD: The Resource Center
13 would be in Paducah. Cleveland would be the
14 District Office. If you have a number for the
15 Department of Labor, Cleveland District Office,
16 and they should have probably a claims examiner
17 for your case, and if you would speak to that
18 person at the Department of Labor, they may be
19 able to explain things or may be able to assist
20 you, particularly if additional cancer lesions
21 are being removed. So I would recommend that
22 you do that.

23 Unfortunately we at NIOSH have
24 nothing do with the administration of benefits.

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Can I ask one
2 question? (Inaudible). My father was too sick
3 to do anything. He wasn't able to cooperate
4 with them. But we understood that we would be
5 able to file the claim (inaudible) for the
6 office calling my mom saying they needed
7 information, but we were told that since my dad
8 worked there from '50 to '69 and he was part
9 of -- in that building doing what they were
10 doing there, I understood that you had to have
11 lung cancer to file a claim. And that's what
12 my father was diagnosed with, lung cancer. And
13 he died and, of course my mom is the claimant.

14 Am I wrong in thinking you had
15 to have lung cancer to file a claim only?
16 That's what we were told. And we were denied
17 because my dad's position was termed
18 maintenance supervisor. They told us over the
19 phone that because he was a maintenance
20 supervisor that the only way they could
21 reconstruct his dosage at 24 percent instead of
22 the 50 percent was because he was a maintenance
23 supervisor and he probably wasn't that involved
24 in there. (Inaudible). He died from lung

1 cancer.

2 I am confused over why we got
3 denied or my mother got denied and other people
4 got the settlement.

5 MR. HINNEFELD: You asked two
6 questions. The first thing was apparently you
7 were misinformed at the start about the lung
8 cancer. Apparently you were misinformed. A
9 claim can be filed for any cancer, except
10 chronic lymphocytic leukemia. Any other cancer
11 has -- is believed to have some radiation risk
12 associated with it, meaning the radiation
13 increased the probability of that cancer
14 occurring. So any other cancer is a reason
15 for -- a medical reason for a claim under Part
16 B of this lawsuit.

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: He also had
18 (inaudible).

19 MR. HINNEFELD: As to the specifics
20 of your case, I will talk to you in a minute,
21 okay, because I would like to get a little more
22 information about it because I would have to
23 get back to the office to look it up.

24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: The dose

1 reconstruction, I am not a lawyer with all this
2 scientifically, but can you guys put it in like
3 a laymen's term? Like my father was like over
4 20 something percent. Is that like a jar
5 full?

6 MR. HINNEFELD: Can I talk to you
7 when we're done?

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Is it a barrel
9 full? I would like to know in laymen's terms.

10 MR. HINNEFELD: It's hard to put in
11 those kinds of terms, but I might be able to
12 help a little bit if we can talk at the end
13 here. Okay.

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I don't think
15 you can say enough. Even if you were denied
16 once, basically everybody got their cases
17 opened again, right?

18 MR. HINNEFELD: They are all going to
19 be reopened.

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: What's the
21 time frame of the evaluation?

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Is it another
23 seven years?

24 MR. HINNEFELD: I know you may have

1 been sarcastic. It won't be that long.

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: My dad has
3 been dead for 10 years and it's been going on
4 that long, so I am not being sarcastic. I am
5 just being realistic. I will like to know.

6 MR. HINNEFELD: It won't be done
7 probably -- We talked earlier about the
8 petition being presented at the May meeting. I
9 don't think every case will be re-evaluated by
10 the May meeting. I think probably every case
11 will be re-evaluated this calendar year. I
12 would think it would be during this calendar
13 year.

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That's a fair
15 answer. Thank you.

16 MR. HINNEFELD: Honestly I can't
17 promise that. I think it would occur this
18 calendar year.

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: When should we
20 hear back? My claim was denied right away.
21 And I have no way of knowing when it's going to
22 be re-evaluated.

23 MR. HINNEFELD: I really can't offer
24 anything better than during this calendar year.

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Well, can you
2 give us an address where we can --

3 MR. HINNEFELD: I can give you a
4 business card. The business card has our
5 address.

6 MR. STEPHAN: If we have questions
7 about claims, can we do that afterwards,
8 because those can get specific?

9 : This is about the
10 process of uranium. They had a pilot lab where
11 they did all the research up there, and that
12 was -- They called it a pilot lab. It was a
13 garage. What I was wondering is what did they
14 do with the radium that they extracted and --
15 What did they do with it? I got a pretty good
16 idea where it went.

17 MR. HINNEFELD: You're talking about
18 the uranium they were extracting?

19 : Yes.

20 MR. HINNEFELD: They were trying to
21 prove that they could do it.

22 : Right. Now what
23 happened to the uranium they extracted?

