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ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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BUREAU OF AIR, PERMIT SECTION

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Proposed Issuance of a)
Construction Permit to Ford)
Heights Ethanol, LLC in Ford)
Heights.)

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THE REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS taken

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in the above-entitled matter, before Hearing

14

Officer Kim held at Cottage Grove Middle School,

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800 East 14th Street, Ford Heights, Illinois, on

16

the 12th day of June, A.D., 2007, at the hour of

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7:05 p.m.

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1 IEPA STAFF:

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3 JOHN J. KIM, HEARING OFFICER

4 Manager - Air Regulatory Unit

5 Division of Legal Counsel

6 Illinois EPA

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8 CHRISTOPHER ROMAINE

9 Manager - Utility/Construction Unit

10 Air Permit Section

11 Illinois EPA

12

13 MINESH V. PATEL

14 Environmental Protection Engineer

15 Bureau of Air

16 Illinois EPA

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19

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22 REPORTED BY: GAY DALL, CSR NO. 084001169

1 HEARING OFFICER KIM: Good
2 evening. If I speak too loud, please tell
3 me, and I'll back away from the
4 microphone.

5 By my watch it is now five after
6 7:00, and so, I think, we should begin.

7 My name is John Kim, and I work
8 for the Illinois Environment Protection
9 Agency. I would like to thank everyone
10 for coming out this evening, as the
11 Illinois EPA believes that these public
12 hearings are a crucial part of the permit
13 review process.

14 I have been designated to serve
15 this evening as the hearing officer for
16 this matter. As the hearing officer, my
17 sole purpose tonight is to make sure that
18 this proceeding runs properly and in
19 accordance with our procedural rules.
20 Therefore, it is not my job to answer
21 questions regarding the permit process or
22 the permit itself. We do have staff

1 members, however, who will be able to
2 answer such questions.

3 This is a public hearing before
4 the Illinois EPA in the matter of an Air
5 Pollution Control construction permit
6 submitted to us by Ford Heights Ethanol,
7 LLC, which I will refer to from this point
8 as Ford Heights Ethanol.

9 Ford Heights ethanol has applied
10 for an Air Pollution Control construction
11 permit from the Illinois EPA to construct
12 an ethanol manufacturing plant at the
13 intersection of 17th Street and Ellis
14 Avenue in Ford Heights, Illinois.

15 The project would have a nominal
16 design capacity of 63 million gallons per
17 year of denatured ethanol and would use
18 natural gas as a fuel. This project is
19 not considered a major project under the
20 Federal Rules for Prevention of
21 Significant Deterioration or PSD, as those
22 rules are found in Title 40 of the Code of

1 Federal Regulations, Section 52.21.

2 The Illinois EPA has made a
3 preliminary determination to issue a
4 permit for the project, and has prepared a
5 draft permit for review. The Illinois EPA
6 is holding a public comment period, and
7 this hearing to accept comments from the
8 public on the proposed issuance of a
9 permit for this project prior to our
10 making a final decision on the
11 application.

12 This hearing is being held for
13 the purpose of explaining the Illinois
14 EPA's draft permit to respond to questions
15 and to receive public comments on this
16 draft permit.

17 This public hearing is being
18 held under the provisions of the Illinois
19 EPA's procedures for permit and closure
20 plan hearings, which can be found in Title
21 35 of the Illinois Administrative Code,
22 Part 166. Copies of these procedures can

1 be obtained from me upon request, or they
2 can be accessed on the Internet at the
3 Illinois Pollution Control Board's web
4 site. That web site address is
5 www.ipcb.state.il.us.

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

14 I would like to explain how
15 tonight's hearing is going to proceed.
16 First, we will have the Illinois EPA staff
17 members present tonight introduce
18 themselves and identify their
19 responsibilities at the Illinois EPA.
20 Then we will introduce the representative
21 of -- representatives of Ford Heights
22 Ethanol.

1 Following this overview, I will
2 allow the public to ask questions or
3 provide comments. You are not required to
4 verbalize your comments, as written
5 comments are given the same consideration,
6 and may be submitted to Illinois EPA at
7 any time within the public comment period.

8 The public comment period for
9 this application ends at midnight on
10 June 26th, 2007. Any person who wishes to
11 make oral comments, may do so as long as
12 the statements are relevant to the issues
13 that are addressed at the hearing, and
14 such person has indicated on the
15 registration card that he or she would
16 like to comment.

