STATE OF LOUISIANA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
OFFICE OF CONSERVATION

ENVIRONMENTAL DIVISION

PUBLIC HEARING RE:
WATER TABLE UNDER EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH

DOCKET NO. ENV 2012-02

THURSDAY, APRIL 12, 2010
AT 6:00 P.M.

LABELLE ROOM
LASALLE BUILDING
617 NORTH 3RD STREET
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70802

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MR. ADAMS:

Ladies and gentlemen, we're going to go ahead and get this hearing started.

Tonight's public hearing is being held at the request of the Capital Region Legislative Delegation, East Baton Rouge Parish Metro Council and the Ascension Parish Council. The purpose of tonight's hearing is to establish a public record of comments and testimony relating to the issue of saltwater encroachment in the 1500 and 2000-foot sands of the Southern Hills aquifer system in the Baton Rouge area for the Office of Conservation to consider as we proceed with evaluating, determining and implementing the next steps to take toward managing aquifer stability in Baton Rouge and the surrounding areas affected by saltwater encroachment.

My name is John Adams. I've been designated by the Commissioner of Conservation as the Hearing Officer for tonight's hearing, which is Docket Number ENV 2012-02. With me this afternoon is Mr. Gary Snellgrove, Director of the Environmental Division.

A summary of groundwater conservation in the Baton Rouge area begins with the creation of the Capital Area Ground Water Conservation District and

Commission, abbreviated CAGWCC, by ACT 678 of 1974. In 2001 ACT 446 established the first statewide groundwater management law under the Office of the Governor, administered through the Department of Natural Resources, Office of Conservation. Act 49 of 2003 moved the statutory authority of the Ground Water Resource Management law from the Office of the Governor to the Office of Conservation. Since 2003 the Office of Conservation administered 21 public meetings of the Ground Water Resources Commission with member representation including the Capital Area Ground Water Conservation Commission. During this time period the agency also administered numerous meetings of the Ground Water Management Advisory Task Force with member representation including the CAGWCC.

On October 16, 2006, the CAGWCC Director provided members of the Ground Water Resources Commission a detailed explanation of: Aquifer sustainability problems in the Capital Area Ground Water Conservation District, the history and oversight, and actions and potential solutions to address saltwater encroachment in the Baton Rouge aquifers.

In October of 2007 the Office of Conservation established the Environmental Division,

merging staff of the Legacy Site Remediation and E&P Waste Management Programs with Ground Water Management Program staff to improve resource availability and management efficiency across each program.

In late 2007, early 2008, the Environmental Division staff met with CAGWCC staff on CAGWCC plans to address aquifer sustainability issues. Division staff learned of past actions and the most recent effort by USGS to develop the solute-transport and groundwater flow model for the Baton Rouge area aquifers.

In the summer of 2011, Office of Conservation staff met with East Baton Rouge Metro Councilman Walker, Councilman Bourgeois, and Mr. Hays Town on: The issue of saltwater encroachment in the Baton Rouge area aquifers; the aquifer sustainability authority of the CAGWCC; of groundwater management of the Office of Conservation; and procedures for establishing an Area of Ground Water Concern, Critical Area of Ground Water Concern and Ground Water Emergency. On October 31, 2011, the Office of Conservation received the East Baton Rouge Metro Council Resolution Number 48944 requesting Conservation to hold a public hearing on the issue of saltwater encroachment in the Baton Rouge area

aquifers for consideration to establish an Area of Ground Water Concern in Baton Rouge.

On November 8, 2011, Conservation issued a letter to the CAGWCC requesting a summary of current and future plans approved or under consideration to address saltwater encroachment over the Baton Rouge fault and towards the public water supply wells used to provide drinking water for the residents of East Baton Rouge Parish. On December 13, 2011, the CAGWCC provided an 11-page response detailing all actions of the CAGWCC addressing saltwater encroachment in Baton Rouge area aquifers from 1975, its inception, to the present.

On December 21, 2011, Conservation staff met with USGS staff to discuss saltwater encroachment and the development, use and delivery date of the USGS Baton Rouge area aquifer solute-transport/groundwater flow model. On January 5, 2012, Conservation staff met with Baton Rouge Water Company staff to discuss the East Baton Rouge Metro Council resolution and their short and long term plans to address saltwater encroachment in the Baton Rouge area aquifers. On January 11, 2012, Conservation staff met with Georgia Pacific staff to discuss East Baton Rouge Metro Council resolution and their short and long term plans

for water use and groundwater conservation. On January 17, 2012, Conservation and CAGWCC staff met to discuss a response to the East Baton Rouge Parish Metro Council's resolution request for a public hearing for establishing an Area of Ground Water Concern.

On February 10, 2012, Conservation provided written response to the East Baton Rouge Metro Council Resolution Number 48944.

On February 14, 2012, the Capital Region Legislative Delegation issued a letter to the Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources also requesting a public hearing be held.

On March 8, 2012, Conservation held a public meeting here in Baton Rouge in this room to provide: Information on the issue of saltwater encroachment in the Baton Rouge area aquifers; and to provide opportunity for all stakeholders and interested parties to deliver information for consideration and development of additional management strategies to address the saltwater encroachment problem.

On March 14, 2012, Conservation staff attended a Technical Meeting of the CAGWCC to hear a presentation on proposed plans of the Baton Rouge

Water Company to install a scavenger well to remove saltwater from the base of the aquifer, to intercept it before it hit six public supply wells which have historically and currently continue to be relied upon to provide public drinking water supplies to Baton Rouge Water Company customers.

On March 15, 2012, the Louisiana Groundwater Resources Commission finalized its report, "Managing Louisiana's Groundwater Resources" in response to HCR 1 of 2010 identifying the issue of saltwater encroachment in Baton Rouge area aquifers as one of the "Current Major Issues" in the state under groundwater resource oversight.

On March 19, 2012, based on new information obtained in the March 14 CAGWCC Technical Meeting, Conservation staff requested a teleconference meeting with Baton Rouge Water Company to gather more details of their proposed scavenger well project and provide regulatory compliance guidance for applicable well construction and well notification and evaluation requirements. Conservation staff recommended and encouraged Baton Rouge Water Company to provide written details of their plans as soon as they were available, to include all options under consideration such that staff could in turn provide additional

guidance on compliance with all law and regulation under the jurisdiction of the Office of Conservation.

On March 20, 2012, Conservation staff attended the regular meeting of the CAGWCC. During that meeting details of the USGS Baton Rouge area model and Baton Rouge Water Company's proposed scavenger well were discussed. No motions were passed or decisions rendered by CAGWCC having an impact on the management of the issue of the saltwater encroachment in the Baton Rouge area. However, USGS provided a proposed plan and cost estimate to perform continual maintenance and updating of the Baton Rouge area aquifer solute-transport and groundwater flow model. The plan extends for 10 years with an approximate annual estimated cost of $190,000.

At this point I would ask Mr. Gary Snellgrove to go ahead and enter into the record the appropriate state exhibits.

MR. SNELLGROVE:

Thank you, Mr. Adams.

Thank you Mr. Adams.

Exhibit A is a copy of the current CAGWCC statutory authority.

Exhibit B is a copy of ACT 446 of 2001.

Exhibit C is a copy of ACT 49 of 2003

and current Office of Conservation Ground Water Resource Management Statutory Authority.

Exhibit D is a copy of the applicable sections of the Louisiana law detailing Ground Water Resources Commission and Ground Water Management Advisory Task Force memberships.

Exhibit E is a copy of pages of the 2006 Ground Water Resources Commission meeting transcript detailing the information provided by the director of the Capital Area Commission.

Exhibit F includes copies of each quarterly newsletter published by the Capital Area Ground Water Conservation Commission from July 2006 to January 2012 made available to the agency and general public which includes the chronological history of the USGS Baton Rouge area solute-transport and groundwater flow model planning, development, implementation and status updates.

Exhibit G is a copy of the East Baton Rouge Metro Council Resolution Number 48944.

Exhibit H is a copy of Conservation's November 8, 2011 letter to the Capital Area Groundwater Conservation Commission.

Exhibit I is a copy of the December 13, 2011 CAGWCC response letter.

Exhibit J is a copy of Conservation's February 10, 2012 Response Letter to the EBR Metro Council.

Exhibit K is a copy of the Capital Region Legislative Delegation letter dated February 14, 2012.

Exhibit L is a copy of the March 8, 2012 public meeting transcript and written comments and exhibits that were received under Docket Number ENV 2012-01.

Exhibit M is a copy of the meeting agenda for the March 14, 2012 CAGWCC technical meeting.

Exhibit N is a copy of the pages of the Louisiana Groundwater Resources Commission's HCR 1 report concerning Baton Rouge area saltwater encroachment issue.

Exhibit O is a copy of preliminary designs of scavenger well options submitted to Conservation by the Baton Rouge Water Company on March 29, 2012.