24 MR. HINNEFELD: Well, I don't know

1 specifically. I can speculate that they
2 provided it to the Atomic Energy Commission for
3 them to decide if it was good stuff, what they
4 wanted to get. I don't know that they did that
5 though. It would be pure speculation.

6 : They probably just sent
7 them a sample. They didn't send them a whole
8 batch. I don't think.

9 MR. HINNEFELD: They were making it
10 for the Atomic Energy Commission.

11 MR. KEZELE: The point I am trying to
12 get at is they got a sneaky dump out there
13 where they dumped a lot of stuff.

14 MR. HINNEFELD: It absolutely could
15 have. Absolutely could have dumped it.

16 : Another thing. What
17 happened to all the equipment that was up there
18 when they were doing it? You were talking
19 about --

20 MR. HINNEFELD: Well, you were the
21 one who described the equipment that came out
22 of 55 or somebody described it, (inaudible), or
23 sold to scrap. I guess they would do the same
24 thing there. They would probably reuse it. I

1 would think they would reuse it.

2 MS. BREYER: Stu introduced me
3 earlier, but I am Laurie Breyer. I also work
4 with NIOSH. And in listening to some of the
5 comments from the back of the room, I think
6 there might be some confusion, and it deals
7 more with claims than it does necessarily with
8 work at the facility.

9 But some of the comments I have
10 heard, people seem to be confused about what
11 cancers qualify, or some are saying more
12 cancers have come along, or people asking why
13 we keep the records even after a claim is
14 denied or approved. If you develop a cancer at
15 any time, it doesn't just have to be one
16 cancer, if you have lung cancer, and prostate
17 cancer, and multiple skin cancers, each of
18 those constitute an individual cancer.

19 So if your husband develops any
20 future cancer, it should go to the Department
21 of Labor. The lung cancer -- It doesn't just
22 have to be lung. It can be lung and prostate.

23 I talk to people on a regular
24 basis, claimants and workers. And a lot of

1 times even the energy employees are dead and I
2 am speaking to the survivor. And I am looking
3 at their claim and they only have one cancer on
4 there. And as I am speaking to them, they will
5 say, oh, he had multiple skin cancers removed
6 over the last 10 years as well. Well, those
7 count as cancers. It doesn't have to be one.
8 It doesn't have to be something that you see as
9 being a minor cancer versus a major cancer.

10 But you need to make sure that
11 the record is clear of all the cancers that
12 your father, or mother, or spouse, or you have
13 had at the time that you worked or even after.
14 And even if your claim has been denied, if your
15 claim has been approved, whatever has happened
16 with your claim, if another cancer develops, or
17 it's discovered that there is another cancer or
18 was another cancer, even if the energy employee
19 is dead, you can go back and add it to the
20 records.

21 A lot of the comments I heard
22 today there seems to be some confusion about
23 that. If you have any questions, you can speak
24 to me afterwards as well.

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: A lot of the
2 records are hard to get. The hospitals don't
3 even have them.

4 MS. BREYER: I didn't want take away
5 from the work that was being done. I kind of
6 got caught into a comment about the cancer. So
7 if you have any other follow-up questions, I
8 will be here after the meeting is over if you
9 want to speak to me about your individual
10 questions regarding your claims.

11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: With today's
12 technology, what was talking about, with
13 possible off-site material being dumped on
14 sites during that time and/or during the
15 remediation period, is it possible with today's
16 technology such as it was done in Ottawa at the
17 (inaudible) Company where there are still hot
18 spots in Ottawa, Illinois with radioactive
19 parts of property there that are fenced off to
20 date in the downtown area of Ottawa, Illinois,
21 isn't it feasible for the United States
22 Government to fly over this pile and fly over
23 this property and absolutely tell if there are
24 any buried drums of uranium there? Is it

1 possible?

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It doesn't
3 have to be drums. Dust.

4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: If they
5 cleaned that dust collector, where did that
6 residue go? How long did that drum sit there
7 and age and grow, and grow, and grow before
8 someone decided to do something with it? Was
9 it rolled off in the corner for six months?
10 (inaudible) Did it go in the magic hole in the
11 ground? If you fly over it, that will show
12 what's out there now.

13 : If we still live in our
14 homes when our dads or husbands worked out
15 there, we probably still got a hot spot right
16 in the basement where we did the laundry.

17 : You're talking about
18 skin cancer, right?

19 MS. BREYER: I am talking about any
20 specific cancer.

21 .: Let's talk about skin
22 cancer. There's a way that you don't get it.
23 You either got to be a primary or a secondary,
24 right?

1 MR. BREYER: Right. But even if it's
2 a secondary cancer, it should be reported to
3 the Department of Labor.

4 : They will get it if it's
5 secondary, right? If it's primary you ain't.

6 MS. BREYER: I am not sure of that
7 question. I think the Department of Labor will
8 look at the medical records and determine if
9 it's primary or secondary.

10 : That's what I was told.