17 The registration cards are these
18 small cards that are found on the table
19 outside the auditorium (indicating).

20 If you have lengthy comments or
21 questions, it may be helpful to submit
22 them to me in writing before the close of

1 the comment period, and I will ensure that
2 they are included in the hearing record as
3 exhibits.

4 Please keep your comments and
5 questions relevant to the issue at hand.
6 If your comments fall outside the scope of
7 this hearing, I may ask you to proceed to
8 another issue.

9 All speakers have the option of
10 directing questions to the Illinois EPA
11 panel, or they can make general comments
12 or both. Representatives of --
13 representatives of Ford Heights Ethanol
14 are also free to answer questions if they
15 are willing to do so, but I am not in a
16 position to make them answer questions
17 this evening.

18 Our panel will make every
19 attempt possible to answer the questions
20 presented, but I will not allow the
21 speakers to argue, cross-examine or engage
22 in a prolonged dialogue with our panel.

1 It would make the best use of
2 our time to avoid unnecessary repetition,
3 so if anyone before you has already
4 presented testimony that is contained
5 within your written or oral comments,
6 please skip over those issues when you
7 testify.

8 Remember, all written comments
9 whether or not you say them out loud, will
10 become a part of the official hearing
11 record and will be considered. After
12 everyone has had an opportunity to speak
13 and provided, if time permits, we will
14 allow those who did not have sufficient
15 time during their initial comments -- or
16 if they have initial comments, to speak.
17 Excuse me.

18 Again, referring to these
19 registration cards that are found on the
20 table outside, if you would like to make a
21 comment this evening, please fill out the
22 comment, and either -- or the card rather,

1 and either bring it down to me, or you can
2 give it to Brad Frost, who is the
3 gentleman who is outside at the table, and
4 he will give it to me.

5 These cards are what I will use
6 to determine who it is that's expressed an
7 interest in speaking tonight.

8 If you fill out one of these
9 cards, that will also allow you to receive
10 a letter that announces our final decision
11 on the permit application. That letter
12 will direct you to the Illinois EPA's web
13 site where you can retrieve all details,
14 including the Illinois EPA's
15 responsiveness summary.

16 The responsiveness summary is a
17 document that we will prepare that will
18 attempt to answer all the relevant and
19 significant questions that are either
20 raised at this hearing or submitted to me
21 as a written comment prior to the close of
22 the comment period.

1 would like to remind you that we do have a
2 court reporter who will be here taking a
3 verbatim record of these proceedings for
4 the purpose of our making an
5 administrative record.

6 For the court reporter's
7 benefit, please keep the background noise
8 level in this room to a minimum so that
9 she can hear everything that is said. So
10 along those lines, please keep any kind of
11 conversations as quiet as possible, if you
12 have cell phones, please turn those to
13 vibrate or turn the sound off.

14 Also, please keep in mind that
15 any comments from those other than the
16 person at the microphone will not be
17 recorded by the court reporter and will
18 only serve as a disruption to her. This
19 rule applies not only when audience
20 members are speaking, but also when the
21 panel from the Illinois EPA is speaking.

22 When it is your turn to provide

1 a comment, please speak clearly and slowly
2 into the microphone so that she can
3 understand what you are saying.

4 Also, when you speak, if you
5 could please state your name, the city
6 that you live in, and, if applicable, any
7 governmental body, organization or
8 association that you represent. And,
9 also, for the benefit of the court
10 reporter, we would ask that you spell out
11 your last name.

12 People who have requested to
13 speak, will be called upon in the order
14 that they registered to make a statement,
15 and that may not actually be because I
16 have been playing with the cards now, so
17 I'm going to read the cards off in the
18 order that they are here in front of me.

19 Before we start with our
20 presentation, I would also like to make a
21 statement as to recording the number of
22 the documents as official exhibits into

1 the record.

2 Exhibit 1 in the record will be
3 the notice of public hearing; Exhibit 2
4 will be a copy of the project summary; and
5 Exhibit 3 will be a copy of the draft
6 construction permit for Ford Heights
7 Ethanol. And, again, all of those
8 documents are found on the table outside.

9 (The documents were so marked
10 Exhibit Nos. 1, 2 and 3.)

11 I will now ask the Illinois EPA
12 members present here to introduce
13 themselves, and make any short statement
14 that they would like to make. When they
15 are concluded, I will ask any
16 representatives of Ford Heights Ethanol
17 who are present to identify themselves, if
18 they would like, as well.