Exhibit P is a copy of a meeting agenda for the CAGWCC's regular meeting March 20, 2012.

Exhibit Q is proof of publication of legal notice of hearing in The Advocate and other

local journals of the five-parish Capital District Area.

Exhibit R is the signed copy of a Resolution received on April 3rd, 2012 from the Ascension Parish Council urging and requesting the Louisiana Commissioner of Conservation to call a hearing regarding the lowering of the water table under the parish of East Baton Rouge due to excessive pumping of groundwater.

Exhibit S is reserved for public comments and testimony received under this docket.

MR. ADAMS:

Thank you, Mr. Snellgrove.

At this time it's our practice to open the floor for testimony, and we typically allow elected officials to approach the microphone first.

If you filled out one of these blue cards and would like to give testimony that's going to take place at this microphone right up here, if you would, make sure you state your name and whom you represent when you get to the microphone. Speak clearly so that the court reporter can accurately transcribe your information.

If you would like to speak and have not yet filled out one of these blue cards, please do so

and bring it up to the table.

At this time I would like to call Mayor Pro-Tempore Mike Walker if he would care to speak.

MR. WALKER:

Thank you very much.

I'm Mike Walker, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Address is 340 Laurie Lynn Drive here in Baton Rouge. And I'm speaking as Mayor Pro-Tempore and also as a citizen and resident here of East Baton Rouge Parish.

The resolution that you have in front of you that you have presented as an exhibit is accurate and still stands today. It was unanimously approved by all twelve council members, and all twelve council members today are still unanimous in our request that something be done relative to the saltwater intrusion into our drinking water in East Baton Rouge Parish and also in the surrounding areas. Ascension Parish has a worse situation than we do, quite frankly. It's already into more shallow sands than ours is.

And just sitting there, listening to what you had to say, I think the records are accurate. I do not question your records, I do not question the fact that we've had a lot of meetings, and I do not question the fact that we've had a lot of conversation. And I suspect we'll have meetings and

conversation here tonight relative to this on both sides.

But our concern is still: What are you going to do about it? What have we done about it since 1975 when we first started?

We haven't stopped the intrusion. The intrusion has been getting worse. So we're here talking again.

Now, you know, I have a grandfather syndrome. I don't want my grandchildren to ever come up to me and say, Pop, why didn't you take care of this when you had the opportunity? Why did you leave it for me?

Well, since 1975 somebody has left it for us. Are we going to leave it for our grandchildren and not do anything about it? Are we going to keep having meetings? You know, there are some industries -- and I'll use Exxon as a positive example -- I know they are doing a lot to try to use more river water and less water coming out of our drinking system. All right. I think that's exemplary.

But I also know that there are others who are not making any effort whatsoever and they are continuing to use our drinking water. Well, that

concerns me. And I'm hoping that, as ladies and gentlemen, we can sit down and try to do something about that because, yes, we do have 459,000 residents in East Baton Rouge Parish, give or take one or two, that have some pretty good drinking water, and it's in pretty decent supply. Well, what are we going to do about that?

It is being intruded by saltwater. And we can argue all night long, I guess, about who should do what and who should do what first, and who is responsible for this and who is responsible for that. But I don't think you can argue reasonably, sensibly, realistically, truthfully and say that we do not have a saltwater intrusion challenge, because we obviously do.

And our concern is real simple: What are we going to do about it? Who is doing anything about it tonight as I'm standing here? Who is going to come to this podium tonight and say: We're doing something about it right now. We're here. We're trying to stop this saltwater intrusion. We're going to step up to the plate and tell you that we, as ABC Business, is doing everything we possibly can to stop this saltwater intrusion. We're going to try to make the drinking water for all the citizens of East Baton

Rouge Parish and surrounding areas -- Ascension Parish and everyone else -- we're going to continue to make it as good as it is, as safe as it is, and we're going to do everything we can to stop that saltwater intrusion.

I'm going to be interested to hear, who is going to step up to the plate and say: Hey, my name is this industry. We're doing this today to stop this intrusion.

That's all I want to know. You know, I'm not interested in hearing how many more meetings we might have to have or how many we've had or things to this nature. When are we going to stop that? Is there anybody in this room that wants to take action? Or do we want to have another meeting? Is somebody going to come up behind me and just talk again? I'm not interested in that.

The twelve members of the East Baton Rouge Parish Metropolitan Council are not interested in hearing all of that anymore. We're not interested in more rhetoric. You're either going to do it or not. You're either going to be an industry that's going to stand up and try to do something to help save our drinking water or you're not. That's your choice. That's up to you. Live with it.

Our choice as Metro Council is we want somebody to do something to stop it.

Now, is the Council going to stop fighting this? Is the Council going to quit making people responsible? Absolutely not.

Now, whatever happens here tonight, if you think we're going away, I've got news for you: We're just getting started.

Now who is going to be on board with us and who is not going to be on board? It's the people's choice behind me tonight. I'll let them make their own choice.

I'm not going to have a falling out about it, but we're going to find out who wants to stop the saltwater intrusion, who wants to save our drinking water, who is going to do something, who is doing something, who is not doing something, and who is not going to do anything. Entirely everybody's choice.

We appreciate very much the hearing. We appreciate you gentlemen and the job that you have to do, and leave it at that.

Thank you very much for your time.

MR. ADAMS:

Thank you, Mr. Walker.

Councilman Smokie Bourgeois.

MR. BOURGEOIS:

Thank you, Mr. Adams.

I'm Smokie -- I'm Rodney Bourgeois. I'm also with the Metro Council and I represent District 12.

Mike is a little more polished.

Who should I direct this to? Where am I? To the people or you?

MR. ADAMS:

To the court reporter.

MR. BOURGEOIS:

To the court reporter.

Mr. Walker is a little more polished than I am, so please bear with me.

First time I ever heard any problem -- we were talking about the seventies. The first time I ever heard any problem about water was back in the sixties. I was a young person, wasn't married, didn't have any kids; you know, didn't know anything about the future. And, you know, all I knew about water is that Baton Rouge had the best drinking water in the world, used to have signs hanging up on Third Street.

And then, in the fifties when I was

really young, it was all fine. And I guess I was around my 18, 20s, around 1960 or so, first time I ever heard anything about there might be down the road in the future something wrong, you know, with the water, and I didn't pay attention to it.

Well, I didn't know my children then and I didn't know my grandchildren then, you see. But the future is 50 years later now, you know; and so I remember a lot more than a lot of people in this room because they weren't born yet.

Anyway, I made mention to one of the gentlemen here: I understand this situation and what's happened to it. You will never hear me refer -- you hear me refer to surface water. I know what surface water is out there in the river. But you never hear me refer to groundwater. I only talk about drinking water. Now I can appreciate the, you know, the scientific part of it and definition; but we're talking about the water you brush your teeth with. Okay?

We are so lucky here to have a resource that is renewable. You know, it's huge; the watershed is huge; you know, all the Artesian wells are huge.

I've been fortunate enough to have a little house in south Texas. I still own it. And

down there I have a little room where all my filters are and my reverse osmosis that runs in the sink for the drinking water and all. Water is a little thick down there. It's a lot more expensive than it is here. Okay. But it's a lot more expensive when you start thinking about filters and so on, so forth. I'm talking about filters. Okay, (indicating).

My wife also owns a little house in Destin, wonderful Destin, oh my God, Destin, Emerald Coast. I don't drink their water. You know, their water is a little hard to drink.

Now here we are 50 years later from when I first heard it, and the future is, for me, is now. And see, I'm going to leave -- when I leave this planet, my children who I know and my grandchildren who I know are going to think back and say, What in the devil were my parents and my grandparents doing that we're drinking river water, when we hear about how we used to have all this beautiful water, you see? So that kind of puts it on a personal basis.

Now I understand we've got this commission. I understand it's a large bureaucracy and it employs a lot of people. That's a simple fact. But you still have to grade your priorities. I don't care how big it is and how many people it employs, it

needs to do something about our water supply.

This man I'm sure will attest to you if you ask him, they have done enough studies on our problem here to fill this room, you see, and all we talk about is studying it in the future.

It's a simple problem: The water here is being used a lot faster than it can replace itself. It's amazing how much of it there is. But one of our downfalls is our river, you see, because it attracted the industry that we have here now.

Now that's good and bad. You know, we've got jobs, but we're losing our water. What we're doing -- we're not asking -- we're not getting mad at the plants and saying we want to tax them, you know, we want to do this to them and we want to do that to them. We want to encourage them to become good neighbors.

Now we use a lot of water in Baton Rouge. You hear about water shortages everywhere, and up in Georgia how people are running plumbing in their house so all their bathwater and their dishwater and all goes out so they can water their plants. Well, we're not doing that yet. You know, we are using a lot of water. But when you've got plants -- one in particular that's using as much water as the entire

East Baton Rouge Parish -- what do you expect to happen?

