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ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
BUREAU OF AIR, PERMIT SECTION

Proposed Issuance of a)
Construction Permit/PSD)
Approval to A. Finkl & Sons in)
Chicago.)

THE REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS taken
in the above-entitled matter, before Hearing
Officer Vetterhoffer, held at Olive-Harvey
College, 10001 South Woodlawn Avenue, Chicago,
Illinois, on the 9th day of April, A.D., 2008,
at the hour of 7:00 p.m.

1 IEPA STAFF:

2

3 DANA VETTERHOFFER, HEARING OFFICER

4 Manager - Air Regulatory Unit

5 Division of Legal Counsel

6 Illinois EPA

7

8 CHRISTOPHER ROMAINE

9 Manager - Utility/Construction Unit

10 Air Permit Section

11 Illinois EPA

12

13 KEVIN L. SMITH

14 Environmental Protection Engineer

15 Bureau of Air

16 Illinois EPA

17

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19

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22 REPORTED BY: GAY DALL, CSR NO. 084001169

1 HEARING OFFICER VETTERHOFFER: Ladies
2 and gentlemen, it's 7:00 o'clock. So if you'll
3 all take a seat, we'll start the hearing.

4 Good evening, ladies and
5 gentlemen. My name is Dana Vetterhoffer, and I
6 work for the Illinois Environmental Protection
7 Agency.

8 I want to thank everyone for
9 coming out this evening, as the Illinois EPA
10 believes that these public hearings are a
11 crucial part of the permit and review process.

12 If you have any difficulty
13 hearing me or anyone speaking this evening,
14 please just raise your hand, and let us know,
15 and we'll try and speak louder.

16 I have been designated --

17 AUDIENCE: Do you have a mike?

18 HEARING OFFICER VETTERHOFFER: I'm
19 sorry.

20 AUDIENCE: Do you have a mike?

21 HEARING OFFICER VETTERHOFFER: You
22 know, we're using the microphone system that's

1 already in the auditorium, so there's a
2 microphone system on. It just might not be
3 loud enough.

4 AUDIENCE: Okay.

5 HEARING OFFICER VETTERHOFFER: Okay.
6 Am I speaking loud enough? Can you all hear me
7 at the top?

8 AUDIENCE: You keep going in and out.

9 HEARING OFFICER VETTERHOFFER: I will
10 do my best to speak loudly.

11 I have been designated as the
12 hearing officer at tonight's public hearing.
13 As the hearing officer, my sole purpose tonight
14 is to make sure that the proceedings run
15 properly and in accordance with the rules.
16 Therefore, it is not my job to answer questions
17 regarding the permit process or the permit
18 itself.

19 This is a public hearing before
20 the Illinois EPA in the matter of an Air
21 Pollution Control Construction Permit submitted
22 by A. Finkl and Sons, which I will refer to

1 from this point forward as Finkl.

2 Finkl has applied for an Air
3 Pollution Control Construction permit from the
4 Illinois EPA to build a specialty steel and
5 forgings plant at 1355 East 93rd Street in
6 Chicago. The plant would include a melt shop
7 with an electric arc furnace and ladle
8 metallurgical station.

9 Other downstream units would
10 include a vacuum station for purifying molten
11 steel, forging and reheat furnaces, heat
12 treating furnaces, surface preparation
13 operations and other related operations.

14 The Illinois EPA has made a
15 preliminary determination to issue a permit for
16 the project, and has prepared a draft permit
17 for review. The Illinois EPA is holding a
18 public comment period, and a hearing to accept
19 comments from the public on the proposed
20 issuance of a permit for this project prior to
21 making a final decision.

22 This hearing is being held for

1 the purpose of explaining the Illinois EPA's
2 draft permit to respond to questions, and to
3 receive public comments on the draft permit.
4 The plan at issue would be considered a major
5 source under the federal rules for prevention
6 of significant deterioration or PSD, which is
7 under 40 CFR 52.21 for emissions of carbon
8 monoxide; nitrogen oxide, which is also
9 referred to as NOx; sulphur dioxide or SO2; and
10 particulate matter or PM.

11 The plant would also be a major
12 source for NOx emissions under state rules for
13 Major Stationary Sources Construction and
14 Modification. And you can find those rules
15 under 35 Illinois Administrative Code Part 203,
16 as NOx is a precursor for ozone.

17 The plant carbon monoxide, NOx,
18 SO2 and PM emissions are subject to best
19 available control technologies or BACT, and NOx
20 is subject to lowest achievable emission rate
21 or LAER under PSD and the Major Stationary
22 Sources Construction and Modification Rules.

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The Illinois EPA's initial review concludes that the proposed emission control measures will meet these standards. In particular, the electric arc furnace would be controlled by both direct evacuation and enclosure in a closed building with all emissions exhausted through a large baghouse. Emissions would also be minimized by design of the furnace and work practices.

The air quality analysis submitted by Finkl shows that the proposed plant would not cause violations of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxide, sulphur dioxide or particulate matter or in exceedence of applicable PSD increments.

Okay. It is now approximately 7:06 on Wednesday April 9th, 2008.

This public hearing is being held under the provisions of the Illinois EPA's procedures for permit and closure plan hearings, which can be found at 35 Illinois

1 Administrative Code, Part 166.

2 Copies of these procedures can
3 be found -- can be obtained from myself upon
4 request, or they can be accessed on the web
5 site of the Illinois Pollution Control Board.
6 And that web site address is
7 www.IPCB.state.IL.US.

8 A public hearing means that this
9 is strictly an informational hearing. It is an
10 opportunity for the Illinois EPA to provide you
11 with information concerning the permit, and is
12 also an opportunity for you to provide
13 information to the Illinois EPA. This is not a
14 contested hearing.

15 I would like to explain first
16 how tonight's meeting is going to proceed.
17 First, we will have the Illinois EPA members to
18 my left and right introduce themselves, and
19 provide any statements that they would like to
20 give.

21 Then we will introduce the
22 representatives of Finkl, and they have planned

1 a short Power Point presentation for you
2 tonight.

3 Following the overview, I will
4 allow the public to ask questions or provide
5 comments. You are not required to verbalize
6 your comments, as written comments are given
7 the same consideration, and may be submitted to
8 the agency at any time within the public
9 comment period, which ends at midnight on
10 May 9th, 2008.

11 Any person who wants to make
12 oral comments may do so as long as the
13 statements are relevant to the issues that are
14 addressed at the hearing, and such person is
15 indicated on the registration card that she or
16 he would like to comment.

17 This evening I only have two of
18 these comment cards up here. If anyone else in
19 the audience tonight wishes to make a comment,
20 you need to get one of these registration
21 cards -- they're on the table outside -- and
22 fill it out. And the gentleman at the table

1 will bring it down to me.

2 If you have lengthy comments or
3 questions, it might be helpful to submit them
4 to me in writing before the close of the
5 comment period, and I will ensure that they are
6 included in the record as exhibits.

7 Please keep your comments and
8 questions relevant to the issues at hand. If
9 your comments fall outside the scope of this
10 hearing, I may ask you to proceed to other
11 issues.

12 All speakers will have the
13 option of directing questions to the Illinois
14 EPA panel, or they can simply make general
15 comments or both.

16 Representatives of Finkl are
17 also free to answer questions, if they are
18 willing to do so, but I'm not in a position to
19 force them to answer questions this evening.
20 Our panel members will make every attempt to
21 answer the questions presented, but I will not
22 permit the speakers to argue, cross-examine or

1 engage in a prolonged dialogue with our panel.

2 For the purpose of allowing
3 everyone to have a chance to comment, I am
4 asking that groups, organizations and
5 associations keep their comments and
6 questions -- and we'll set up a time limit. We
7 only have a couple of cards up here, so it
8 shouldn't be a problem. But let's just set the
9 general limit at about ten minutes. And then
10 if you represent an organization, the limit
11 will be 15 minutes.

12 In addition, I would like to
13 avoid unnecessary repetition. If anyone before
14 you already presented testimony that is
15 contained in your written or oral comments,
16 please skip over those issues when you testify.

17 Remember that all written
18 comments, whether or not you say them out loud,
19 will become part of the official hearing
20 record, and will be considered.

21 After everyone has had an
22 opportunity to speak tonight, and provided that

1 time permits, which it looks as if it will, we
2 will allow those who either ran out of time
3 during their initial comment, or they have
4 additional comments, we'll allow them speak.

5 Again, if you would like to make
6 a comment this evening, please fill out one of
7 the registration cards that are on the table
8 just outside the auditorium. These cards are
9 what I will use to determine who has expressed
10 an interest in making a comment this evening.

11 Anyone who fills out one of
12 those cards, will also receive a letter
13 announcing the Illinois EPA's decision. That
14 letter will direct you to the web site where
15 you can retrieve all of the details including
16 the Illinois EPA's responsiveness summary.

17 The Illinois EPA's
18 responsiveness summary will attempt to answer
19 all of the relevant and significant questions
20 raised at this hearing or submitted to me prior
21 to the close of the comment period. Again, the
22 written record in this matter closes on

1 May 9th, 2008. Therefore, I will accept all
2 written comments as long as they are postmarked
3 by midnight, May 9th, 2008.

4 During the comment period, all
5 relevant comments, documents or data will also
6 be placed into the hearing record as exhibits.
7 Please send all written documents or data to my
8 attention at the following address: Dana
9 Vetterhoffer, hearing officer, Illinois
10 Environmental Protection Agency, 1021 North
11 Grand Avenue East, P.O. Box 19267, Springfield,
12 Illinois 62794.

13 That address is also listed on
14 the public notice, which is available on the
15 same table outside at the registration cards.

16 For anyone wishing to make
17 comments or ask questions tonight, I want to
18 remind you that we have a court reporter here,
19 and she's taking a verbatim record of the
20 proceedings tonight for our administrative
21 record. For her benefit, please keep the
22 general background noise level in this room to

1 a minimum so she can hear everything that is
2 said.

3 Also please keep in mind that
4 any comments from those other than the person
5 at the microphone -- and I should have
6 mentioned that before. Anyone making a
7 comment, to please come down to this podium,
8 and there's a microphone at the podium. All
9 you have to do is turn the microphone on, and
10 please just speak clearly.

11 Any background noise or any
12 discussion other than the person at the podium,
13 only serves as a disruption to our court
14 reporter. Also it's very difficult for her to
15 get two people talking at the same time. So
16 please do not talk over our panel members, and
17 our panel members will try to do the same.

18 Again, when it's your turn to
19 speak, please speak clearly and slowly into the
20 microphone so that the court reporter can
21 understand what you're saying.