19 So we'll first start with the
20 Illinois EPA's panel.

21 MR. ROMAINE: My name is
22 Christopher Romaine. I'm manager of the

1 construction unit in the Air Permit
2 section.

3 MR. PATEL: Good evening, ladies
4 and gentlemen. My name is Minesh Patel.
5 I am the permit engineer with Bureau of
6 Air. I'll be giving you a brief
7 description of the proposed plant.

8 Ford Heights Ethanol, LLC, has
9 requested a construction permit for a dry
10 mill ethanol plant in Ford Heights. The
11 proposed plant would produce fuel ethanol
12 from corn and would have a nominal
13 capacity of producing 63 million gallons
14 of denatured ethanol per year. The
15 principal products produced at the ethanol
16 plant are ethanol and distiller grains.

17 The ethanol produced at the
18 plant would be used as motor vehicle fuel.
19 The distiller grains are used as animal
20 feed. The proposed plan would have
21 facilities to receive and ship products
22 such as grain, ethanol and feed by both

1 truck and rail. Natural gas would be used
2 as the fuel to supply energy for the
3 plant.

4 The proposed plant would use
5 appropriate equipment to effectively
6 control the emissions from the various
7 operations at the plant.

8 Filters would be used to control
9 particulate matter emissions from the
10 receiving and handling of grain as well as
11 the handling of dry feed.

12 The principal emission units in
13 mass preparation, fermentation and
14 distillation operations would be
15 controlled by combustion in a natural
16 gas-fired oxidizer.

17 Ford Heights Ethanol plans to
18 install eco dry feed drying system in
19 which combustion control of emissions is
20 integral to the operation of the dryers.
21 In this type of system, a heat exchanger
22 is used to heat air for the dryer unit.

1 This hot air is a combination of fresh air
2 and recirculated air from the dryer unit,
3 which is already warm. The burner at the
4 end of the system and the combustion air
5 for the burner is exhaust gas from the
6 dryer unit that is not being recirculated.
7 In addition, the exhaust from the feed
8 cooler, which follows the dryer unit, also
9 goes to the burner for use as combustion
10 air. As a result, all emissions from the
11 dryers and cooler units pass through the
12 burner before being discharged to the
13 atmosphere.

14 As a result of this emission
15 control equipment and other required
16 equipment and control measures, the
17 proposed plant is not considered a major
18 source of emissions.

19 The permit that the Illinois EPA
20 is proposing to issue for the plant would
21 include a variety of requirements to
22 ensure that the plant is properly

1 can go ahead and do so now.

2 MR. KAHN: The mike?

3 HEARING OFFICER KIM: Well,

4 okay --

5 MR. KAHN: Can I just address

6 the --

7 HEARING OFFICER KIM: Yes,

8 that's fine. And the first card that I

9 have is for Jonathan Kahn, who, I believe,

10 is with Ford Heights Ethanol.

11 MR. KAHN: Good evening. My

12 name is Jonathan Kahn. I'm the president

13 of Ford Heights Ethanol, LLC.

14 With me tonight I have asked my

15 permittee consultant, Weaver Boos

16 Consulting, as well as my attorney from

17 Mayer, Brown, Rowe to attend and help

18 answer any questions.

19 A year ago Ford Heights Ethanol

20 applied to the Illinois EPA for an air

21 pollution control permit to build a

22 60 million gallon dry mill ethanol

1 facility in Ford Heights. Our
2 applications was prepared by Weaver Boos
3 Consultants, one of the environmental
4 consulting firms on ethanol plant
5 pollution controls in the State of
6 Illinois.

7 Over the last year, I know that the
8 Illinois EPA has scrutinized our permit
9 application. The permit that has been
10 proposed by Illinois is rigorous and has many
11 safeguards to ensure that the air emissions
12 and odors from the plant be controlled by
13 state of the art technology.

14 While this is a tough permit, Ford
15 Heights Ethanol is committed to constructing
16 and operating its plant within the Illinois
17 EPA's proposed emission limits.

18 We chose to build this plant in Ford
19 Heights because this is an excellent location
20 for an ethanol plant based on the rail and
21 highway access and Ford Heights' proximity to
22 corn production for our ethanol feed stock and

1 the oil refineries for blending our ethanol
2 with gasoline.

3 Over the last year, I have met with the
4 mayor of Ford Heights, Saul Beck, and other
5 representatives and members of the Ford
6 Heights community who are excited about the
7 construction of this plant and the jobs and
8 economic benefits this plant will bring to the
9 Ford Heights community, Cook County, and the
10 State of Illinois.