Now, I heard a gentleman for the, I guess for the plants or the commission or something just in the last month talk about the problem with our water is our wells are too far south, so we need to drill wells further north.

Well, in what, ten years now, maybe less, they are going to say -- what are they going to say -- those are too far south? We're using up the water and nobody wants to do anything about it. I appreciate that our industrial system is here and needs water and employs a lot of people; but at the same time they are using water that could be used out of the river. You know, they drill the same wells and they use our water. And one of the plants is much further north than us; they're really high up the food chain.

But it seems like we pretend that doesn't exist. And at one meeting a while back when I was trying to be diplomatic -- Mr. Walker will tell you I'm not a very diplomatic person -- I made some slight reference to industry. And one of those representatives, up there at this commission meeting we was having, jumped on me like a momma bear. It was

like I was calling the industries scum-sucking dogs.

That's not what I'm doing. But if less people wake up -- and more and more it's going to take the public to get involved to push this big old block of concrete down the road a little bit if we're ever going to do anything, or your children and your grandchildren that you know will one day I think, in the not too distant future --

We know that the water company has bought property on the river for anticipating when they are going to have to start refining river water. And I don't know how many people ever went down to New Orleans when they were little and got their first glass of drinking water at my aunt's house and I spit it in the sink and said, Something is wrong with it. And No, no, Ronnie, you got to go to this water jug and get your water.

Well, that's what's coming here, and I just -- doggone it, I hate to leave it. I hate to say I lived here and nothing was done about it during my lifetime and sorry about that.

So that's really what I have to say. I'm not going to go away. I don't know as much about it as my learned colleague over here, Mr. Town, but he has really fired me up and made me realize just what a

merry-go-round this whole situation has been. And I'm sorry to have to call it that, but it certainly is a merry-go-round. And I'd like to see somebody grab a brass ring or whatever it is they used to do on the flying horses and try to get this thing stopped, and that's all I'm going to say right now.

Thank you for your time and patience. And I appreciate the job you all are doing, but let's just quit shuffling paper.

Thank you.

MR. ADAMS:

Thank you, sir.

Mr. Simms.

MR. SIMMS:

Thank you. My name is Dr. Michael Simms. I'm a hydrogeologist at URS Corporation here in Baton Rouge. Our office address is 7389 Florida Boulevard, Baton Rouge, 70806.

As I said, I'm a hydrogeologist. I've been involved in hydrogeologic studies involving the Baton Rouge aquifer on and off during the last 27 years.

And assessment and monitoring are very important for answering the questions posed by this hearing. So my purpose today is to briefly review

some of the challenges of additional assessment and monitoring of saline groundwater in the Southern Hills aquifer system in the Baton Rouge area. And I'm giving this more because, the way this body of information, this is a complex topic and there's a lot involved in this.

So if you would go on to the next slide. Thank you.

There is an existing chloride monitoring well network in East Baton Rouge and West Baton Rouge Parish that's been generally maintained by the U.S. Geological Survey a number of years. This system has been developed over the last 50 years plus.

The map I'm showing right here is showing the 2000-foot sand, and this is taken from a report by John Lovelace of the USGS at their district office here in Baton Rouge, and reference for the study is shown in the lower right-hand corner.

Of course there are many different aquifers in Baton Rouge, starting with the 400-foot sand, going down through the 2000-foot sand shown here, and down to the 2400 and 2800-foot sand. So a large number of wells exist that can be sampled. In this recent Lovelace study, they sampled 152 of the wells.

Now the monitoring well network is very comprehensive, but this is a large, complex aquifer system. It extends very deep, and there are a lot of different geologic aspects to it. So I want to just talk about in the next slide some of the objectives of assessment and monitoring and some of the issues that could be addressed as additional information to help solve this problem.

There are basically three main issues. There's defining the geologic conditions, getting the geologic data. To the right of that is shown a little cross section, and I'll talk about that more in a minute.

Secondly is understanding the saline groundwater occurrence, and there are a number of factors involved in this. There's -- as we discussed or as there was some discussion in the public meeting last month, the Baton Rouge fault is a very important factor in controlling the movement of saline groundwater or the occurrence of saline groundwater. And essentially there is a source of saline groundwater at the fault, certain locations on the fault. So understanding those concentrations is very important.

Also looking at concentration

distributions within the affected area and the boundary of the impacted area is another factor that goes into monitoring the occurrence of groundwater. And then, in addition, there's the idea of sentinel monitoring, where monitoring wells are out ahead of the saline groundwater to track where it's going.

Thirdly it's important to consider and support future remedial actions; and all these need concurrence by local, state, federal agencies, industry and the public as stakeholders.

Thanks.

So I just want to give a few examples for each of these three major issues involved in addressing, monitoring and assessment.

First of all, geologic data: This cross section on the right is a north-south cross section that was developed by the USGS back in 1969 from drilling that was done in the sixties.

Over on the left is a well that's at Acadian and Broussard, and the cross section, goes southward to I-10, crosses I-10. That's the location of the Baton Rouge fault. You see that as a line cutting at an angle across the drawing; and then south of there a well on College Drive, south of the fault.

The darker pattern within some of the

aquifer sands is indicating saline water. And at this time in this report in 1969 -- this report by J.R. Rollo, they were discovering and getting more information on the occurrence of saltwater within the aquifers and movement of it across the fault. So they were showing in this picture movement along several different pathways here across the fault.

Now the elevation and the configuration of the sand zones and the aquifers is very important for figuring out where it goes, not only right at the fault, but also northward and wherever the saltwater is spread. Intersections between the aquifers also is important and configuration of the fault.

Now secondly, looking at the issue of saline groundwater occurrence: This map is showing the distribution of saline water in the 2000-foot sand, which is one of the major aquifers in the Baton Rouge area. And this is from a USGS report that was published in 1996 by Dan Tomaszewski, who is in the audience tonight. And this is showing -- first of all, if you look in the center of that drawing, you'll see an area of gray extending to the northwest, toward the upper left, which is the area of impacted groundwater within the 2000-foot sand.

Right at the fault there's a well

numbered 781 that shows a concentration of 2600 milligrams per liter of chloride, which is the main component of salty water. And I typed below it 3500, which is a more recent value for that particular well. You can see that there is an area affected by saltwater off to the north.

Now, for solving this problem, several questions come up. First of all, what exactly is the configuration of the source? There are questions that could be asked.

If you look at the aquifer south of the fault, right in that area, they actually show lower concentrations, the lowest one of these in the wells that are available.

So there's a pathway of the saline water that's getting to that point along the fault at Acadian Thruway, which sort of is the main area approximately of the fault of the 2000-foot sand and in other aquifers. Then there's the concentration distribution issue within that area of saline water as you go northward. Is the saline distribution widespread at relatively low levels, or is there a core area of higher concentrations that's controlled by the density flow, the more saline water in the lower parts of the aquifer?

There are all kinds of questions like that -- we don't have the answers for this -- then also monitoring, you know: What do you want to have in the way of sentinel wells off to the north of this?

This report by Tomaszewski asks the question as to: What if the Baton Rouge Water Company turned off the Lafayette pumping station -- which is located right on the river at Florida Boulevard area -- and was no longer pulling water into that area? Then the saline water could move northward. You might want to have sentinel wells to the north.

And then thirdly, next slide, future remedial actions. Going back to this old Rollo report from 1969 gives us an idea he proposed there in terms of a pair of wells located, you know, right in front of the saltwater. You pull water out of the one that's further to the north, pump it in right back at the saltwater zone. There's a lot of configurations you can do with this. You can do this actually in the saline water.

If you look at this area that's being impacted by the saline water now, in the years subsequent to when this report was studied, you can still do configurations like this.

There are various different remedial

actions that could be done to control or remove the saltwater at the source; at the fault; to remove maximum concentrations within the affected area to the north of the fault; for various hydraulic control measures. And these would all need to meet various goals that control the restoration of the aquifer.

So lastly, there are many challenges. First of all, in terms of definition and balancing of these objectives, I discussed the need for more geologic data in particular locations, very targeted locations; the understanding of the salinity distribution; and then the focus on the information that would be needed for remedial activities.

There's also the concurrence of stakeholders: It being local, state, federal agencies, the public, industry and so on.

Implementation is relatively straightforward. Drilling locations would be needed, and there's data interpretation that needs to be done in accordance with best practices.

And costs are significant. I obtained recent costs from Layne Christensen Company, which is an excellent drilling company in this area. And really, depending on well construction, just for monitoring wells -- include the drilling, logging and

installation -- you're looking at, you know, approximately on the order of $250,000 per well. So the costs are a significant challenge here, you know, in terms of meeting the objectives that are defined for additional assessment and monitoring.