22 Also, when you begin to speak,

1 please state your name, and, if applicable, any
2 governmental body, organization or association
3 that you represent.

4 Also, for the benefit of the
5 court reporter, please spell your last name
6 clearly.

7 People who have requested to
8 speak will be called upon in the order that
9 they registered to make a statement this
10 evening.

11 Before we start with the
12 Illinois EPA's presentation, I would like to
13 record a number of preliminary documents into
14 the record as exhibits. I would like to record
15 as Exhibit Number 1, a copy of the notice of
16 public hearing; Exhibit 2, will be a copy of
17 the project summary; and Exhibit 3 is a copy of
18 the draft construction permit for Finkl. All
19 three of those documents are available -- there
20 are copies of them at the registration table
21 outside the auditorium.

22 Now, I will ask the Illinois EPA

1 staff here today to please introduce themselves
2 and make any presentation that they wish to
3 make.

4 MR. ROMAINÉ: Good evening. My name
5 is Chris Romaine. I'm manager of the
6 construction unit in the Air Permit Section. I
7 think we've already identified Mr. Brad Cross
8 on our reservation desk out front. And, Kevin.

9 MR. SMITH: Hi. I'm-- excuse me --
10 Kevin Smith with the Illinois EPA Bureau of Air
11 Permit Section. I wrote the draft permit for
12 A. Finkl and Son.

13 HEARING OFFICER VETTERHOFFER: And,
14 Kevin, if you want to read your statement.

15 MR. SMITH: Of course.

16 I'll be giving you a brief
17 description of the proposed project and
18 including its air pollution control aspects.

19 A. Finkl and Son, Finkl, has
20 requested a construction permit for a plant to
21 produce specialty steel and manufacture metal
22 forgings from steel and other metals. The

1 proposed plant will include a metal shop with
2 an electric arc furnace and ladle metallurgical
3 station. The melt shop would have the
4 capability of producing 525,000 tons of steel
5 annually.

6 Other downstream operations
7 would include a vacuum tank station for the
8 gassing and decarburization of the molten
9 steel, forging and reheat furnaces, heat
10 treating furnaces, surface preparation
11 operations, other associated processes and
12 ancillary equipment. The proposed facility
13 would be located, again, at 1355 East 93rd
14 Street in Chicago in buildings formally
15 occupied by Verson.

16 Finkl produces specialty steel
17 that it either sells or further processes into
18 dies for other manufacturing facilities or
19 custom steel forgings. An example of one of
20 the specialty steels that Finkl produces is the
21 steel used in aircraft landing gear. Finkl
22 also processes purchased ingots of aluminum and

1 other nonferrous metals, and processes them
2 into dies and other forged products.

3 The principal emission units at
4 the proposed plant would be an electric arc
5 furnace, which would melt scrap to produce
6 molten steel. The emissions from the furnace
7 will be collected by a direct evacuation and
8 building enclosure system, the collected
9 exhaust will be ducted to a fabric filter
10 baghouse. Other emission units in the melt
11 shop would include the ladle metallurgical
12 station and the casting processes.

13 The proposed project would
14 result in emissions of particulate matter,
15 sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides and carbon
16 monoxide that exceed the thresholds established
17 for a major new source under the federal PSD
18 rules, and the state rules for Major Stationary
19 Source of Construction and Modification.

20 Therefore, the emission units at the proposed
21 plant are subject to best available control
22 technology or BACT for particulate matter,

1 sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxide and carbon
2 monoxide and lowest achievable emission rates
3 or LARD or nitrogen oxides. For BACT on the
4 principal emission unit the -- namely, the
5 electric arc furnace, Finkl has proposed direct
6 evacuation and enclosure of the furnace in a
7 closed melt shop building with all emissions
8 exhausted through a large melt shop baghouse,
9 low NOx, oxy-fuel burners and good operating
10 practices. LAER for the furnace is the same as
11 BACT in this instance.

12 The Illinois EPA's initial
13 review concludes that these measures and other
14 proposed control measures for other affected
15 units at the facility will provide BACT and
16 LAER for the project.

17 Under nonattainment NSR rules,
18 the source must also obtain emission offsets
19 for the NOx emissions increase. As a result,
20 Finkl must obtain and maintain approximately
21 347 tons of NOx emission offsets from sources
22 in the Chicago nonattainment area, which

1 includes emissions offsets from the shutdown of
2 Finkl's existing plant. The air quality
3 analysis submitted by Finkl for this project,
4 shows that it will not cause a violation of the
5 National Ambient Air Quality Standard for NOx.

6 Given the scope of the project,
7 Finkl will continue operation at their existing
8 facility, while construction and operation
9 commence at the new plant. As the new facility
10 ramps up production, Finkl will commence
11 ramping down production at their existing
12 facility.

13 The Illinois EPA has reviewed
14 materials submitted by Finkl, and has
15 determined that the emissions from the project
16 will comply with applicable state and federal
17 standards.

18 The conditions of the proposed
19 permit contain limitations and requirements on
20 the activities of the facility. The permit
21 also establishes appropriate monitoring, record
22 keeping and reporting requirements.

1 In closing, the Illinois EPA is
2 proposing to grant a construction permit for
3 the facility. We welcome any comments or
4 questions on our proposed action. And, once
5 again, thanks for attending the hearing this
6 evening.

7 HEARING OFFICER VETTERHOFFER: Thank
8 you, Kevin.

9 We're going to step out of the
10 way momentarily and let the representatives of
11 Finkl do their Power Point presentation, and
12 then we'll commence with the public comment and
13 question period.

14 MR. LIIMATAINEN: Good evening.
15 Thank you very much for coming.

16 THE COURT REPORTER: Identify
17 yourself.

18 MR. LIIMATAINEN: Oh, I have to
19 identify myself. Sorry.

20 My name is Bruce Liimatainen,
21 L-I-I-M-A-T-A-I-N-E-N. I'm chairman and the
22 CEO or COO of A. Finkl and Sons.

1 First, we would like to thank
2 everybody that's worked on this, you know, from
3 the Illinois EPA, their staff, their technical
4 people, that's put a lot of effort into it, you
5 know, with our people. So we'd like to thank
6 you, and thank you for having this public
7 hearing.

8 With me -- and then I'll go into
9 our presentation -- is Joe Curci, who I'll
10 introduce right there and Al Underys from
11 Finkl.

12 Just background, before we go
13 into the project, it's, you know, the people
14 behind the project. I'm chairman and CEO. A
15 mechanical engineer by training. Went to IIT.
16 Lived at the time at 3729 Union in that
17 neighborhood of the city, so I know it pretty
18 well.

19 Al Underys is our director of
20 technology and development. He's also a
21 mechanical engineer out of IIT, worked his way
22 through school and grew up in Marquette Park,

1 so he knows, you know, the area of the city
2 real well. He's directly responsible for all
3 the technology, the permitting on the project,
4 so he can answer those.

5 And then Joe Curci is our
6 president and COO. He runs the company. Both
7 he and his wife are graduates of the University
8 of Chicago. So he spent a number of years
9 living in that neighborhood, and, you know, he
10 and his family, you know, know this area of
11 town. So, you know, I'm 30 years. Al is 30
12 years, and Joe is 16 years. So, you know, it's
13 not new people in town just working on a
14 project, but people that have been in the town,
15 you know, know it, and, you know, worked in
16 Chicago and the State of Illinois.

17 Also as background, Al has been
18 the chairman of the National Fire Protection
19 Association, Committee for furnaces and ovens.
20 That's the national body that writes the codes
21 for all of the industrial furnaces, boilers in
22 the United States. And he's chaired that

1 committee setting our national standards.

2 So, hopefully, that gives, you
3 know, the people some background of the
4 capabilities of the individuals behind the
5 project.

6 Finkl -- we're just going to fly
7 through this. Finkl -- the project was
8 described -- and, Chris, we appreciate it.
9 We've been founded in Chicago in 1879. So
10 we're not newcomers.

11 We started, you know, right
12 around the Chicago fire, and believe it or not,
13 we didn't bring it -- a pointer today, but we
14 started as a recycling company. It was Anton
15 Finkl, and with the Chicago fire, of course,
16 there's a lot of buildings burnt down. So to
17 recycle the brick, you first break the brick
18 off and then chip the mortar off the bricks, so
19 that the brick could be reused. That's really
20 the history of Finkl, how the company got
21 started.

22 We were downtown at that point

1 in time, believe it or not. And how do we come
2 to this present proposed site? We started
3 downtown where Northwestern Station is today.
4 Believe it or not, our hammer that we are going
5 to move to this site, you know, where the
6 company started, which is an old steam hammer,
7 which goes bang, bang, bang, which we don't
8 today, again, that is where Northwestern
9 Station is. And then in 1902 we moved to our
10 present site, which was out in fields in the
11 Sheffield neighborhood of Chicago.

12 And the good news of standing
13 here today, we've got a great run from 1902 to
14 today, and, you know, now we're looking at the
15 next steps.

16 We talked about leader in the
17 specialty steel production. We've got
18 international and domestic distribution, and
19 one of the keys to this project is our growth,
20 you know, into world markets, into China and
21 India, and to be world class competitive out of
22 this plant. And that's really one of our goals

1 for our future.

2 We're a hundred of our raw
3 product is scrap steel. We don't use, you
4 know, raw -- we don't go out of material from
5 the ground. So it's scrap steel that's
6 recycled in our arc furnace. We bring in the
7 scrap material, melt it down, and then change
8 the chemistry and make the product. So we're
9 100 percent recycling company of the raw
10 material that makes our product.

11 Okay. And why would we talk
12 about a new facility and a new plant? It's
13 really the need to expand to meet our
14 customer's expectations.

15 Believe it or not, opposite of
16 what you read in the paper that manufacturing
17 and North American is dead, our sales have been
18 going up every year. We're on record pace.
19 And, in fact, you know, by the day over the
20 last two years, we just cannot produce enough
21 to meet the marketplace. We've outgrown the
22 current facility.

1 I mean, that's a nice problem.
2 We've got building crane capacity limitations.
3 We've upgraded all of our cranes. We've got
4 material flow obstacles. If you see our plant
5 today, unlike the proposed new site at the
6 Verson facility, we have city streets crossing
7 in the middle of a plant, you know, and we take
8 material across the city street, you know, to
9 run our product.

10 And, you know, it sounds like,
11 well, somehow you get by, and that's a nice
12 thing, but as we try to be competitive in a
13 world marketplace, you know, to have baby
14 carriages and, you know, pedestrians, you know,
15 going down the street and moving steel across,
16 can sometimes get very, very tenuous.