11 To provide assurance that our plant
12 will not have an adverse environmental impact
13 on the Ford Heights community, Ford Heights
14 Ethanol has gone beyond what is normally done
15 in the construction permit application process
16 for a minor emission source. Using parameters
17 provided by the Illinois EPA, we have modeled
18 the air pollutants that will be emitted by the
19 plant and the impact of those pollutants in
20 the area. That modeling demonstrates that any
21 emissions of hazardous air pollutants from the
22 plant will be extremely small and will not

1 have an adverse impact on residents in the
2 area.

3 We are pleased to be working with the
4 Ford Heights community.

5 We are also excited about building a
6 plant that will produce a renewable,
7 clean-burning fuel that will build the local
8 economy while reducing our country's reliance
9 on foreign oil.

10 I would like to thank the Illinois EPA
11 for the care and effort it has taken in this
12 permit process. We request that Illinois EPA
13 move quickly following this hearing to issue
14 this construction permit, and allow Ford
15 Heights Ethanol to commence construction
16 during the construction season.

17 Thank you very much.

18 HEARING OFFICER KIM: Thank you.

19 And I neglected to mention,
20 although, it's probably obvious now that
21 if anyone does wish to speak or ask
22 questions, we would ask that you come up

1 to the front and speak into the microphone
2 so that everybody can hear, and so that
3 the court reporter can hear you as well.

4 MS. SHARKEY: Mr. Kim.

5 MR. KAHN: Yes.

6 MS. SHARKEY: If I might, we
7 wanted to put a couple of letters in the
8 record. Is this a good time to do that?

9 HEARING OFFICER KIM: Sure.

10 MS. SHARKEY: My name is Pat
11 Sharkey. I'm the attorney representing
12 Ford Heights Ethanol, LLC. And I am
13 offering into the record at this time a
14 letter from the office of the mayor,
15 Honorable Saul L. Berk, in support of the
16 Ford Ethanol facility -- Ford Heights
17 Ethanol facility. And a letter from
18 Senator Debbie Halvorson, majority leader,
19 also supporting the Ford Heights Ethanol
20 facility.

21 HEARING OFFICER KIM: Thank you.

22 I will mark the letter from

1 Mayor Beck as Exhibit Number 4. And I
2 will mark the letter from Senator
3 Halvorson as Exhibits Number 5.

4 (The document were so marked
5 Exhibit Nos. 4 and 5.)

6 The next speaker I have a card
7 for is Cornell Hudson.

8 MR. HUDSON: Good evening. My
9 name is Cornell Hudson, and I'm with the
10 University of Illinois Extension. And I
11 also am in support of the project -- or in
12 support of anything that's doing any kind
13 of economic or community development here
14 in the Village of Ford Heights.

15 The university has taken on some
16 of the concerns and issues of the
17 community, and we are trying to help in
18 that. And we think this is a good way of
19 trying to do that. I do have maybe a
20 question or two.

21 Mr. Kahn, you mentioned, build
22 the local economy. What does that mean,

1 or can you expound on that?

2 MR. KAHN: Thank you for that
3 question.

4 This project will cost
5 approximately \$130 million to construct.
6 We plan on having 35 full-time jobs at the
7 ethanol plant once completed. And during
8 the approximate 18 month construction
9 period, we see there being upwards of 200
10 jobs for construction.

11 The local economy will benefit
12 in many ways. There will be workers,
13 people in this community, Ford Heights
14 having another viable business will be
15 endeavoring to do as much business as
16 possible with the local community when
17 possible, as well as to meet the needs of
18 the ethanol plant.

19 The growth of the tax rate,
20 while we can't give you exact revenue
21 figures, we know it will directly benefit
22 Ford Heights. We know that people coming

1 into the community need to eat. They need
2 to sometimes stay. We'll have people
3 visiting, who will be needing to use
4 restaurants.

5 We endeavor to hire as many
6 people as we can who have qualifications
7 to work here. And we will, you know, be
8 looking to support the community.

9 This will be over a \$100 million
10 a year revenue business, which can only
11 have positive impacts on the community.

12 MR. HUDSON: Thank you.

13 THE COURT REPORTER: Will you
14 spell your first name, please.

15 MR. HUDSON: Cornell Hudson,
16 C-O-R-N-E-L-L, H-U-D-S-O-N.

17 Miss Sharkey, you mentioned that
18 you had the support of Senator Halvorson.
19 This is not in her district. What about
20 the support of Senator Meeks.