Lastly, I think that the ongoing USGS project right now to simulate groundwater flow in the 1500-foot sand, 2000-foot sand and movement of saltwater within the 2000-foot sand is going to provide some very important information on identifying any data gaps that really could influence finding the solution to this problem.

Well, thank you very much.

MR. ADAMS:

Thank you, sir.

Mr. William Fontenot.

MR. FONTENOT:

Thank you, sir.

My name is William A. Fontenot, 632 Drehr Avenue, Baton Rouge, 70806.

This evening I'm speaking as Conservation Chair for the Delta Chapter of the Sierra Club. Delta Chapter covers all of Louisiana, and I will be getting into some written comments.

This is the public notice that I spoke

to you about earlier today, and I want to thank you for taking the time to talk to me.

After the presentation that you and the other gentleman at the table gave, what is missing from this is information about what information you have, the Office of Conservation has that the public should know about.

There's nothing in this public notice that tells the public anything about what the concerns are, what the issues are and where they could go to and what documents they might consider reading or looking at. I think the Office of Conservation has done a totally inadequate job of notifying the public about this meeting.

And judging by the number of people who are not here, it concerns me even more; because if you had done an adequate job, there would be several thousand people here.

I think one of the problems is what you are discussing. In your notice and discussion, you talk about saltwater encroachment. I think the problem is not saltwater encroachment. It's the overuse of the freshwater. Because the way the system was set up before people started using it, there was freshwater flowing out on the surface. And when

people got here and put wells in, they had Artesian wells. There was plenty of fresh water. It's the overuse of the fresh water.

And we have -- it's not saltwater that's coming into the Baton Rouge aquifer. It's highly saline brine. And you need to -- a lot of people think, when you talk about saltwater, you're talking about water from the Gulf of Mexico. You need to do a much better job of helping the public to understand what we're talking about and what the challenges to the Baton Rouge water system is.

This is from the dissolution of the St. Gabriel salt dome; the Choctaw salt dome, which is just north of Plaquemine -- St. Gabriel salt dome is just east of the City of St. Gabriel -- and probably from the Darrow salt dome, which is just south of Geismar. These highly saline brines are not just saltwater. As you know, they are much more complex than just the water that comes out of the Gulf of Mexico.

So I think you do a disservice to the public and to the officials here and to people who are at this meeting by not having adequate information about what it is and what some of the possibilities are for solving the problem.

One of my greatest concerns is your lack of real consideration of the Baton Rouge aquifer. The public notice for both the public meeting which occurred two months ago and this public notice for this hearing limit what you will consider to the conditions in the 1500-foot sand and the 2000-foot sand. Those are only two of the ten sands which produce freshwater in what's called the Baton Rouge aquifer, and I think you've done a great disservice by not giving the City Council and the other public bodies that have asked you to do something -- not asked you personally, but asked the Office of Conservation -- by limiting the scope of this public meeting to only considering information about the 1500-foot sand and the 2000-foot sand. I think that's such an outrageous place to start.

It says that the Office of Conservation is not really serious about looking at the issues that may adversely and which are adversely impacting the future of the water resources of this metropolitan area, an area that includes five parishes -- at least five parishes. It's extremely frustrating to me. I mean, I worked for 27 years in the Attorney General's Office, from April of '78 to April '05, and my job was to help people try to figure out how to deal with,

identify and solve environmental problems. And I think this is a classic case that we have here tonight of the Office of Conservation doing a totally inadequate job of notifying the public and helping the public to understand what the problems are, what the possible solutions are, and how they can make a difference.

I look forward to hearing what the rest of the folks have to say tonight and thank you very much.

MR. ADAMS:

Thank you, sir.

Mr. Dan Tomaszewski.

MR. TOMASZEWSKI:

My name is Dan Tomaszewski. I'm a private consultant. My address is 18602 Keystone, Greenwell Springs, Louisiana.

I have been a hydrologist, or I was a hydrologist with the USGS, for about 31 years, and I'm retired at this point. And so anyway, what I've done with my career is I've worked for about 28 years in Louisiana. And of that 28 years, I would say about 20 years of it has been experience at times working in saltwater encroachment in the Baton Rouge area or on the Baton Rouge aquifer systems here, or aquifers.

And so I've gotten one better than everybody else as far as the date of when saltwater encroachment first began: I think it's 19 -- in the 1950s. Because if we go back to Meyer and Turcan, about 66 billion gallons -- excuse me -- yeah, 66 million gallons, maybe 56 -- I may have that number wrong -- but at that time about 50 or 60 million gallons a day were pumped from the active system. And Meyer and Turcan also noted that there was saltwater encroachment in the 600-foot sand. And more important, they noted at this time, with this small amount of pumpage compared to today when we are pumping 150 million gallons a day, we had already reversed the gradient, the natural gradiant from north to south that flowed through the Baton Rouge area at the saltwater interface.

At this point no one knew about the Baton Rouge fault. But we had reversed the flow of saltwater and were pulling it into the Baton Rouge area.

So, if we do a historical analysis more or less and we go back with some of the other publications that were done -- we have Rollo, who really defined the fault. And once we defined the fault, we really knew what our problems and our concerns are, because the problem with the fault is --

really it's a blessing in a way -- it's a leaky barrier. So we've defined the volume or we've estimated the volume that leaks across the fault; and, when we look at the volume that's leaked across the fault -- we're talking about saltwater now -- it's probably somewhere on the order of a half million gallons a day.

Now, the fault is a blessing because it limits the saltwater coming northward, and this may be a manageable amount of saltwater encroachment in the Baton Rouge area if we discuss how to manage this and how to alleviate the saltwater encroachment by either intercepting it or moving our well fields, for instance, further northward.

But anyway, I think we all understand that I don't think anybody in here wants saltwater encroachment. But I don't think we're ever going to meet an objective to go back to less than 60 million gallons a day withdrawals. Even if we stop all kind of industry withdrawal except for public supply, we would basically be pumping about 75 million gallons a day, because half of the water in East Baton Rouge Parish, about 49 percent of it actually, is pumped for public supply, according to Capital Area Ground Water Conservation Commission records in 2009.

So our problems are that our withdrawals north of the fault are lowering groundwater levels and we're having saltwater encroachment.

Now we have saltwater encroachment in every sand -- well, we have saltwater encroachment in seven out of the ten sands. And of course it is the 1500-foot sand and the 2000-foot sand that we do have the saltwater encroachment in.

So, if we look at previous investigations -- that would be an investigation by myself in 1996 when it was published, we go back to Whiteman and Rollo and Meyer and Turcan, we can see that people have been aware of the saltwater encroachment, just like people in here are saying, for many years.

Now we have also -- not only have we looked at the problem, we've had rates of encroachment, we've established where the encroachment was going to, and we've had 20 or 30 years of time to do blaming.

Now, having said that, we are now developing, and I'm talking about as -- I should not say "we." It's the USGS, Capital Area Ground Water Conservation Commission -- are developing a model for the 2000-foot sand. Now the model will actually be

made so that they can simulate saltwater encroachment in the 2000-foot sand. They can also simulate cleanup procedures for the 2000-foot sand.

So, if we use our tool that we're developing and we take just a little more time, I think we can be analytical and do a scientific step-by-step process whereby we can test hypotheses. As Mike Simms or Dr. Simms showed a little while ago, we can look at the 2000-foot sand and we can see today, in my opinion, that Baton Rouge Water Company is an intercepter of all saltwater. They are taking it and discharging it.

And so maybe, if we look -- if we get everybody together and we look at the 2000-foot sand, we can also use the model to intercept the saltwater at the base of the aquifer before it gets to the Baton Rouge well fields and alleviates problems, not only for Baton Rouge Water Company, but for industry north of that.

Now, if we also look at the 1500-foot sand and the 600-foot sand -- and I know we're not discussing the 600-foot sand tonight -- but we can see in the general area where the 2000-foot sand contains saltwater, the 1500-foot sand also contains saltwater in the approximate area. So, if we built an

infrastructure there to pump out the saltwater, we could also use it for the 1500-foot sand and the 600-foot sand, which would be two other major aquifers.

And just in closing, I would like to say: There are strategies we have for alleviating saltwater encroachment; and one is, like I suggested, is actually taking the saltwater and moving it from the aquifer. Another one is artificially recharging the aquifer. And we could relocate pumping centers, intercept the saltwater and dispose of it, of course, and to build other kinds of barriers, such as mounds and things, by pumping water into the aquifer system.

Now the beautiful thing about using the model is we can simulate this and see if it's economically feasible for the 2000-foot sand and probably for the 1500-foot sand.

And just one more point to make: That I know we have a lot of studies and I know we have a lot of data. But when we start the cleanup of the 1500-foot sand or the 2000-foot sand, we're going to have to have background data also. So we need Capital Area Groundwater Conservation Commission and we need the USGS and whatever other agencies are collecting data on the groundwater because we have to know if

we're making headway and we have to be able to predict future impacts on the groundwater system in Baton Rouge.