17 And the big other point is the
18 lack of land for expansion. Our present site
19 is on the north side of Chicago. We're right
20 off Armitage and the Kennedy. And, I mean, the
21 good news for our city and for the state, that
22 area has grown dramatically. When I first

1 started there -- in fact, I was reminiscing
2 with some people that literally you couldn't
3 walk across the street. It was unsafe. We, in
4 fact, had to have guards for our employees,
5 maintenance to go across at night.

6 Now, today it's just a
7 dramatically changed community. That's great
8 for the City of Chicago and the State of
9 Illinois. The problem is with the river on two
10 sides, and shopping centers up against our
11 border, there's absolutely not a square inch,
12 let alone not a square foot to be able to
13 expand our facility. Hence, why we're -- you
14 know, why we need to look at a new site.

15 And the other thing is -- that's
16 important is -- believe it or not, it's very
17 hard to find employees in our area that are
18 interested in working in a steel plant now.
19 Everybody at this table, you know, likes it,
20 but, you know, with our present location, the
21 demographics is not good for us to attract
22 employees. And this location, you know,

1 speaking with the community, we think there's a
2 great employee pool for the future of our
3 business. And without that, businesses are
4 built on people. If you don't have employees,
5 you don't have a business. So that's another
6 key attraction for our long term.

7 We look like all business. As
8 we look to our future, how are we going to stay
9 alive? It's very simple. We're either going
10 to stay alive or die. We need to grow. We
11 need to expand or if not, we just become
12 extinct at that site because why do businesses
13 go out of business? They're not competitive.
14 They don't continue to improve over time.

15 We need to do that, and we've
16 been doing it. We looked here in Chicago. We
17 looked around the State of Illinois. We've
18 looked at Quebec in Canada. We have a company
19 in Sorel, Canada. We could expand in Sorel.
20 That is an option. We actually have a site --
21 when you go back three years, and we looked at
22 Ohio, Ohio wanted us to move there. So we've

1 really -- like, everybody looked at all options
2 as to what is the best thing, you know, to
3 really build a brand new business, a new plant?

4 Our goal is to stay in Illinois,
5 stay in Chicago. We've been here a long time.
6 I mean, the key thing is the employees. So
7 we've searched behind the scenes for different
8 sites. You know, our team, Scott Sonic
9 (phonetically) is here, and John, looked at
10 multiple sites. We looked at the Ryerson site.
11 We looked at a number of other manufacturing
12 sites on -- you know, on this near south side.

13 And, ultimately, you know, we
14 found what we think is a good site. And we
15 identified this 93rd Street, you know, facility
16 that we're talking to you about today. It's
17 the former Verson Steel facility. The beauty
18 for us, it's a 44-acre site. We're 22 acres.
19 So it's double what we have today. Literally,
20 double out of the box.

21 And the other thing is this is a
22 new plant. To put it together, Joe's a finance

1 MBA. Without a team to put something like this
2 together, to get this done, it's going to be a
3 \$140 million investment, you know, when we're
4 all said and done, and ultimately in a second
5 phase north of that.

6 It's everything that was spoken
7 about. The equipment is -- the melt shop is
8 brand new. The forge press is brand new. The
9 heat treating and forging furnaces are brand
10 new. So this is a new steel facility, the
11 first one that has been built in Illinois or
12 the midwest in at least our life times in this
13 room. So it's really, really exciting.

14 And what does it really do? It
15 allows us to significantly increase our present
16 productive capacity. And it's strategically
17 located, believe it or not, because of the
18 transportation where we're at now, when I go to
19 work in the morning and even on Saturdays and
20 Sundays, you literally can't get in and out of
21 the neighborhood and on and off the expressway.

22 And the beauty of this plant,

1 it's strategically located right next to the
2 Bishop Ford to be able to get cross country
3 access. It really is a huge step up for us.
4 And the city and state put money, you know,
5 into the roads giving access, you know, to the
6 plant. So it's very, very exciting for us.
7 And it's near the Port of Chicago.

8 What are the benefits? You
9 know, we didn't -- we weren't the only ones
10 that saw the transformation on the north side,
11 which is now one of the probably better areas
12 in not only Chicago, but probably in the United
13 States or world, but we are a little piece of
14 that. And we expect and plan to be a part of
15 the Burnside/Calumet, this district, you know,
16 from the jobs, from the community, we intend to
17 be an anchor working with everybody.

18 As the plant grows, in order to
19 do what we're planning to do, the potential of
20 150 plus jobs, I mean, that's all dependent on
21 how we ramp up sales in the plant.

22 Right now we literally can

1 sell -- we can book and sell anything we're
2 making, and so it all depends on the
3 marketplace.

4 The other thing we've been on
5 the north side as a catalyst for infrastructure
6 development just overall. There's been
7 commercial development area. The business
8 climate in our area is by far one of the most
9 vibrant, you know, in the entire city, probably
10 in the entire Midwest, maybe even if you look
11 at the entire United States.

12 We've got a great good community
13 track record. We work with the community
14 groups. We work, you know, with, you know, the
15 local churches. We work with basically
16 everybody in the community. So, I mean,
17 wherever we live, which is assuming we get this
18 done, we're going to be living here. So we're
19 going to be working with the community just
20 like we worked with the community in our
21 present location. And really we're committed
22 to every facet of that.

1 And the big thing also is the
2 potential for new jobs. Currently, we have 350
3 people, Chicago area residents. Joe's looked
4 at a map. The beauty is we'll maintain the
5 majority of those people. But, of course,
6 through attrition, you know, those people need
7 to, you know, be replaced as, you know, people
8 retire. And the beauty is that we see with our
9 growth, you know, this plant will be up north
10 of 500 and keep going forward, you know, as we
11 expand the sales.

12 The jobs are all head of the
13 household type jobs. We're a union company.
14 We're blacksmiths and machinists. You know,
15 full wages and benefits. So it's not, you
16 know, where somebody can't take care of their
17 family.

18 And when you look out and you
19 look -- we've had multiple generations of
20 people that work at the company, so, you know,
21 it's real, real exciting for us.

22 In our commitment to the

1 community, as we look for our future growth,
2 you know, we established and really made
3 ourselves and then working with the city with
4 the local alderman, with the city the first
5 manufacturing campus. It's been written up
6 around, you know, not only here, but across
7 national papers. If you see our plant, take a
8 look at it. It literally looks like a park.

9 We opted to work with the
10 neighborhood community instead of isolate
11 ourselves. We actually have our own
12 landscaping company. When we looked at trying
13 to beautify our campus, the architect who is
14 designing and working with us for this site, is
15 the same one who did the plans on the north.
16 You can see there's arches, there's trees,
17 there's lights. We have fountains. We have
18 kiosks to describe what we do.

19 And we intend to have that same
20 type of image, and our goal that we've set,
21 Joe's challenged our people to set a higher
22 level for our new facility than what we have

1 today. And we'd encourage anybody to come by
2 and see it. We've actually been written up
3 believe it or not, in Chicago Magazine as the
4 best place for a first kiss, if you can believe
5 that, and that's a steel company.

6 So we really tend to partner
7 with local leaders. And the beauty is we're
8 just saying we're going to do what we're doing,
9 and do a better job in a new community.

10 We've really also been -- why
11 are we here today? We've been an environmental
12 steward. We've been a leader in conservation
13 and environment. You know, we talked about
14 Al's NFPA. We design and build our own
15 equipment. We've always been at the forefront.
16 We launched the Forging a Fresher America
17 Program, which is planting trees around the
18 Midwest, Illinois and Wisconsin. We've planted
19 6 million trees to date.

20 We've been a recipient of
21 numerous awards, environmental. We will show
22 you a couple of them. We've pioneered energy

1 conservation, believe or not, our -- if you
2 look back in 1946, before anybody was really
3 thinking about energy, anybody at all, the
4 company Finkl has always been proactive in
5 front of everything. We're already pioneering
6 energy, and that's one reason we made it
7 through these downturns in industry because of
8 being energy efficient. And we've also been
9 very, very aggressive on recycling.

10 Okay. The forging a fresher
11 America program, there's a picture of the
12 archway across Cortland Street on this sign.
13 It's an old picture. It says, 2 million trees.
14 You see a forest to the right. That's a forest
15 in Illinois.

16 We've now planted 6 million, and
17 Al's -- Joe's got Al working. We're going up
18 to 10 million. So all of the CO2 that we
19 produce in our plant from the arc furnace --
20 from our furnaces, we currently replace. And
21 all our growth that we're talking about today,
22 we have enough trees being planted that will

1 far surpass. So every piece of oxygen that
2 goes through our furnaces, we're replacing on
3 our own. And that hasn't been for the EPA,
4 federal, state, has nothing to do with anything
5 with these permits. This has just been our own
6 initiative of our own money to try to do what's
7 right.

8 And we've gotten national awards
9 for that, but we're not looking at anything.
10 It's been just to try to do what's right.

11 And on the right down at the
12 bottom, you can see -- it's a little hard to
13 see, there is a National Arbor Day Award. The
14 Arbor Day whatever foundation gave us an award
15 because of our tree and tree planting, which
16 the reason to show that, it's kind of unique
17 that a steel company would get an award from an
18 Arbor Day Foundation. And we can give you a
19 list of City of Chicago awards and state awards
20 and all of our trees and trees planting, but
21 the key is we're proud.

22 That landscaping company, again,

1 that works for Joe, that's used as an entry
2 level for employees that, you know, don't have
3 skill. Once they learned, potentially, then
4 can move into the plant. And the beauty is, we
5 actually plant around the neighborhood. We
6 work with the alderman. We do the flower pots
7 in the neighborhood. We put the sculptures in
8 the neighborhood. So our landscaping company
9 and the proceeds from that are donated into the
10 community.

11 So we would expect to have that
12 same type, you know, working with the alderman,
13 working with community groups to see, you know,
14 what is best thing in our new community?

15 And if you -- again, if you look
16 on left down here, that's Cortland Street,
17 which is a major street. You can see a hammer
18 and a kiosk, and then there's a jogger on a
19 jogging path, and it's just like a city park as
20 you go through it.

21 Okay. And probably one of the
22 things that we're most proud of -- this is from

1 the Department of Energy, DOE. This is the
2 National Department of Energy. We're one of
3 the -- the only ones that we know of in the
4 steel industry in the United States to receive
5 this award for energy and environment. And we
6 received that because of our energy efficiency
7 of the furnaces that Al and his group have
8 designed, using the minimum amount of energy to
9 convert our product. That is one basis.