11 MR. BREYER: I don't have an answer to
12 that. But I know any cancer should be reported
13 to the Department of Labor. They will make
14 that decision. If you had a skin cancer 10
15 years ago and had it removed, that should be
16 reported to the Department of Labor.

17 : I just had it October
18 31st. I had four of them already. I just put
19 it in. And she told me that if it's a primary,
20 they don't care about the primary. It's got to
21 be a secondary.

22 MS. BREYER: No, that doesn't sound
23 correct. I would follow-up with more questions
24 about that. If you had skin cancers and that

1 was related as an independent, separate cancer
2 and it wasn't secondary to anything, that
3 should be included on your records.

4 : That's a doctor's
5 report. That's up to them now what they are
6 going to do.

7 MS. BREYER: Right. That will be up
8 to the Department of Labor.

9 : That's who I talked to,
10 the Department of Labor.

11 MR. LEWIS: You filed your claim in
12 Paducah, Kentucky? The Resource Center in
13 Paducah, Kentucky, is that where you filed your
14 claim through?

15 : No, in Ohio. Cleveland.

16 MR. LEWIS: There's a Resource Center
17 in Paducah that's better there to help workers,
18 help you guys file that claim instead of -- You
19 know there's a Resource Center, the Department
20 of Labor Resource Center in Paducah, Kentucky.
21 They report to the District office. The
22 Regional office is in Cleveland.

23 But Paducah, Kentucky is where
24 the lady there is . I think

1 she's an Office Manager. But any questions you
2 guys have pertaining to claims, and multiple
3 cancers, things like that, that's who you
4 really need to talk to, the Department of
5 Labor. They are the ones (inaudible) in
6 Paducah, Kentucky.

7 My claim will be in
8 Cleveland.

9 MR. LEWIS: Through Paducah. I live
10 in Portage, Ohio. We have a claims office in
11 Portage, but all the claims go to Cleveland
12 from there, as well this one would, too?

13 Paducah don't look at
14 them at all.

15 MR. LEWIS: They are the ones who --
16 Make a decision on it?

17 MR. LEWIS: No. They are the ones
18 who do the paperwork, help you with
19 verification of employment, and different
20 things like that, assign you a case worker and
21 then it goes to Cleveland. Same as my side. I
22 work at Gaseous Diffusion Plant there.

23 That Resource Center is there to
24 help former workers and claimants. So that's

1 what it's there for. Paducah. There's some
2 questions you can ask and they will be able to
3 really help you out.

4 Is there anybody else here that
5 would like to say anything? We are just about
6 winding down this meeting. I urge you to ask
7 your neighbors to come back tomorrow night.
8 Yes, sir.

9 : I just like to say in
10 summation that we know from radiation --
11 uranium radiation causes cancer. We know the
12 incidents of Joliet from Olin Chemical and
13 Blockson Chemical is very high. All these
14 things are there. Now what percent? I don't
15 know. You people would say -- the doctors say
16 you have to have so much percent. Even if you
17 have five, six percent, it's there. And it
18 causes it. And that's what causes it.

19 Like said before, you
20 can't reconstruct back what happened. We know
21 there was dust there, we know that uranium was
22 there. And that's why the people have so much
23 cancer. That's the (inaudible) of the table.
24 So why is there so many cancers from Olin

1 Chemical?

2 MR. LEWIS: I could answer that. The
3 information you all supplied us tonight,
4 hopefully together with that it will help this
5 (inaudible) profile and the SEC petition. You
6 have done some good work for yourselves and
7 your coworkers. And I appreciate it.

8 : Let's hope they change
9 the dosage.

10 MR. LEWIS: That's what it's all
11 about. If can you get some coworkers to show
12 up tomorrow night, some people that weren't
13 here tonight, I would appreciate them coming
14 in.

15 I really would encourage you to
16 call the Paducah office with any kind of claim
17 questions.

18 : Do you have the number?

19 MR. LEWIS: I can get back with you.
20 I don't have the number with me. It's a
21 toll-free number. You know, I don't have it
22 with me. It's the Department of Labor.

23 I really appreciate you guys
24 showing up. You deserve a big hand yourself

1 for taking time out and coming here. I
2 appreciate it.

3 : Thank you very much
4 for coming out.

5 (End of meeting)

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1 STATE OF ILLINOIS)
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2 COOK OF COUNTY)
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4 I, Sharon Thompson, a shorthand
5 reporter doing business in the County of Cook
6 and State of Illinois do hereby certify that I
7 reported in machine shorthand proceedings in
8 the above-entitled cause. I further certify
9 that the foregoing is a true and correct
10 transcript of said proceedings as appears from
11 the stenographic notes so taken and transcribed
12 by me on January 24th, 2007.

13 *Sharon Thompson*
14 Sharon Thompson

15 CSR No. 084-004429
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