And thank you for your time.

MR. ADAMS:

Thank you, sir.

Mr. Michael Beck.

MR. BECK:

My name is Michael Beck. I live at 830 North 6th Street. I am a Baton Rouge Water Company customer. I've had a long day, so if it's all right with you, I'll sit down while I talk. I won't speak very long.

MR. ADAMS:

By all means.

MR. BECK:

I notice that the U.S. Geological Survey is now conducting a model and people are waiting for the results. It sounds to me as if the Jindal administration is actually seriously considering listening to science in this matter, and I think that's a good thing.

I just want to point out that the U.S. Geological Survey as an institution is deeply invested in ideas that the fossil record for this planet

indicate that life has evolved on this earth and that the earth is billions of years old. And I don't want to get the Conservation Commissioner in any trouble, so I'm not going to ask him if he disbelieve in Darwinian evolution.

But the U.S. Geological Survey has contributed and has been a party to a large body of mainstream peer-reviewed geophysical science that indicates that human carbon-dioxide emissions are raising the temperature of this planet, and that's a position that Secretary Scott Angelle and Governor Jindal have been publicly opposed to.

And so my question to the Commissioner, when this gets to him, is how much deference is the U.S. Geological Survey going to be given in this? How much authority do they carry? That's my question.

Thank you.

MR. ADAMS:

Thank you, sir.

Mr. Thomas Moore.

MR. MOORE:

I am Thomas Moore. I live at 1090 Colonial Drive, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70806. I'm a mechanical engineer registered in the state of Louisiana for 33 years.

I started to work at Crown Zellerbach in 1964. The wells at that paper mill -- there were four of them -- were drilled in 1959. All four of them were Artesian and they supplied the drinking water virtually untreated. We put a little chemical chlorine in it to make sure that anything that might be in the piping would be taken care of.

The Artesian level was 33 feet, and virtually the documents up there say that all wells flowed at a positive head of 33 feet.

In 1964 I started doing drawdowns on those wells, and I found that no longer were they Artesian, which we knew, but they dropped as much as 20, 30 feet; did it every year and found it dropped down to 40. The pumps were put in about '80. We finally got down to where we were drawing drawdowns at 60 feet. I realized we were going to have to drop the pumps. So we shut them down progressively and installed them at a greater level, which was the last level that we could do because we didn't have the drill pipe big enough to stick bigger pumps in there.

The water table continued to drop. We always wondered why we were dropping so much. And trying to put some calculations together, we figured out that other people were also influencing the

drawdown below the paper mill, which is a few miles south of St. Francisville.

We never could reconcile that we caused all of that drawdown, but new industries came in and they needed water and they were pulling from the same 1600 level, plus or minus, aquifers that we had.

What happened was we found that we were dropping six to eight feet a year starting from an Artesian well in 1959. We finally reached where we were approaching pump air suction at the new well pump location. At that time Crown Zellerbach decided, we really no longer can rely on these four wells to run the mill. So they installed a system for pulling from the Mississippi River and we converted from well usage to Mississippi River-water usage. We shut down some of the wells, we put them on very low flow, and so there should be some reduction in the flow out of those aquifers to help us.

My point in standing in front of all of you is that those wells were Artesian a few miles south of St. Francisville in 1959. We noticed it. I came to Baton Rouge to different water-table hydrology meetings, see if I can figure out what the influence was on all this, but of course I couldn't do it -- not enough data, difficult to come by anyway.

But the problem we're facing is, from 53 years ago when those aquifers were Artesian north of Baton Rouge, a little bit south of St. Francisville, it's been known for a long time, we knew we had encroachment, brackish water coming into the south part of Baton Rouge; and we could see the water tables that we plotted, where the drawdowns were just going down year after year after year. I have no idea what they are doing now, but I wanted to give you all a basis from which to start the evaluation and to realize the fact that we've been fooling with it for 53 years.

Thank you very much.

MR. ADAMS:

You thank, sir.

Connie Fabre.

MS. FABRE:

Good evening, Mr. Adams and guests tonight.

My name is Connie Fabre. I'm the Executive Director of the Greater Baton Rouge Industry Alliance. My address it 10741 North Oak Hills Parkway, Baton Rouge 70810.

GBRIA is a trade association whose members are 53 industrial plants located in eight

parishes around the Baton Rouge area. And so a number of our members are members who are using the groundwater from the aquifer system here, and of course they are very interested in a solution.

And I would like to take Mike Walker's challenge up: We are a group who would like to help to solve the problem, but the problem is multifaceted and very complex.

The water is being used only half by industry. The other half is by the public for golf courses and swimming pools and of course our drinking water at home. And so we feel that we do need to look at this together as a community and work together, very similar to how Baton Rouge came together a few years ago to solve the ozone problem. The Baton Rouge Area Chamber did a fantastic job to spearhead coming together of industry and the public to solve that issue, and we're now in compliance with ozone rules.

And so I would like to offer that, whatever we can do to help facilitate getting together -- meeting with the Chamber, meeting with the groundwater, Capital Area Groundwater Commission, meeting with the Department of Natural Resources -- we're here to help.

GBRIA is a 42-year-old organization

established in 1970. Our focus is primarily on developing the workforce of tomorrow and on safety improvements and best practices within the plants, but also on the sustainable growth of our industries.

And right now we are in growth. The industry -- there are lots of new jobs, lots of new industries that probably will be wanting to come to Baton Rouge because of the low price of natural gas. The Tuscaloosa marine shale is probably going to be driving more economic development. And so we need to find a way to be able to capture the moment and grow Baton Rouge and solve this problem -- I agree with Mr. Walker and Mr. Smokie Bourgeois -- and so that we have a sustainable future going forward.

I don't know all the geology and the issues involved; but again, I would just like to offer that we're here to help, and that I would like to ask the Department of Natural Resources to please base your decision on sound science.

There is a study coming out at the end of the year that I believe is going to add a lot of new information that would perhaps help in that decision, and so would ask that we at least wait until that information comes to light before trying to make any decision that might slow down the opportunities

that are here now for us.

Thank you.

MR. ADAMS:

Thank you, ma'am.

Michael Lyons.

MR. LYONS:

Good evening. My name is Mike Lyons. I'm general counsel of the Louisiana Mid-Continental Oil and Gas Association. Mid-Continent is based here in Baton Rouge, 730 North Boulevard, 70802.

I might also add that I am a member of the State Advisory Task Force to the Groundwater Commission, and I was also actively involved -- positively I might say -- in the passage of the state's Groundwater Protection Act in 2001, testified on several occasions in support of that law, and very proud of the fact that the state has taken upon itself to enact a comprehensive measure to manage groundwater resources in Louisiana.

I guess most important, I am a -- I was born here in Baton Rouge, spent the majority of my life here in Baton Rouge, spent my whole life in Louisiana. My children were born here, my grandchildren were born here, and hopefully their children will be born here. So I care about the water

resources of this area.

I want to talk about two things, and I'll be very brief.

First of all, I want to say a few words about the Capital Area Groundwater Commission. The commission has been working on groundwater issues in the Greater Baton Rouge area since 1974, as has been mentioned. They have been working on this issue long before the state established a management system for groundwater in Louisiana.

It is one of two regional commissions, I understand, that have been recognized by the state and given authority to regulate groundwater issues in their communities. Their work over the past 40 years has effectively advanced the scientific knowledge of Baton Rouge groundwater resources and set the framework for long term management and conservation of our groundwater resources in the Baton Rouge area.

I daresay much of what we're talking about today was actually done by the groundwater commission. We owe them a debt of gratitude. And I'll spend a moment on talking about some of the specifics there.

And second, I want to spend just a few moments highlighting the efforts of our membership and

the petrochemical companies in this area in protecting and conserving groundwater resources in the Baton Rouge area.

So let's talk first of all about the Capital Area Groundwater Commission.

As most of you know, the commission was established in 1974 by ACT 678 of the Louisiana legislature. The commission is a groundwater management district comprised of five parishes in the Greater Baton Rouge area: Parishes of East and West Baton Rouge, East and West Feliciana and Pointe Coupee. And the commission has members from each of those -- voting members from each of those parishes, plus it has representatives of public supply needs, as well as industrial supply needs.

The commission's functions are to promote the orderly development of groundwater resources in this area and to protect the quality of those resources.

I, for one, applaud their work over the past 40 years. I appreciate what they have done. And I think we stand here today talking about the results of many of the studies that they have done with the USGS.

A few things about the commission and

what it has done: Since its inception, the Capital Area Groundwater Commission has been active in its role to protect the area's groundwater. Previous studies have provided necessary information to make technical and sound decisions -- and a few highlights: In 1975 a resolution was approved to restrict new industrial wells in the 1000, 1500 and 1700-foot sands. These sands are reserved for public supply. This is the commission that took that action.