10 Two, with our tree planting
11 program. And, three, with our recycling. So,
12 again, we're real proud to show that we are
13 recognized nationally, you know, just as a
14 small steel company here in Chicago.

15 And addressing your concerns,
16 the people there are -- Annemarie St. Germaine
17 and Armando are there. There's Annemarie
18 (indicating). She's helping us in the
19 community. And if there's any questions, you
20 know, of us, myself, Joe -- Al can answer
21 technically, but we'd be pleased, you know, to
22 communicate, you know, with you on virtually

1 anything.

2 I guess, in close. That really
3 shows, you know, what Finkl is about. We're
4 just thrilled to be able to be apart of the
5 community.

6 This is a key step for us to be
7 able to, you know, put this process together.
8 Like anything, I mean, Joe is challenged with
9 everything as you're building a new plant with
10 the economics of making it happen. We have to
11 be able to technically make it happen. That's
12 why we're here today. And then, you know,
13 Joe's in the throws of making sure that we can
14 financially put it together, which is kind of
15 our next and parallel step. Is that fair to
16 say, Joe?

17 MR. CURCI: Absolutely.

18 MR. LIIMATAINEN: Joe, do you have
19 any comment before we close?

20 MR. CURCI: No.

21 MR. LIIMATAINEN: Did I miss --
22

1 MR. CURCI: You hit it all, Bruce.

2 MR. LIIMATAINEN: So that's Finkl.
3 Our goal is to get through this. And we're
4 working very, very hard to make it happen, and
5 we look forward to be being a member of the
6 community, and working with everybody in the
7 community. That's us.

8 HEARING OFFICER VETTERHOFFER: I
9 would like to thank the representatives of
10 Finkl for their presentation.

11 Now, we'll proceed with the
12 question and comment portion of our hearing
13 this evening. The first card I have is for
14 Alderwoman Michelle Harris representing the
15 people of the 8th Ward.

16 MS. HARRIS: I'm kind of just going
17 to -- can everybody hear me? Can everybody
18 hear me?

19 Okay. There are a few people
20 here that have not been here for some of the
21 earlier meetings. You may be just a little --
22 have a little -- have a few more questions. So

1 what I am going to do is just to invite you to
2 stay a few minutes after this to just talk with
3 A. Finkl and myself so that they can answer any
4 questions that you may have that -- because
5 this may not be the proper forum to get some of
6 those questions answered.

7 It might just be a few people
8 here that were not part of our tour or didn't
9 get a chance to go, and I don't know if your
10 umbrella group got a chance to discuss that
11 tour that we took with A. Finkl, but I want to
12 say what a wonderful opportunity this is for
13 the 8th Ward to have a company like A. Finkl
14 come and relocate into our community. They had
15 several other options, and they decided to come
16 to this location. So I'm grateful for that.

17 They have a wonderful record of
18 being great stewards in the community where
19 they're coming from. So as the alderman of the
20 8th Ward, I expect nothing less than what I saw
21 when I went up to the north side to their
22 particular factory.

1 They had done several -- or made
2 several wonderful commitments to be great
3 stewards here, to partner and to work with the
4 community. So I'm looking for that opportunity
5 for them to come and become great stewards with
6 us to partner with the communities that will be
7 here, and especially the ones that they're
8 going to have direct impact on.

9 There are two -- just a couple
10 of questions that I just want them to clarify
11 for the people that live directly around there,
12 and that's the difference in what Verson did,
13 which was a stamping press, and, again, what
14 A. Finkl does, which is they melt down steel,
15 but you kind of went through the process, but
16 you kind of went so fast. So I just kind of
17 want you to go over what you do, because we had
18 a stamping press here. And, boy, at night you
19 could hear the press all over the whole world.
20 I mean, I should say the 8th Ward.

21 And being I had never heard it
22 in the daytime, but when I became the ward

1 superintendent, and I was doing some snow
2 programs, and I understood what people were
3 talking about when they said, I was up all
4 night long listening to that steel press bang
5 all night. So if you can just explain that.

6 MR. CURCI: What Verson did, as the
7 alderman mentioned, is they built large
8 stamping presses for automotive. And if you
9 look, in fact, in the investment they made
10 before they went bankrupt, they were building
11 two of the largest stamping presses ever made
12 for General Motors.

13 And as part of their
14 manufacturing of the presses, they had to
15 operate them 30 hours plus?

16 MR. LIIMATAINEN: It was about --
17 yes.

18 MR. CURCI: About 30 hours
19 continuously to prove out that the press would
20 work. And a stamping press is just a huge
21 press that comes down, and is continually
22 banging out parts.

1 The difference with our process
2 is we're actually in an open die press and a
3 hydraulic press, we're really squeezing
4 materials, squeezing hot steel to shape it.
5 And so the noise and the vibration doesn't
6 exist in our process, even though you know what
7 we do is on a press. It's just a different
8 type of press.

9 MS. HARRIS: Okay. Now, when we went
10 up to the north side, and as we walked through,
11 we did not need ear plugs for anything or any
12 part during the process, and they were very
13 open and honest as they walked us through the
14 whole process.

15 I just kind of want to assure
16 everybody that when they come here, it will be
17 the same thing. It's relatively noise within
18 the facility, but the noise doesn't usually
19 exist outside of the facility. So it should be
20 minimal evasive noise for the community around;
21 in other words, you may not even know when
22 they're actually pouring and pressing steel.

1 And I wanted them to talk about
2 some of the -- you went through it so fast when
3 he talked about some of the things that they
4 did within the community. Could you just kind
5 of elaborate on more of the community projects,
6 because I'm expecting the same wonderful stuff
7 that you did in Lincoln Park to come here. So
8 I need you to talk about -- elaborate a little
9 bit on the community projects.

10 MR. LIIMATAINEN: Well, we didn't --
11 our goal was not to talk extensively, but
12 we've -- from the community piece, we really
13 start all the way up the community. It starts
14 with -- and I'll explain each one -- from the
15 grade schools, into the high schools, to the
16 colleges, and, to be very honest, it's
17 important to us, to the old folks, because we
18 all have to be cognizant of the old folks in
19 our community. It's everything from the grade
20 schools.

21 So, you know, we've supported
22 Burr School, Finkl Academy, which is a grade

1 school named after us because of not just
2 philanthropic support, but we've gone and
3 planted all the flowers and trees around Finkl
4 Academy.

5 We've given awards for their
6 science contest. We have our people go over
7 and judge. David has had computer people go
8 over and put computers in that school on our
9 dime. We've paid for them.

10 Again, the flowers were planted,
11 so we don't teach, but we assist and help the
12 teacher. We've done career counseling and
13 mentoring there. And then right near us at the
14 Might Town Center is a place to tutor kids, the
15 underprivileged kids that, you know, are having
16 trouble. We've had people go over there and
17 act as ongoing counselors.

18 We've had previous VP of
19 operations -- our present VP, Dave Laurenson,
20 who works for Joe is here. The previous VP was
21 one of the longest standing board members, and
22 through him being on the board, we had people

1 routinely go over in the mentoring process to
2 mentor.

3 We had individuals from Mid-Town
4 come to our company and be tutored, you know,
5 in the facility. And we'd expect to do similar
6 thing here each and every year. I can't even
7 remember how long now it's been. At least 10
8 to 15. Mid-Town would have their Christmas
9 parties and annual parties and fund raisers,
10 you know, at our company. So we provided
11 support that way that allowed them to raise
12 money. So that's in Mid-Town.

13 And then, you know, in the high
14 school end, we've also, you know, worked with
15 high schools in our area, both public and
16 private. You know, a couple Catholic high
17 schools with the local public high schools.

18 And then in the university
19 level, you know, with Illinois Institute of
20 Technology, if you look at the -- you know, on
21 the south side, we're one of the biggest, not
22 financial, but working and then contributors as

1 that south side area of the city got
2 transformed, you know, to what is the catalyst
3 to the whole movement of, you know, this area
4 of the city.

5 Finkl, you know, in fact, helped
6 do the master plan, get the city energized and
7 then, you know, change that entire community,
8 which as you look at it, that's going to come
9 down to this whole area. So very, very -- you
10 know, very, very exciting for us.

11 And then the old folks, Little
12 Sisters of the Poor. The biggest donation we
13 give every year, Joe does routinely, is the
14 Little Sisters of the Poor. It's an old folks
15 home near us. And not only do we give money, I
16 mean, he's -- again, Joe is probably as soft as
17 any guy you'll ever meet. He's tough in
18 business, but I still remember we had a board
19 meeting, and he wanted to give them a meat
20 cutter. I think, it was a meat cutter, right,
21 Joe?

22 MR. CURCI: A slicer.

1 MR. LIIMATAINEN: Yeah, their slicer
2 broke. It may sound like a little thing, but,
3 you know, when you have an old folks home, when
4 your slicer breaks for meat, it's a subtle
5 thing. And they called up, Joe, and said,
6 well, I need -- and it was pretty expensive.
7 So he bought them a meat slicer. So we get off
8 on esoteric things, but we invite them every
9 year to our Christmas party. We give them
10 Christmas gifts, and we've heard nothing -- you
11 don't get it advertised, you don't look for
12 anything but it's really their highlight of the
13 year. And, I mean, we financially support
14 them, you know, through time. So it's our way.

15 And the other thing we don't
16 really advertise a lot, but we work with a
17 number of local parishes. You know, we help
18 pay for the roof, which we don't like to talk
19 about because then everybody wants money. We
20 helped pay for the roof of the local church
21 when it went bad. There was a local -- another
22 church school that had their science lab burn

1 down, so we paid for that.

2 And, again, we don't like to put
3 these things in the paper because then
4 everybody is coming in, but, I mean, Joe has
5 been extremely -- extremely -- and we have
6 throughout time -- aggressive to everybody --
7 everybody in our entire community. And, you
8 know, we can't save the world, and we're not
9 going to change it, but we know that through
10 what we can do as a small company, we
11 absolutely have been able to contribute more
12 than some of the biggest companies in this
13 country. And we're proud of it.

14 And how do we pay for it? You
15 see companies as time gets bad what's the first
16 thing they cut off. It's donations and things
17 like that.

18 And, you know, what Joe has done
19 is we have this landscaping company. And the
20 proceeds from the landscaping company, which we
21 make money, we donate back into the community.
22 So even in the downtimes, if the company wasn't

1 doing quite as well financially, people still
2 put in landscaping. We still made money off
3 that landscaping. And we've taken the proceeds
4 and donating that back into the community. So
5 that's our conduit, and we have the land --
6 landscaping.