The 2010 report showed that industry pumped 2.5 million gallons a day, and public supply pumped 14.4 million gallons a day from the 1500-foot sand. So that's an action that the commission took some 40 years ago to protect our groundwater resources.

In 1991, the Capital Area Groundwater Commission worked with industry to restrict pumpage to less than 26 million gallons a day in the industrial zone here in Baton Rouge, and 2010 reports showed that less than 18 million gallons a day was pumped from that sand by industry.

In or about 1999, a well that connects the 800 and 1500-foot sands was engineered and completed as a result of previous studies done by the commission and USGS. The connector well has been

successful in raising the 1500-foot aquifer level and diverting saltwater away from public supply wells as it was designed to do.

In 2007 the Capital Area Groundwater Commission Technical Committee recommended additional modeling of the 1500-foot and 2000-foot sands. This model has been mentioned this evening. It's in its fifth and final year of development, and future projects to protect this important natural resource will be developed using sound science and appropriate technology from this and other studies.

So again, I applaud their work, I appreciate their work, and I think we stand here debating an issue that has been managed and studied by this commission, and we are using much of that data here tonight.

Now let me say a few things about the efforts of my members and private industry in Baton Rouge. Local members of the petrochemical industry are making major financial commitments to conserve the Baton Rouge area drinking water supply.

For decades industry leaders have recognized the problems associated with well water usage in that area and have been taking steps to reduce and conserve groundwater usage. Our members

are using clarified river water in operations that have been traditionally supported by groundwater. We are conserving usage of the deeper sands for more critical needs, and we are investing in projects that conserve millions of gallons of groundwater per day. So we are interested in groundwater and have been for years reducing our dependence on groundwater.

Let me say in closing that we are prepared to do whatever it takes to conserve and protect the Baton Rouge area groundwater supply. All we ask is that the decisions we make as a community are based on the best scientific data possible.

I can't tell you how many times in my life I have said: If I only knew then what I know now, if I had had more data in making decisions I made when I was 20 years old or 30 years old, that I regretted making now that I know better. Data is an important thing; scientific data is an important thing.

We ask to be treated fairly and that we examine all groundwater users in this area, and that includes industrial, commercial, water sales outside of the Baton Rouge area, south of the fault, and individual water use. There are many conservation measures that we can all take to conserve this

resource.

Let's get the facts, the necessary scientific data, and make decisions based on that data for the best use of this resource, and let's do it together as one community. We've been a part of this community -- at least my industry has -- for over a hundred years, and we look forward to continuing that presence in this city.

We all live here, we work here, we play here, and we want our grandchildren and their children to enjoy the same benefits we have enjoyed; but whatever we do, let's make decisions based on science, the best evidence we can produce to make those decisions.

So with that, we, as the previous speaker with reference to business interests, are concerned, are prepared to do whatever it takes; and if it takes reduction in groundwater use, then that's what we'll do, but let's look at the science and make our decisions with a clear head.

Thank you.

MR. ADAMS:

Thank you, sir.

Henry Graham.

MR. GRAHAM:

Good afternoon. My name is Henry Graham, Vice President of Environmental Affairs, General Counsel for Louisiana Chemical Association. LCA's address is right across the street, One American Place, Suite 2040.

I come here tonight -- I first want to ask that the commission consider the previous comments that were made at the previous hearing, enter those into the record.

I would also ask that the commission examine any studies and reports the folks are referencing. A number of people here were actually authors of those reports, and a lot of that data is there and available and should be part of the public record for discussion and decision-making.

I would ask that the commission and the department carefully consider the information, the science and the data before making decisions that could have profound and significant impact, not only on this community, but on the state of Louisiana.

Right now we have an entity that is unique, the Capital Area Groundwater Conservation District, in that it was formed before the law. As Mr. Lyons pointed out, I too had served actually on the 1984 Water Resources Commission; and again, when

the law was drafted, I assisted in developing that law along with Mike. So we're very much, as industry, interested in participating in the process. We are very concerned, though, that the commission will only look at part of the problem.

We know that we need to look at the potential saltwater intrusion issue in all the aquifers, not just the industry withdrawals. We need to look at all withdrawals that may significantly impact, and we need to work together. This is a problem -- not just for industry -- this is a problem for the citizens, and it's a significant problem for the public supply, because they have to take the water and provide it to the citizens.

So we want to work with all entities, but we believe the power and the authority to work together already resides in the Capital Area Groundwater District. And so we suggested deferring some of this information to that agency -- they are doing some studies. We will have the benefits of some additional modeling studies -- and we would like to suggest that we continue to examine those studies and develop a plan, and let's develop a plan that we all can agree with.

Some of the things that were used and

discussed before: Obviously we need to collect data on the saltwater movement; we need to use models as management tools so that we can predict the future movement; we need to examine where we have withdrawals, and there may be some areas where we need to reduce withdrawals to reduce the acceleration of the saltwater toward those withdrawal wells; we need to examine more aggressively, perhaps, than we have in the past methods of creating barriers or other ways of preventing that water from getting to the drinking water supply wells; we need to consider some of the flow's characteristics so that we're not just trying to pretend that there's only one problem and the problem is in the 2000-foot sand or the problem is only in the 1500-foot sand. We need to examine both of those issues as well.

A couple other things to point out: What's changed? I know we've been studying it, and we say the last 20 years it's gotten worse; but what has happened in the last 20 years? Well, we've grown. This city is much larger than it was 50 years ago. We're not only just supplying water to residents of Baton Rouge; we're supplying water to residents south of Baton Rouge as well, south of the fault.

And there may need to be a different

plan because a lot of the growth in Baton Rouge is actually south of the fault. And so Baton Rouge needs to examine its future growth and where the infrastructure needs to be placed and what other changes may need to take place to use the water for its best and highest use.

We want to preserve the jobs in the Baton Rouge area, we want to preserve the economy, and we don't want to set a case of making a quick, rash decision to call this area an area of critical concern or something of that nature and then face the consequences of potential economic development problems in the future. But at the same time we need to be aware that that can impact future economic development and we have to be aware of the limits on growth and the limited use of our aquifer.

We would like to ask that the department work with all parties involved -- industry, public supply, and with your district that's already created that you are going to be, should be cooperating with. You have in the past, the Capital Area Groundwater District -- so that we can all develop a solution that is suitable for our area.

Thank you.

MR. ADAMS:

Thank you, sir.

Tony Duplechin.

MR. DUPLECHIN:

Good evening. My name is Tony Duplechin. I am Director of the Capital Area Groundwater Conservation District. My address is 14104 Woodland Ridge Avenue, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 70816. And that's the only house I have.

I'm not from Baton Rouge, I'm from New Orleans; and I can sympathize with Smokie Bourgeois' comments. The first time I tasted well water, I spit it out because it smelled like someone had boiled eggs in it. We've come a long way since then.

At the last meeting I made a lot of comments -- and I'm not going to make those again, because it's my understanding those comments would be made part of this record -- but I would like to introduce into the record some of the studies that Capital Area Groundwater Conservation District has taken and printed.

And they are Bulletin Number 1, Saltwater/Freshwater Interfaces in the 2000 and 2800-foot sands in the Capital Area Groundwater Conservation District.

Bulletin Number 2, Subsidence in the

Capital Area Groundwater Conservation District.

Bulletin Number 3, a Geohydrologic Survey of the 1200-Foot Sand in the Capital Area Groundwater Conservation District.

Bulletin Number 4, Status of Saltwater Encroachment in the 600-foot Sand of the Baton Rouge Area.

And Bulletin Number 5, which is a Report on the Connector Well that was put in to protect water supply wells in the 1500-foot sand of the Baton Rouge, Louisiana area from saltwater encroachment.

I would also like to introduce the final report, study that was done by Dr. Frank Tsai, an engineer out at LSU. This study was funded by Capital Area Groundwater Conservation Commission and the Baton Rouge Water Company. The name of the study is Scavenger Well Operation Model to Assist Baton Rouge Water Company to Identify Cost-Effective Approaches to Stop Saltwater Intrusion Toward the Baton Rouge Water Company Water Wells in the 1500-Foot Sand of the Baton Rouge Area.

I have paper copies; I also have digital copies of these reports.

The last one I want to introduce -- you can't have the binder because this is the only copy we

have, but I do have an electronic copy of it -- and this is Phase One, Final Report of a Feasibility Study for Alternative Water Supply for Industrial Users that was done by URS in 2004. And this was funded by Capital Area Groundwater Conservation Commission and the City of Baton Rouge, Parish of East Baton Rouge.

And unfortunately I think the members of the Metro Council have left, but I hope that the members of the council realize that East Baton Rouge Parish and the City of Baton Rouge are members of the Capital Area Groundwater Conservation Commission and wish someone from the Metro Council had come to us first to discuss this issue. Their representative has said nothing about these issues and they have not contacted him, so…

That's pretty much what I wanted to do tonight, and I thank you for your time.

MR. ADAMS:

Thank you, sir.

Mark Walton.

MR. WALTON:

Hi. My name is Mark Walton. 5938 Gettysburg Drive, 70817.

I'm with the Capital Area Conservation Commission. I'm on the board of directors. I've been

there since 1974 when the commission started.

I'm mainly rising to introduce some documentation into the records. I have one documentation, USGS report. Let me get my glasses on so I can read it.

It's a water study, Supply Paper Number 1536-E. It's got some very useful information there.

Another paper is a thesis presented at the University of New Orleans: The Effect of Faults upon Ground Water Flow in the Baton Rouge Fault System.

And third document is a paper by Dr. Frank Tsai presented at the Louisiana Groundwater, Second Annual Louisiana Groundwater Symposium in Baton Rouge, March 6, 2009.

Also I have another USGS report. This is in the form of two plats. It is Water Resources Investigation Report 03-4021 consisting of two sheets.

And that's really all I have.

MR. ADAMS:

Thank you, sir.

Mr. Ryan Gremillion.

MR. GREMILLION:

My name is Ryan Gremillion, I'm here on behalf of the Baton Rouge Area Chamber, 564 Laurel

Street, Baton Rouge, 70801.

BRAC is here for information only. We don't have a position on the questions before you today. BRAC has really only just begun to dive into these groundwater issues that are the subject of this meeting while we evaluate questions following our own processes. More importantly BRAC has the practice of remaining neutral on issues when the facts of the situation are such that are still being evaluated by experts and there isn't yet a clear picture of scientific data that would lead to the more urgent alarm suggested by holding this hearing.

That being said, the question of the acceleration of saltwater encroachment in the Southern Hills aquifer is an issue that everyone in the community should take seriously. However, on the issue of accelerating saltwater intrusion in the 1500 and 2000-foot sand of the Southern Hills aquifer, we understand that there will be additional and important impartial research that will be produced this fall that will better determine the rate of acceleration with the most recent data. We're looking forward to that information providing more accurate and clear data about this issue.

At the same time, the discussion between

all parties on potential solutions need not wait until the science is completed. We've already begun discussions with groups from all sides of this issue and are encouraging all of them to engage in direct dialogue about possible solutions.

Regardless of the science, these possible scenarios and possible solutions can and should begin. We hope to help facilitate those or participate in those as they are facilitated by others. We believe that there are potential solutions that can be considered in the meantime for which there may be no downside considered right away. We understand that two studies -- one produced by the Capital Area Groundwater Conservation Commission and one produced by the Baton Rouge Water Company -- both separately recommended that one of the most feasible solutions for addressing the problem is to implement scavenger wells. These are expected to help remove some of the saltwater and slow the rate of progression of saltwater above the fault line.

The Baton Rouge Water Company has applied to the state to drill these scavenger wells. We don't have expertise in hydrology at BRAC and have not had time to have these proposals reviewed; but if the prior work by the LSU and Baton Rouge Water

Company is accurate, those do hold tremendous promise.

If the wells are approved after proper review by the state, we believe that BRAC, industry and others should resort their efforts to drill the scavenger wells which may arrest the problem that is the very subject of today's concerns. The scavenger wells offer potentially a lot to gain and little to lose if the scavenger well is approved by the state in addressing the acceleration of saltwater intrusion.

Furthermore, if the scavenger wells are successful in addressing the pace of saltwater intrusion, it allows the conversation to move forward to discussing long term solutions about water volumes and long term supply in the aquifer, which may not be of significant concern for a few generations.

Though BRAC is not taking a position at this time, it is more than willing to facilitate a dialogue between all interested parties to discuss the issue from all perspectives, as well as to formulate possible solutions.

We would like to ask the commission to, before taking any action, allow the scientific report being complete by the USGS to be completed; and in the meantime give interested parties the opportunity to begin a conversation around the issue with an

underlying goal of considering solutions to this important issue.

Thank you all.

MR. ADAMS:

Thank you, sir.

Eugene Owen.

MR. OWEN:

I am Eugene Owen, Executive Chairman, Baton Rouge Water Works Company.

The stated purpose of this public hearing is for the purpose of discussing all relevant data arising out of the potential for saltwater intrusion into the groundwater aquifers designated the 1500-foot and the 2000-foot sands. The following comments and testimony are submitted on behalf of Baton Rouge Water Works Company.

Today's Hearing Officer has announced the testimony and comments offered in the March 8, 2012 public meeting on the same subject of the 1500 and 2000-foot sands will be made a part of the transcript of this hearing today. Accordingly, my testimony today is submitted solely for the purpose of supplementing that previous testimony offered by this company on March 8, 2012. Upon completion of my testimony today, I will file with the Hearing Officer

a transcript of this testimony as presented today.

This transcript includes an exhibit entitled Exhibit, A which tabulates all the active wells owned and operated by the Baton Rouge Water Works Company and its subsidiaries which are screened in 1500 and 2000-foot sands. Exhibit A contains data for each of our wells in the 1500 or 2000-foot sand which detail: The identification of the well, the depth of the well, the date that the well was drilled or placed in operation, the static water level obtained at the earliest date after the well was placed in operation, the static water level at the most recent date, chloride levels available at the earliest available date and the latest available measurements of chloride.

The Exhibit A also includes tabulation of wells that the Baton Rouge Water Company and parish water company operate in the 1700-foot sand, as well as wells screened jointly in the 2000 and 2400-foot sands.

I request concurrence of the Hearing Officer to submit Exhibit A without the necessity of reading into the record the detailed data in that exhibit.

MR. ADAMS:

That would be acceptable.

MR. OWEN:

Providing some historical perspective on changes in chloride levels from static water levels may be of assistance to the commission analyzing questions which are the subject of this hearing today.

The Baton Rouge Water Company in 1914 drilled two wells in the 2000-foot sand at our Lafayette Street station which is located adjacent to the present Capitol House Hotel. These were our first wells in 2000-foot sand.

In 1916, a third well located in the same station was drilled in the 2000-foot sand. The data for this well completed in 1916 show that the static water level upon completion of that well was 105 feet above ground surface. A later well drilled in the 2000-foot sand in 1939 at our Lafayette Street station, showed the static water level had declined to 49 feet above ground surface.

At the outset all of these wells showed essentially zero chlorides. None of these early wells have survived to the present. The oldest surviving well in the 2000-foot sand at Lafayette Street was drilled in 1956 and remains in service today. This well, designated EB-630, has been relegated to an

emergency basis only because of its high chloride levels under prolonged pumping.

The most recent well drilled in 2000-foot sand designated Lafayette Number 18 was drilled in 1993. This well is unique because it is screened in two sands, the 2000-foot and the 2400-foot sand. The action of this interconnection is that during periods when the well is not pumped, which is most of the time, the 2400-foot sand actually recharges the 2000-foot sand, which has effectively acted as a partial barrier, retarding the rate of saltwater intrusion in the 2000-foot sand.

With the sole exception of Lafayette Number 18, there is only one other well in the 2000-foot sand that has been drilled subsequent to 1975, and that was our Convention Street Well Number 2, which was drilled in 1987. Our Lula station was constructed in 1927. The earlier wells at Lula were drilled in the 1500-foot sand and were also flowing wells.

In 1927 static water levels in the 1500-foot sand, upon completion of these original wells at Lula, ranged from 38 to 76 feet above ground surface. All of these wells flowed to the Lula Reservoir, concrete groundwater reservoir, which is

still in service today. Booster pumps later increased pressure for pumping into the system from the Lula reservoir.

As the static pressure became more in these wells, ultimately a combination of vacuum pump and booster pump were employed, and finally these wells were replaced by wells which were large enough in diameter to allow for the insertion of turbine pumps within the well as the water level declined far below the ground surface.

All six of the wells in Lula, the 1500-foot sand, are replacement wells for those earlier wells drilled in the late 1920s and 1930s. Water quality, particularly with reference to chlorides, was background level or zero.

In 1946 and again in 1963, the Baton Rouge Water Company drilled two wells from the 1500-foot sand. These wells are in use today.

The most recent wells drilled in the 1500-foot sand were drilled in 1973 and in 1975 at North 45th Street and at Cortana. These wells are also still in use today.

In our testimony of March 8, 2012, I testified regarding the efforts that Baton Rouge Water Company is currently undertaking in addressing the

potential problem of chloride encroachment in the 1500-foot sand as it works its way towards our Lula station. We have previously provided the Commission of Conservation with copies of two different studies which detailed the remedial approach of installing a scavenger well south of the Lula station for the purpose of intercepting saltwater as it approaches our station.