7 I didn't talk, but Joe had them
8 do the whole local park. What was the name of
9 the park?

10 MR. CURCI: Wrightwood Park.

11 MR. LIIMATAINEN: Wrightwood Park was
12 put in and landscaped by us?

13 MR. CURCI: Yeah, the park at Lincoln
14 high school -- Lincoln grade school.

15 MR. LIIMATAINEN: Lincoln grade
16 school was done. We did work at -- I forget
17 the name of the other grade school, David,
18 which one?

19 MR. LAURENSEN: Did some work at
20 Belvedere Park. Did some work at Adams Play
21 Lot.

22 MR. LIIMATAINEN: We're telling all

1 of our things. But then, you know, if you look
2 at the sculptors on the north side of Chicago,
3 there's, like, 30 or 40. We literally every
4 summer send our -- Joe sends our people out
5 with the cranes. We pick the sculptures up and
6 put them in. It just literally couldn't be
7 accomplished, you know, and there would be an
8 uproar if somebody was going to take the City
9 of Chicago tax dollars and put sculptures in,
10 and that's fair. So we've gone out and taken
11 our time, you know, money and people to put
12 those in.

13 If you come down Ohio Street
14 into the City of Chicago, there's a gateway.
15 That was -- Joe had our landscaping company as
16 the one who did the installation of Gateway
17 Crane of that entryway to the City of Chicago.

18 So, you know, our breath has
19 been everything from the kids, you know, all
20 the way up to the colleges. We generally
21 hire -- and, in fact, it's pretty interesting
22 because we're having trouble this year, but we

1 generally hire upwards of 30 kids -- 30 college
2 kids every summer. So we bring kids in. They
3 work in the plant. They work in the offices.
4 They make very, very good wages. The bottom
5 the wage of the union, which means they're way
6 overpaid, but they work a lot of overtime. And
7 they can make a ton of money to educate
8 themselves and go to college.

9 So it -- we try to do everything
10 we can as a small company to benefit the
11 community.

12 Joe, David, did I miss anything?

13 MR. LAURENSEN: No.

14 MR. LIIMATAINEN: That's -- and, I
15 mean, in honesty what we're proud of is we work
16 real hard. We've been a successful business
17 because of the people. Our people do work --
18 you know, we do work, and the beauty of this
19 community is we think we're going to be able to
20 find employees. It's a -- you know, it's a
21 detriment probably if we're not going to be in
22 Lincoln Park because, again, we can't do, you

1 know, two areas at once, but we contribute in
2 the community where we're at every day. That
3 is just the type of business we are.

4 HEARING OFFICER VETTERHOFFER: Before
5 we go on, the gentleman to your right, could
6 you identify yourself for the record.

7 MR. LIIMATAINEN: Oh, I'm sorry.

8 MR. LAURENSEN: Oh, sure. David
9 Laurenson with Finkl. VP of operations.

10 HEARING OFFICER VETTERHOFFER: And
11 how do you spell your last name?

12 MR. LAURENSEN: It's,
13 L-A-U-R-E-N-S-O-N.

14 HEARING OFFICER VETTERHOFFER: Thank
15 you.

16 MR. LIIMATAINEN: And the alderman
17 asked what we do. You know, we need employees,
18 of course, it's the foundation of our business.
19 And we always tell our retirees it's, you know,
20 the people that built Finkl, but John Guliana
21 is also here.

22 John, maybe say your name. And

1 John is directly in charge of building the new
2 plant. Joe has him in charge.

3 And he's the one directly
4 responsible for all the hiring of part-time,
5 full-time, summer, et cetera. John, could you
6 just introduce yourself.

7 MR. GULIANA: My name is John
8 Guliana. My last name is, G-U-L-I-A-N-A. I'm
9 VP of engineering and planning for Finkl. I've
10 been at the company for nearly 40 years, 39
11 years. We just moved to the facility myself
12 and the engineering -- my engineering team
13 about two weeks ago.

14 Our responsibility is to build
15 this plant here. We would like to be -- we are
16 part of this neighborhood now. If anyone
17 thinks there is something that we're doing
18 that's -- you know, they're concerned about,
19 please, you can stop by. You can call any
20 time.

21 We're going to be -- we're going
22 to be as good a neighbor as anybody coming.

1 That's what we used to do on the north side,
2 and that's what we'll do here. So if there's
3 any concern, if there's anything you need, if
4 you have a question of some sort, please don't
5 hesitate. We're here every day. We're going
6 to try to do the best job we can for the
7 company and the neighborhood. We're part of
8 this neighborhood. We're going to be the best
9 neighbor that we can be.

10 So please don't hesitate to call
11 if there's my question at all.

12 MR. LIIMATAINEN: And then probably
13 last, but not least, and we could go on and on
14 and on. We don't want to bore anybody, you
15 know, but we would anticipate -- just now we've
16 had the alderman, the community people, the
17 schools. Again, we have a site where we're
18 able to open up. You know, let people use our
19 site to have, basically, fund raisers, to have
20 get-togethers. We've had grade schools have
21 parties. We've had a kids' zoo at our
22 facility. It may sound kind of crazy for a

1 steel company, but we just do a lot for kids,
2 for schools. We opened that up, and we don't
3 charge people for that.

4 So what does it do for them?
5 When they have their fundraisers and they have
6 events, instead of writing a check, we've
7 opened it up. And Joe is planning on having
8 those type of opportunities at our new
9 facility, and we don't have that exactly laid
10 out yet, but we do that routine.

11 Believe it or not, Chicago
12 Gateway Green, which we are one of the founding
13 members is planting trees. I mean, it's their
14 charity, not ours, but they have netted --
15 because we had that at our site, they've netted
16 in one night over \$600,000, which went to plant
17 trees in the City of Chicago. Not our money.
18 That's, you know, putting together where people
19 donate things. And, you know, therefore, it's
20 trees for our city.

21 So we anticipate virtually, you
22 know, honesty, working with the alderman, and

1 that's the way we're going to work, you know,
2 with the aldermen in the area. You know, we
3 figure out the community groups, the schools.
4 And that's us.

5 Alderman, did I --

6 MS. HARRIS: You did good.

7 I basically now want you to go
8 over some of the wonderful environmental things
9 that you do on-site that are going to be really
10 new to this particular facility. You mentioned
11 some to me. If you could elaborate a little
12 bit on.

13 MR. LIIMATAINEN: Al.

14 MS. HARRIS: Oh, Al gets to talk.

15 MR. UNDERYS: One of the things that
16 if you take a look at where Finkl is now, we've
17 been at that facility since 1903. We kind of
18 have a pretty antiquated shop. We've done a
19 lot with old equipment to try to make them --
20 to make that equipment do things that probably
21 couldn't be done.

22 With our new possible -- with

1 our new equipment that we're going to be
2 installing into the facility, it gives us the
3 opportunity to do it right, to make the
4 material movement go through the facility
5 smoother. It allows us to do -- and build
6 equipment new.

7 We will have a new modern
8 electric arc furnace that will be able to use
9 less energy than the -- our current furnace
10 because it will have higher power. It will be
11 able to make heats quicker. So the amount of
12 energy used are per ton will be less than we're
13 currently using.

14 Also because of the new
15 facility, we're going to be able to put better
16 pollution control devices on that. We're
17 basically using state of the art control
18 devices on the electric arc furnace.

19 On the furnaces that we're using
20 to heat steel, the burner systems there are
21 going to be the most modern energy efficient
22 and least polluting burner technology that

1 we're going to be using ultra low NOx
2 regenerative burners. It's kind of a long
3 word, but what it means is that the
4 regenerative burners, the way of recovering the
5 heat in the exhaust and putting it back into
6 the process, so on a furnace that burns at
7 about 2300 degrees Fahrenheit, the exhaust
8 temperature is only about 350 degrees.

9 So all that extra heat is being
10 recycled back into the furnace. And then at
11 the same time, because of the design of the
12 burner, it burns very clean. It has very low
13 emissions of nitrous oxide. So, again, in
14 general what we're looking at, this is an
15 opportunity to build the facility with the most
16 modern energy efficient, least polluting type
17 of equipment we can.

18 And we think that that will give
19 us an advantage in the marketplace, because
20 we'd be more productive. I don't know if that
21 kind of answers that. Thank you.

22 MR. LIIMATAINEN: And Al didn't want

1 to trump himself with John on the team, but we
2 design, build all our own furnaces. Al has
3 patents on the process furnaces. That is the
4 major reason we got DOE awards.

5 So as we're putting them in, our
6 world class cutting edge, and it's his design
7 and John's team design. It's not bought off a
8 shelf. This is designed internally.

9 We also didn't talk earlier. We
10 have a computer company, Information
11 Technology, that works for Joe and David. We
12 talked about them helping the schools so all of
13 the software -- and it's funny, when we go into
14 anything in our lives, the optimization is done
15 really by computers and information today.

16 And if you look at the
17 programming and the control of all the process
18 furnaces, not just the burner technology, but
19 to minimize and optimize that, it's been that
20 control logic that's done by the Information
21 Technology Group that puts us at really a world
22 leader.

1 MS. HARRIS: And last but not least
2 is the timeline for the project given -- if we
3 get past this, what will be that --

4 MR. LIIMATAINEN: I'm going to defer
5 to the guy that has to start it up.

6 MR. CURCI: Well, John's current
7 target is October of 2009 when we hope to have
8 the arc furnace started, and the forging
9 presses.

10 And then over the next probably
11 three to six months, move the rest of the
12 equipment that we're going to bring from the
13 north side to the south side.

14 MS. HARRIS: And I'm so sorry. For
15 the benefit of the people that didn't know,
16 would you tell us when you closed on the
17 property here.

18 MR. CURCI: We closed on the property
19 in June of 2006 is when we bought the property,
20 when we closed on it.

21 MS. HARRIS: That's my questions. So
22 thank you very much for being so patient with

1 us.

2 HEARING OFFICER VETTERHOFFER: Thank
3 you for your comments.

4 The only other card I have is
5 for Annette Hightower.

6 MS. HIGHTOWER: My name is Annette
7 Hightower. I'm a current resident five
8 minutes, probably less, from your facility.
9 And a student here at Olive Harvey full-time.

10 I was concerned initially with
11 what are you doing or have done to accommodate
12 employment for the schools and surrounding
13 area? What do you have in place to
14 acknowledge, accommodate and allow them to know
15 what the need is for them to be employed not
16 only in the entry level, but the higher level
17 positions?

18 MR. LIIMATAINEN: It's -- boy, I wish
19 I could have written the question for you.

20 Joe -- Joe just literally within
21 the last month has just established an
22 extension, and it's an upgrade in all of our

1 human resource department; namely, he just
2 hired a new person to enhance that area. Her
3 name, Joe, is.