If these prior submittals of these studies -- one by Dr. Frank Tsai of LSU and one by Layne Hydro, a division of Layne Christensen Company -- are already included in this record of this hearing. I request the latitude to file electronic copies of these works so as to make them a part of this hearing.

Early completion of this remedial initiative by Baton Rouge Water Company as recommended in these studies is vital to our efforts to preserve the purity of our production from the 1500-foot sand at Lula. We urgently request that any impediments to our early proceeding with this remedial scavenger system be removed through expedited permitting and approval of this action.

I will be happy to supplement this information with any other information that we may

possess.

Thank you for your opportunity of testifying.

MR. ADAMS:

Yes, sir. Thank you.

Hays Town.

MR. TOWN:

Thank you.

My name is Hays Town, 1544 Stanford Avenue.

I kind of take the same attitude as our city councilmen did: I want to see you all reserve this water for future generations as called for in the constitution of Louisiana. I think it's very important we do that.

I think there have been so many studies done, this Capital Area Conservation Commission has done in the last forty-some-odd years that the studies are on the paper, and it's time to take some action. My belief is that we need to reduce the pumpage.

I read many reports and technical papers, and every one of them said that the saltwater intrusion was increased by the pumpage. The harder we pump, the faster the saltwater intrusion was -- I don't think any of these people will argue with

that -- and so it's time to reduce the pumpage.

I not only believe that industry should get on river water, I believe the people of Baton Rouge should use less water and maybe not waste as much. There's a lot of ways to do that. But first and foremost I think the Commission of Conservation should take action to preserve our fresh drinking water for the future.

Thank you very much.

MR. ADAMS:

Thank you.

Doug Daigle.

MR. DAIGLE:

Doug Daigle, 3931 Creekshadow Court. 70816.

I appreciated the historical comments that we've heard from a number of folks. It reminded me of my father telling me when he grew up across the river -- he was born in 1932. And in the small community of Sunrise, which was then a tiny collection of folks, most of them had well water -- and he still remembers how sweet that water was to drink. I don't think that's an option anymore.

We've said it again and again, that we have some of the highest quality drinking water in the

U.S. here in Baton Rouge. It seems reasonable to prioritize protecting that, and it's my understanding the state law, in fact, does prioritize drinking water.

It's also reasonable to look at what we do with a lot of that water. It's true that we use it to water our lawns, wash our cars, flush our toilets -- first two of those are easier to deal with than the last -- but it's appropriate and reasonable to look at water use as a whole, as Mr. Town mentioned.

The parish is projected to grow. There are going to be even more demands on that water. There's a lot that could be done in terms of education and many other things.

Those are local actions, and the council and the local leaders are able to initiate and support those. But what folks are looking for tonight is the component of state action that needs to happen, because all those things that I just mentioned aren't going to solve the problem going forward.

The proximity to the Mississippi River is something that's unavoidable, certainly should be unavoidable to be a part of this picture. It was very good to hear Mr. Lyons mention the actions that have

been taken by a number of industries to use more river water. ExxonMobil is one of the largest and they have taken some of the most significant steps.

It was also mentioned that we may have more facilities coming. So they would be brought here with the expectation that they too can drill groundwater? Or will they be told that, you know, we welcome you, but you're going to have to utilize this largest river in North America that we happen to have flowing right through our city.

That's a decision. We're at a time of decisions. It's a time of change, or should be. And some of those changes can be initiated locally, but only the state apparently can really deal with the bigger picture. So I would hope the commission would do that.

Thank you.

MR. ADAMS:

Thank you.

Kathy Wascom.

MS. WASCOM:

Kathy Wascom. I'm representing Louisiana Environmental Action Network. My address is 1255 Aberdeen Avenue, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

I've listened to the previous comments,

and LEAN would be glad to work with any organizations or group, the chamber, or any industry organizations to deal with the groundwater problem.

I have spent the day with people from Iberia, St. Mary, Vermilion parishes, trying to get legislation passed because of their problems with the Chicot aquifer. Even with all their data information and years and years of research, they were not able to get legislation passed to reduce withdrawal, and they are concerned over the Chicot aquifer.

I kind of wish Mr. Lyons would have been there, because industry approached the table to say essentially that storage of the natural gas was more important than drinking water. So it was a rather disturbing day, and I hope this doesn't happen in the Baton Rouge area. I hope we have an atmosphere that is conducive to working out our problems and our situations.

Also, I was under the understanding that only a driller could ask that an area be considered an area of concern, but I don't know if citizens can petition the Groundwater Commission to be declared an area of concern, and from that would actually flow regulations of water use.

So we will be looking into that area

also, if the citizens themselves can petition an area be declared an area of concern as we proceed. But again, LEAN will be glad to work with any organization in trying to resolve this problem quickly.

Thank you.

MR. ADAMS:

Thank you.

Jeffrey Dubinsky.

MR. DUBINSKY:

Good evening. Jeffrey Dubinsky, 16944 Apache Drive, Greenwell Springs, 70339.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak. I did not intend to speak when I came here this evening.

I basically just want to say this: I'm just, I'm a customer of the Baton Rouge Water Company, and I feel privileged to be able to have clean water available to me. I hope the rest of the citizens do as well.

I feel clean water is a personal right and not privilege, and that everybody in the country should be able to have clean drinking water. And some of the comments that I've heard this evening have concerned me insofar as where the brunt of the conservation elements should -- what shoulders they

should come on.

We have -- my understanding is that our citizens use approximately 50 percent of the water and industry uses about the other 50 percent; and I think that it would be a lot easier for us to figure out a way for the hundred or so industrial companies to conserve half of the water, as opposed to five-plus-million citizens finding a way to conserve the other half.

I do do my part; hopefully others do as well. I take very short showers, I have a rain barrel at my house, and I'm very conscious of water. It is a precious commodity, but it should not be considered an economic driver. It should not be taken -- economic drivers of bringing industry into the fold of Louisiana should not be held over our clean water and our availability of water to the end users because, after all, we are all end users. We all rely on water. Water sustains us. We are mostly water. And if we don't have clean water and if we don't have plentiful water for us to consume, we are in deep trouble.

I would also like to briefly add that, if we intend to continually encourage large consumers of water such as industry into the state, we need to

be very mindful of what those impacts are going to be in the future.

The fracking, which actually hydraulic fracking or hydro-fracking, uses a tremendous amount of water, tremendous; and it is essentially not going to come back in our lifetime once it's down in the ground, talking tens of millions of gallons a day, some of these operations, when they were combined. So we need to be mindful of that.

It's going to be happening north of us. As to which way the water is flowing, I'm pretty sure it's going to impact us one way or the other.

Thank you very much.

MR. ADAMS:

Thank you.

Are there any more blue cards that need to be submitted?

Is there anyone else that would like to put testimony in the record?

All right. Seeing no one, I would like to point out that there will be a written comment period. All written comments do receive the same level of scrutiny and value as oral comments. The written comment period will be for one week. It will end 4:30 a week from today; and comments can be

submitted -- comments can be submitted to the Office of Conservation, Environmental Division.

If you need the address or the fax number or the email address, feel free to come up to the table and we have some copies of that that are available, or you can look on our website. Our information is on our website. And that is all.

Mr. Fontenot?

MR. FONTENOT:

Yes. Since there was no information in the public notice for this meeting about the deadline for comments and you've just said that there's a one-week period for people to get in comments, I would like to request that you extend that period for at least a 30-day period from today, rather than one week.

I mean, this is a very, very important issue, there's a tremendous amount of technical information. And I think for the Office of Conservation to only allow one week, when you were initially -- what you told me today was there was an unlimited amount of time for people to get comments in. What you've just announced is a very different, dramatic difference that what you told me just a few hours ago. So I'm hereby requesting that you provide

at least a 30-day period for people to get in comments.

MR. ADAMS:

I appreciate your request. We will extend the comment period to a two-week period. However, as I pointed out in our phone conversation with you, this is an open-ended topic and, should new information come up at any time, it is always welcome and would always be considered and acted upon in the best interest of the protection of the aquifers.

So this meeting is adjourned.

Thank you.

(Whereupon at 7:53 PM the deposition concluded.)

* * *

STATE OF LOUISIANA

PARISH OF EAST BATON ROUGE

REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

I, ESTELLA O. CHAMPION, Certified Court Reporter and Registered Professional Reporter in and for the State of Louisiana, Certificate Number 76003 (in good standing), as the officer before whom this proceeding was taken, do hereby certify that on APRIL 12, 2012, the foregoing 90 pages were reported by me in the Stenotype reporting method, that said transcript was later prepared and transcribed by me or under my personal direction and supervision and is a true and correct transcript to the best of my ability and understanding; that I am not related to counsel or to the parties herein, nor am I otherwise interested in the outcome of this matter.

Baton Rouge, Louisiana, this 30TH day of APRIL, 2011.

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ESTELLA O. CHAMPION, CCR, CRR