4 MR. CURCI: Maria Rodriguez.

5 MR. LIIMATAINEN: Maria Rodriguez.
6 She is just coming on board. She promised me
7 today that she would -- I was hoping to have it
8 tonight, in fact, but she said she'll have it
9 tomorrow.

10 She's developed a list within
11 her first few weeks on the job of all the
12 schools from the grade schools to the high
13 schools to the colleges. So I would be pleased
14 to share that, and we would share that with you
15 because she's supposed to deliver it to Joe,
16 David and myself really. So John -- and then
17 the goal was to proactively go out and have her
18 meet on our behalf all of the people at each
19 school, and figure out what and how we can be a
20 part of -- and particularly are there training
21 programs? Can we work with the schools on
22 training programs? We're right on the cusp of

1 that. And that is really her mandate.

2 She's going to have an office
3 right in the facility with John, and one of her
4 major things is to work on those employment
5 potentials. You know, we're working with the
6 city and state. To be very honest, we're
7 trying to get job training dollars. And we
8 would like those training dollars not to just
9 be for us in the facility, but to be in
10 partnership with whomever we can work with in
11 local educational institutions.

12 So we would be pleased to
13 introduce you or anybody from the community.
14 Joe could put that together, Joe or David. And
15 independently that's what we're going after.

16 And, to be honest, if you look
17 at it, and we've tried very hard on our present
18 location, if you draw a circle around Finkl now
19 there's no trade schools, there's no schools
20 that have an interest in training toward our
21 type of employment. So we literally are
22 bringing in people and teaching from scratch.

1 And when we approach the local schools, they
2 don't have an interest.

3 So -- and it's like, as we look
4 to our future -- and, in fact, she said today,
5 I hoped to have it tonight. She said, yeah,
6 the schools that are interested, we can work
7 with them. I honestly don't have the list
8 today with me, but we can give it to you
9 tomorrow.

10 MS. HIGHTOWER: Okay.

11 MR. LIIMATAINEN: I assume you know
12 it all, though.

13 MS. HIGHTOWER: Okay. I guess, in
14 association with that --

15 THE COURT REPORTER: Speak up,
16 please.

17 MS. HIGHTOWER: Are you guys
18 interested in developing also an inventions
19 department, since you did mention of your
20 economic --

21 THE COURT REPORTER: Ma'am, I cannot
22 hear you. Please speak this way.

1 MS. HIGHTOWER: Oh, I'm sorry.

2 What are you doing to
3 possibly -- for an inventions department for
4 that community and schools outreach to help
5 acknowledge and teach the children how to be
6 informed in that area, how to do what you've
7 done as far as the gas conservation of those
8 emissions, those burners you --

9 MR. LIIMATAINEN: Al, can you
10 comment?

11 MR. UNDERYS: Yes. I would say that
12 one of the first things -- and, I think, the
13 things that we've done in the past that has
14 worked well. We worked with the Illinois
15 Institute of Technology. And this was just one
16 example.

17 They had an incoming freshman
18 class. And when you're a graduating senior
19 from high school, you're not really sure what
20 you want to do, right? So they say, well, it's
21 engineering for me. So what we did is we took
22 an entering freshman class. We took probably

1 about 60 seniors in high school who signed up
2 that they wanted to go to IT.

3 And we actually took them
4 through our facility. And then we have, like,
5 a sit down -- or we have basically a chance to
6 discuss what do you do as an engineer? You
7 know, and kind of explain, you know, engineers
8 have lost -- engineering has lost a little bit
9 of its luster. People look at computer
10 engineering as big, but, you know, we work as
11 being mechanical engineers where there's a lot
12 of opportunities -- technical opportunities in
13 our type of business. And we want to show that
14 to people.

15 So that's just one kind of
16 example. And we're kind of open to that event
17 as far as to get more technical people into
18 schools, and show them that there is some hope
19 there some -- some hope there. I know that we
20 have done science.

21 MR. LAURENSEN: Bring in --

22 MR. UNDERYS: Okay. That's another

1 example. We -- the classes -- the Colorado
2 School of Mines, we fly the whole class in to
3 go through a day's class at Finkl. We have
4 something called a Finkl Forging Forum. It's a
5 class that we use for teaching our customers
6 about how to buy a forging, what's a forging,
7 kind of give the whole process of how you make
8 steel, and go through the whole -- go through
9 the whole process.

10 And we do a compressed one day
11 instead of a two day for the college students,
12 to give them an idea of how forgings are. Most
13 people think about forgings, you take a look at
14 a crescent wrench, it says, "forged." You
15 know, you say, oh, that's a forging. And then
16 they go through a facility and see a truck
17 bumper that's, you know, about the size of --
18 you know, like, a large, large piece of steel.
19 They don't realize the size involved in -- that
20 forgings go from very small pieces to very
21 large pieces.

22 So it gives them a completely

1 new perspective on what they already know in
2 school, but they actually get to see it, and
3 actually go through and questions of the people
4 who are actually working in those processes
5 every day.

6 MR. LIIMATAINEN: So to answer your
7 question, though, we've never thought -- you're
8 spurring a thought. Never thought of inspiring
9 into either high schools or colleges. We've
10 talked. I mean, Al has multiple patents. I
11 have patents. John has patents.

12 And if you look at our present
13 facility, which they're engineering, I mean, Al
14 can teach a furnace course. He's very
15 inventive. But we thought of how to teach the
16 creative process to individuals, we probably
17 need to think about that, but we could.

18 MS. HIGHTOWER: Right.

19 MR. LIIMATAINEN: What we do, in
20 another example, is like with the Illinois
21 Institute of Technology, we could do this with
22 local junior colleges. It would be a little

1 stretch for a high school. But we have two
2 projects going, and it's called
3 interprofessional I-Pro -- interprofessional
4 projects.

5 Joe has David working, and he
6 has our engineers working. One of them is a
7 computer optimization to have the best thermal
8 environment and log what's inside the furnace.
9 And that's composed of electrical engineers,
10 computer engineers, mathematicians. So they
11 get all the different engineers and their kids
12 to work on this project.

13 And we've got another one trying
14 to -- it may sound crazy, we're trying to take
15 a machine tool, and run it -- I hate to say
16 with no employees, but run it with lights out
17 so it can be world class competitive. And that
18 has mechanical, electrical computer, believe or
19 not, sound because we're looking at the sound
20 of the machine. The vibration of the machine.
21 And that's -- these are teams of kids, about 30
22 kids in the class. So you've got a professor,

1 30 kids. And the kids get exposed -- and, to
2 be honest, they give us ideas, but they get to
3 interact with our technology group.

4 So that type of thing -- and we
5 actually write a check for that. So we donate
6 the money for the kids to go. A professor
7 supervises the kids, but the kids come into a
8 real work environment. So, I mean, Joe has a
9 machine tool where these kids come in. So
10 you've got 30 kids that are, you know, a
11 freshman, sophomore in college. They're
12 working on a real tool, but not physically
13 working, but as the lab environment, which
14 you're bringing up a good idea. We should talk
15 to them about patents, which we haven't done
16 yet.

17 Now, on a creative side, which
18 we didn't mention is making us think that in
19 our new plant, we try to optimize -- you know,
20 all the water is through cooling towers. We're
21 not using any water. It's all cooling towers.
22 All the --

1 MR. CURCI: All self-contained in an
2 enclosed system.

3 MR. LIIMATAINEN: 100 percent
4 self-contained. Again, Al and John have
5 designed that. The power coming into our
6 plant, we didn't mention, is lines strictly
7 dedicated to land -- to the plant. It will not
8 affect the community whatsoever. So we've done
9 everything to make the plant energy and
10 environmentally separate.

11 Did I miss anything there, Joe?

12 MR. CURCI: Natural gas.

13 MR. LIIMATAINEN: Yeah, and natural
14 gas, again, the burners. And Al's done -- I
15 mean, he could write a book. So your point is
16 well taken. We could do a better job, and
17 we'll think about that. So you brought up a
18 good point.

19 MS. HIGHTOWER: Okay.

20 MR. LIIMATAINEN: And, to be honest,
21 though, it's that creative process that defines
22 us. We design and build our equipment. If you

1 look at our computer, we literally write our
2 own software. We write it. We don't buy it,
3 we write it.

4 So if you look at our process
5 stuff internally, you look at our -- and, you
6 know, we've had -- how many interns have you
7 had at one time in the computer area, David?

8 MR. LAURENSEN: Typically, we try to
9 keep anywhere between three and four, upwards
10 of five on occasion.

11 MR. LIIMATAINEN: Yeah. And these
12 are, you know, as good as you get from a
13 learning standpoint.

14 MS. HIGHTOWER: So to share in that
15 creative process with the schools and
16 community --

17 MR. LIIMATAINEN: Correct.

18 MS. HIGHTOWER: -- and encourage...

19 Okay. With that, would you be
20 having -- you said you're open to schools to
21 visit and learn from the processes of Finkl.
22 Would you accommodate somewhat of an

1 educational web site and/or tour to encourage
2 not only the -- encourage energy conservation?

3 MR. LIIMATAINEN: Joe.

4 MR. CURCI: One of the things we've
5 done actually, which is a really good job at
6 our current location, is bringing in your local
7 schools in the community to go through the
8 process and explain the process.

9 MS. HIGHTOWER: Do you have a web
10 site for that?

11 MR. CURCI: Yeah, our web site is
12 just Finkl.com, as our process. And also so
13 many other things that Bruce had mentioned
14 earlier, the tree planting program, the area
15 landscaping.

16 MS. HIGHTOWER: Okay.

17 MR. LIIMATAINEN: But we have
18 routinely, and, I mean, even in his capacity
19 and David have given multiple tours where
20 you've taken grade schools through.

21 MR. CURCI: Yeah. We have one coming
22 up this weekend, Saturday.

1 MR. LIIMATAINEN: This weekend?

2 MR. CURCI: Yeah.

3 MR. LIIMATAINEN: Who are you taking?

4 Tell everybody.

5 MR. CURCI: Actually, we're taking
6 the lab school.

7 MR. LIIMATAINEN: Lab school.

8 MR. CURCI: The class lab school, the
9 University of Chicago Lab School.

10 MR. LIIMATAINEN: Okay. And these
11 are grade school kids, again?

12 MR. CURCI: It's a mix of the parents
13 and younger kids.

14 MR. LIIMATAINEN: So literally we do
15 not just high school. And we've literally done
16 tours. We do a little crazy thing, but it's
17 really exciting for a kid, especially in grade
18 school to see what the real world is about.

19 It's one thing to talk about energy, right, but
20 when you look at a process furnace and you see
21 what gas really is capable of doing, and it's
22 kind of, like, Al talked about energy

1 efficiency, all of a sudden the light bulb goes
2 off in a grade school kid. This is pretty
3 exciting.

4 MS. HIGHTOWER: Right. And with that
5 tour, do you have, like, handouts to encourage
6 conservation, preservation of energy?

7 MR. CURCI: Yeah, we haven't, but we
8 go through and explain what we're doing. We
9 haven't -- we should make some handouts.

10 MR. LIIMATAINEN: Yeah.

11 MS. HIGHTOWER: To take home to the
12 parents.

13 MR. LIIMATAINEN: And we typically
14 haven't tried to advertise ourselves or
15 whatever. We just -- you know, but that could
16 be done very easily.

17 MS. HIGHTOWER: What percentage of
18 your proceeds is donated to the community? You
19 said that there are proceeds of your
20 landscaping were donated even on your down --

21 MR. CURCI: You know, it's tough to
22 say. We donate all the profits from the

1 landscaping.

2 MS. HIGHTOWER: Pretty much all the
3 profits?

4 MR. CURCI: All the profits.

5 And then the -- to be honest,
6 what a lot of landscapers will do, you know,
7 will be for whatever, a local community group
8 where we, you know, charged the cost, or we
9 charge maybe below cost.

10 THE COURT REPORTER: Speak up,
11 please.

12 MR. CURCI: We charge cost or below
13 cost.

14 MS. HIGHTOWER: Okay.

15 MR. CURCI: The purpose of that
16 entity really is for plant beautification, and
17 then to help the surrounding community, and to
18 create money for us to give away basically.

19 MS. HIGHTOWER: Are you guys
20 interested in designing a patch for the Girl
21 Scouts and the Boy Scouts when they visit to
22 feel that --

1 MR. CURCI: I'll leave that one to
2 Bruce.

3 MR. UNDERYS: The Finkl patch.

4 MR. LIIMATAINEN: Al will design the
5 Finkl patch.

6 MS. HIGHTOWER: Do you have one?

7 MR. LIIMATAINEN: No, no.

8 MS. HIGHTOWER: That's for the
9 children, too. That's about it. Thank you.

10 HEARING OFFICER VETTERHOFFER: Thank
11 you for your comments.

12 The next card I have is for Ora
13 Howard, representing Calumet Heights.

14 MS. HOWARD: It takes a while when
15 you have arthritis.

16 HEARING OFFICER VETTERHOFFER: Take
17 your time.

18 MS. HOWARD: You wouldn't know about
19 it. Good evening.

20 AUDIENCE: Good evening.

21 MS. HOWARD: My name is Ora Howard.
22 I'm a 45 year resident of Calumet Heights. I'm

1 a retired teacher, church deacon, local school
2 council member, and among other things,
3 grandmother.

4 I'm familiar with the north side
5 location. I drove upon it a few years ago. I
6 was really surprised to see how clean and
7 beautiful a steel plant could be. I didn't
8 believe my eyes. I'm looking forward to having
9 you relocate here in Calumet Heights.

10 I'm looking forward to the
11 beautification that you've done in the Lincoln
12 Park area. And I'm also excited about your
13 proposed jobs for high school students and
14 reaching out into the community.

15 We will welcome you. We will
16 work with you. We will keep eyes on you. And
17 another personal comment, and I hope you take
18 it in the spirit in which it is given. I was
19 looking at the CEO. And I said, well, they
20 have jeans and T-shirts on. Well, they will
21 must be hands-on workers, hands-on owners from
22 the top to the bottom. I like that.

1 As I said before, we're looking
2 forward to the jobs opportunity here in the
3 community in working with you. We are a
4 community of basically homeowners, and quite a
5 few people in the audience are retired
6 teachers.

7 So we're looking forward to
8 working with you to see how things come along
9 with A. Finkl and Calumet Heights and the
10 surrounding areas.

11 We thank you very much for this
12 opportunity to speak with you, and to meet with
13 you on a first-look basis. Thank you.

14 HEARING OFFICER VETTERHOFFER: Thank
15 you.

16 Are there any other members of
17 the public or representatives who would like to
18 make a comment this evening?

19 (No response.)

20 Before we proceed --

21 AUDIENCE: Right here.

22 HEARING OFFICER VETTERHOFFER: Oh,

1 thank you.

2 If you would just state your
3 name and please spell your last name for the
4 record.

5 MS. MASON: My name is Vanessa Mason.

6 In terms of the employment, have
7 you guys started construction yet? My question
8 is, in terms of your construction company
9 you're going to use, will this construction
10 company employ any of the local residents and
11 stuff in the -- in their company, as well as a
12 local sense of ownership and assist in dealing
13 with progress in their community in addition to
14 employing people in the area?

15 MR. LIIMATAINEN: I'm going to let --
16 John, do you want to say a word on that, the
17 building of the new plant.

18 MR. GULIANA: Yeah, the building of
19 the new plant. We're soliciting -- it's going
20 to come up that we're going solicit --
21 actually, we need construction companies to do
22 a variety of tasks in the plant.

1 Now, as far as employment, we
2 would love to hire from the neighborhood. I
3 got one phone call from someone who told me
4 that it was -- he had his kid, he wanted to
5 work. I really actually told him, there's
6 nothing I would love more. And he said he was
7 on 93rd Street. I said, there's nothing I
8 would love more to have that young college -- I
9 mean, he's a high school graduate, to come out
10 and work.

11 So we would love to hire from
12 the neighborhood. We, obviously, need some
13 skilled work and some nonskilled. So we -- you
14 know, we're looking right now for some welders,
15 if there's anybody. And we would love to hire
16 from the neighborhood. If there is anybody,
17 just give us a call.

18 MS. MASON: Give the information to
19 the alderman, and she will --

20 MR. GULIANA: I'll give a card.

21 MS. MASON: And also what type of
22 benefits packages...

1 THE COURT REPORTER: Ma'am, I cannot
2 hear you.

3 MS. MASON: Oh, I'm sorry.

4 And also what type of benefits
5 packages do you provide for your employees?

6 MR. GULIANA: We have all the -- I
7 don't have the exact details, but we have
8 complete health care. We have, like, a
9 healthcare, dental, and, I think, there's
10 pension in the plan.

11 So there's -- you know, I don't
12 have the detail on the complete benefits, but
13 we offer all of that.

14 MR. CURCI: And, John, there is
15 additional employment, which, you know, we're
16 going to work through the alderman, and we'll
17 ramp up as -- you know, as we produce.

18 As John is looking for
19 contractors to do various type of work, our
20 goal is to do what we've done on the north side
21 and wherever possible, you know, use
22 subcontractors around our plant as close as

1 possible in our plant. You know, develop those
2 relationships. And, again, we've been at the
3 north side for 106 years now. And developed a
4 number of relationships over time, and we want
5 to do the same thing in this community.

6 MS. MASON: Thank you.

7 HEARING OFFICER VETTERHOFFER: Are
8 there any other members of the public who would
9 like to make a comment or ask a question?

10 MS. HIGHTOWER: I had a question.

11 Have you had any major problems
12 at all? What are those problems, if one or two
13 happened on the north side occurred at all, and
14 how did you resolve it?

15 MR. CURCI: Okay. When you say,
16 "problem" --

17 MS. HIGHTOWER: Of any type so that
18 we have a better understanding of the conflict
19 resolution skills, as far as we come to a
20 conflict. Whether it be -- I don't know --
21 spillage or -- or the machines not meeting the
22 criteria for the letting out of the gases into

1 the environment? I mean, have you always met
2 the regulations required? Has there ever
3 been -- but I'm just saying any form of
4 problems that you had, I mean, in all the
5 entire decades that you have been there that --
6 and what process did you do to resolve it?

7 MR. CURCI: We have --

8 MR. GULIANA: Let me -- just a little
9 bit of the situation of how we do things.

10 We mentioned earlier -- Al
11 mentioned we design and build most of our
12 equipment. We're really from top -- you know,
13 when we -- we're all engineers that started
14 working in the plant and grew up to our
15 positions. We're all hands-on people that
16 worked in this plant for a long time.

17 So as far as mechanical
18 problems, really not much, because we can solve
19 just about anything working with our people.
20 And we try to train the people as we get them
21 to do like we do, you know, get involved with
22 their hands so they can solve these issues.

1 Anybody can have problems. But,
2 I mean, as far as mechanical issues like that,
3 not really. We can solve them as they came up
4 because, you know, between ourself and our
5 employees, we're sort of self-sufficient. We
6 don't depend on, say, this company to come out
7 and fix something. We try to train our people,
8 so we can do the work. That we can be
9 self-sufficient ourself.

10 MS. HIGHTOWER: Okay.

11 MR. GULIANA: So that kind of
12 problem, we don't have.

13 MS. HARRIS: You make it, so you can
14 fix it.

15 MR. GULIANA: We can fix it, yes.

16 (Everyone speaking at the same
17 time.)

18 MS. HIGHTOWER: You've had no
19 problems in the decades you've been there? No
20 problems with your emissions with EPA or
21 anything?

22 MR. LIIMATAINEN: No. Well, and the

1 answer is, no, and the answer is it's an older
2 plant that we've been running in this location.
3 And the new plant is going to be the best
4 technology available at a much, much higher
5 level and standard, you know, that we have
6 today.

7 And, as John said, we design,
8 build, install, and all of our supervisors are
9 cross-trained. And a lot of them come out of
10 the ranks. You know, but like each one of
11 us -- and like, David who runs the plant, he's
12 an engineer, but he worked in every department.
13 He worked in the forge shop, the melt shop.

14 So the supervisors understand
15 and know the equipment and they're all
16 hands-on. They can literally run the
17 equipment. So as John said, they're in a
18 position to respond, you know, unlike most
19 operations.

20 MS. HIGHTOWER: And your emissions,
21 you've never had, you said --

22 HEARING OFFICER VETTERHOFFER: Can

1 you, please, speak up. The court reporter is
2 having a hard time hearing you.

3 MS. HIGHTOWER: And your emissions,
4 you've never had a problem meeting the
5 regulations of the EPA? There's never been
6 involvement meeting that standard, if not
7 better?

8 MR. CURCI: Yeah, I mean, we've
9 always been at standard. I mean, you know, in
10 operating a business, there's always going to
11 be from time to time issues that arise.

12 MS. HIGHTOWER: Do you have a team or
13 a team of individuals addressing the
14 maintenance and the ability to maintain that --

15 MR. CURCI: Yeah, we have a, you
16 know, complete maintenance to --

17 MS. HIGHTOWER: No, I mean, to
18 maintain that EPA, you know, standard as far as
19 emission from the --

20 MR. CURCI: Oh, yeah, absolutely.

21 You know, it's regulated. It's
22 monitored periodically and checked and reported

1 on. And, you know, in the event there's ever a
2 problem, I mean, it's addressed, you know, as
3 soon as it's identified.

4 HEARING OFFICER VETTERHOFFER: Any
5 other questions or comments?

6 Ma'am, if you could please come
7 down here. The court reporter is having a lot
8 of difficulty hearing.

9 And I don't have a card for you,
10 so if you could please state your name and any
11 organization that you represent.

12 MS. DENSON: My name is Denise
13 Denson.

14 THE COURT REPORTER: Spell it.

15 MS. DENSON: D-E-N-S-O-N.

16 I'm a member of the 8th Ward
17 organization, and I'm also an evangelist with
18 the Epistolic Church of God. And I do a lot of
19 community work with faith based organizations.

20 And I saw a block of information
21 on the screen that says you also work with
22 faith based organizations, and I wanted to ask

1 you what do you do? How do you work with the
2 faith based organizations? What is the
3 relationship with the churches in your area?

4 HEARING OFFICER VETTERHOFFER: So
5 this is a question for the representatives of
6 Finkl?

7 MS. DENSON: Yes.

8 HEARING OFFICER VETTERHOFFER: And
9 it's up to them whether they want to respond.

10 MR. LIIMATAINEN: We've worked --
11 we've worked with churches right around the
12 proximity, you know, to our facility.
13 St. Josaphat Church is a church and school
14 right up the street, which we work, you know,
15 with them.

16 There's another church right
17 across the expressway. That's the one where
18 Mid-Town Center is at. That's the one where we
19 actually helped to pay to do their roof.

20 MR. CURCI: St. Mary's.

21 MR. LIIMATAINEN: St. Mary's Church,
22 you know, so that's an economic type, but it's

1 not -- generally we work not just money, our --
2 Dave's predecessor, Steve Witek was on the
3 board of Mid-Town, again, for 15 years anyway,
4 15, 18 years. So he was the catalyst to try to
5 be, not just the donation to the church, but to
6 make sure, you know, either kids or people
7 could work.

8 Right now Joe has Steve. Steve
9 is retired from Finkl, but he, obviously, also
10 happens to be very religious.

11 And Joe has him right now -- I
12 don't know if he's been to yours yet -- but
13 he's in the process of just going out to go to
14 meet all the local -- you know, local clergy on
15 our behalf, because we do understand that if
16 you look at the ministry it is probably
17 stronger than it is on the north side, more of
18 a community based than it is on the north side,
19 but, to be honest, people kind of just go to
20 church and go home. Whereas here it seems to
21 be more of a community aspect.

22 So Joe has really put Steve on a

1 task to go meet all of the pastors, talk to
2 them, meet them, and start a relationship. So
3 he has them working on that literally right
4 now.

5 So can we say we know everybody?
6 We can't. But he literally just put him on
7 this task.

8 MS. MASON: Okay. So if I call your
9 organization, I give you the name of a contact,
10 and maybe you can come to one of our -- of our
11 advisory meetings, so you can speak to our
12 pastor?

13 MR. LIIMATAINEN: Steve is our
14 point -- again, he was a vice-president of --
15 ran the plant. And he, again, just happens to
16 be very a religious person. So he likes it.
17 And he also loves working with kids. And, to
18 be honest, if we can get this done, we're very
19 busy, so he's been -- absolutely, Joe will
20 have -- if you give Joe your name, he'll have
21 Steve contact you and come over and see, you
22 know, you, the parish or whoever.

1 MS. DENSON: Okay. Thank you.

2 MR. LIIMATAINEN: That's one of our
3 intensions.

4 MS. DENSON: All right.

5 HEARING OFFICER VETTERHOFFER: Thank
6 you.

7 Excuse me. You mentioned a man
8 named Steve, and the court reporter didn't
9 get --

10 MR. LIIMATAINEN: Oh, I'm sorry.

11 HEARING OFFICER VETTERHOFFER: That's
12 okay.

13 MR. LIIMATAINEN: His name is Steve
14 Witek, W-I-T-E-K. Steve Witek, and he's the
15 previous vice-president of operations, which
16 Dave took over for. And he's responsible for
17 us for that -- he still works with us, helping
18 us in the community.

19 HEARING OFFICER VETTERHOFFER: Thank
20 you for that clarification.

21 Do we have any other questions
22 or comments?

1 Ma'am, if you could come and --

2 MS. SHAMBEE: When you say --

3 MS. HARRIS: Ms. Shambee, you've got
4 to tell them your name.

5 MS. SHAMBEE: Oh, I'm sorry.

6 MS. HARRIS: So the court reporter
7 can get you on the --

8 HEARING OFFICER VETTERHOFFER: And
9 could you please come down to the podium, as
10 well.

11 AUDIENCE: She has crutches.

12 HEARING OFFICER VETTERHOFFER: Oh,
13 okay.

14 MS. SHAMBEE: Okay. My name is
15 Ellena Shambee. I've lived in the area for 35
16 years. My question to the company is that you
17 said you're going to make this community your
18 home. Does that mean that the management of
19 the plant will live in the community?

20 MS. HARRIS: I'll answer that one.

21 MR. LIIMATAINEN: Some does. She
22 answered the question.

1 (Everyone speaking at the same
2 time.)

3 HEARING OFFICER VETTERHOFFER: We
4 need everyone to speak one at a time. The
5 court reporter can't get people talking all at
6 once.

7 Wait one second. Miss Shambee,
8 could you please just spell your name for the
9 record.

10 MS. SHAMBEE: S-H-A-M-B-E-E.

11 HEARING OFFICER VETTERHOFFER: And
12 could you spell your first name as well.

13 MS. SHAMBEE: E-L-L-E-N-A.

14 HEARING OFFICER VETTERHOFFER: Thank
15 you. Okay. Go ahead, sir, I'm sorry.

16 MR. WILLIAMS: My name is Mr. Q.C.
17 Williams, W-I-L-L-I-A-M-S.

18 And I've been an employee of
19 Finkl for going on 34 years. And I'm part of
20 management. I live at 1246 West 97th Place.
21 So I am part of the community. And it's a
22 great place to work for. I have no complaints.

1 I've enjoyed my whole 34 years. No problems.
2 It's people from the community who work there.
3 All right. Thank you.

4 HEARING OFFICER VETTERHOFFER: Thank
5 you.

6 Anyone else that I missed?

7 MS. HARRIS: I just want to make a
8 comment.

9 HEARING OFFICER VETTERHOFFER: Would
10 you identify yourself one more time.

11 MS. HARRIS: Michelle Harris.

12 When we went and toured the
13 plant, there are a number of African-American
14 people that look like us that are employed
15 there. So don't think that that's the only
16 face. And for the greater part, most of them
17 live -- and, in fact, some of them live in the
18 8th Ward. I met a big guy, a big union guy
19 that lives in the 8th Ward. There are a number
20 of people that live there, and that live here,
21 and they go all the way to Lincoln Park,
22 outside their community to go to work.

1 So wherever you are, I mean,
2 when they say they're going to make this
3 community their home, they work here. They
4 want their work environment to be as
5 comfortable and pleasant as possible. And they
6 can't do that if they're at odds with us as a
7 community.

8 So when they say they're going
9 to want to make it comfortable, they want to
10 make this their home. They want to partner
11 with us. It doesn't mean they want to relocate
12 and come live with us. But I'm just saying,
13 they want to partner with us. So that's what
14 good business is about with this partnering
15 with the people that exist there, so that there
16 is harmony within the community.

17 So that's what they want to
18 create when they say they want to make this
19 their home, they want to be within harmony
20 within the community. In order to do that,
21 they need to develop relationships and
22 partnerships with the community, they're coming

1 at you.

2 HEARING OFFICER VETTERHOFFER: Did I
3 miss anyone else? Would anyone else like to
4 make a comment or pose a question?

5 (No response.)

6 Before we wrap up the hearing, I
7 would just like to ask the representatives of
8 Finkl, before the hearing, one of you had
9 indicated that you wanted the Power Point
10 presentation to be an exhibit. And I don't
11 believe I ever got a copy of that. So before
12 we close the record, I would like to mark it.

13 MR. LIIMATAINEN: Yeah, Al will take
14 care of it and get it to you.

15 HEARING OFFICER VETTERHOFFER: Okay.
16 We'll mark Finkl's Power Point presentation as
17 Exhibit 4.

18 Okay. I'll remind everyone here
19 tonight, that if you decide after this hearing
20 that you have some comment you would like to
21 make that you didn't think of tonight -- thank
22 you -- you can send that in a written comment,

1 and you direct those written comments to me.

2 (The disk was tendered to Ms.
3 Vetterhoffer.)

4 Written comments will be
5 considered as part of the record when the
6 Illinois EPA performs its permit review
7 process, and issues its final decision on the
8 Finkl permit.

9 I would also like to, again,
10 remind everyone that the comment period for the
11 record in this matter closes at midnight on
12 May 9th, 2008. Therefore, any written comments
13 must be postmarked before midnight on that
14 date, and sent to me to be accepted as part of
15 the record.

16 Copies of the transcript of the
17 hearing tonight will be made available on the
18 Illinois EPA's web site as soon as we obtain a
19 copy of the transcript from the court reporter,
20 and get it on to the internet. The Illinois
21 EPA's web site is www.EPA.State.IL.US.

22 Any copies of the exhibits that

1 I have identified tonight are available upon
2 request, and you can send that request to my
3 attention. My name and the address of the
4 Illinois EPA are on the notice of hearing.
5 Again, you can get a copy of that at the table
6 outside.

7 The time is now approximately
8 8:33. Seeing that there are no other members
9 of the public or representatives that would
10 like to make a comment or pose a question, we
11 will now adjourn this hearing.

12 I would like to thank everyone
13 for their participation tonight.

14 (Which were all the proceedings had
15 in the above-entitled matter.)
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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Gay Dall, CSR and RPR, a competent and
duly qualified court reporter, and being first
duly authorized to administer said oath, do
hereby certify that I did report in machine
shorthand the foregoing proceedings and that my
shorthand notes so taken at said time and place
were thereafter reduced to typewriting under my
personal direction;

I further certify that the foregoing
typewritten transcript constitutes a complete
record of the said proceeding taken at the said
time and place so ordered to be transcribed.

Dated this 1st day of May, 2008.

Gay Dall, CSR & RPR