21 MR. KAHN: I think I will try to
22 answer that.

1 Senator Halvorson has been in
2 direct conversation with Senator Meeks
3 about this. We had tried to get on his
4 agenda on my recent visit to Springfield,
5 and I have yet to meet with him recently.
6 We had reached out to him several years
7 ago, and he had indicated verbally the
8 support for this project.

9 And we plan on meeting with the
10 Senator and updating him once this permit
11 has been received.

12 MR. HUDSON: Okay. Thank you.

13 HEARING OFFICER KIM: Thank you.

14 The next card I have is for
15 Keith Harley.

16 MR. HARLEY: For the record, my
17 name is Keith Harley, H-A-R-L-E-Y.

18 Mr. Hearing Officer, I'm here
19 tonight on behalf of a group called South
20 Suburban Citizens Opposed to Polluting the
21 Environment. Some members of
22 S.S.-C.O.P.E. may also testify as

1 individuals.

2 In order to prepare for
3 tonight's hearing on behalf of
4 S.S.-C.O.P.E., I submitted a Freedom of
5 Information Act request. And actually
6 looked at the application, which was filed
7 by Ford Heights Ethanol, LLC.

8 Like others here tonight, we
9 reviewed the draft permit. It was
10 actually on behalf of S.S.-C.O.P.E. that
11 we made the request that there be a public
12 hearing as part of this permit.

13 We will submit written comments,
14 Mr. Hearing Officer. I would like tonight
15 to briefly address three issues that we
16 believe are significant omissions in the
17 permit.

18 The first issue that we wish to
19 address is the issue of the odor from the
20 ethanol plant. Unlike, its rural
21 counterparts, Ford Heights Ethanol will
22 exist in very close proximity, across

1 fence lines from residential areas,
2 schools, health clinics, parks or
3 community center, whether you are for this
4 facility or against this facility, no one
5 would want to see a facility constructed
6 which may be a source of odor,
7 substantial, unreasonable interference
8 with people's enjoyment of their property.

9 Therefore, we have a very
10 practical set of suggestions related to
11 odor management as it may be incorporated
12 into the permit.

13 The first thing, Mr. Hearing
14 Officer, that I would like to call the
15 agency's attention to is that under
16 Illinois law, the definition of
17 contaminant includes odors. And the air
18 pollution definition includes the presence
19 of a contaminant-like odor, such that it
20 injures life, health or property or
21 unreasonably interferes with the enjoyment
22 of property.

1 In fact, Mr. Hearing Officer, it
2 is illegal to construct, install or
3 operate a facility which either alone or
4 in combination with other sources would
5 cause an air pollutant like an odor which
6 would unfeasibly interfere with people's
7 ability to enjoy and use their property.

8 There is a basis in Illinois law
9 for odor to be addressed in the permit,
10 but the construction permit does not
11 address odor at all.

12 Consequently, we would strongly
13 recommend that the agency develop an odor
14 management plan for this facility, which
15 would identify all potential sources of
16 odor, which could come from this ethanol
17 facility, and control measures that should
18 be required in order to minimize the
19 likelihood that there would be a release
20 odor into surrounding residential
21 communities.

22 We would recommend that there

1 would be a contact person identified with
2 the company who would be available on a
3 regular basis on an ongoing 24/7 basis to
4 respond to and immediately resolved
5 complaints.

6 The reason for doing this is
7 because the alternative is not pleasant to
8 contemplate. As you know, the agency is
9 under an obligation to investigate all
10 complaints that it receives from members
11 of the public. Odor complaints from an
12 ethanol facility near to a residential
13 area make this a very real possibility.

14 It is also possible that the
15 nuisance could rise to such a level that
16 it would pose a substantial and
17 unreasonable interference with people's
18 use and enjoyment of their property.
19 Therefore, we think it would be very
20 valuable and would be a way to anticipate
21 and resolve any conflict to create an odor
22 management plan, and to make it intrinsic

1 within the permit.

2 The second issue that I would
3 like to address, which we believe to be an
4 omission in the permit relates to
5 start-up/shutdown malfunction and repair
6 provisions of the permit. The permit
7 actually anticipates that excess emissions
8 may occur from this facility during
9 periods when it is starting up, shutting
10 down, while it's malfunctioning or under a
11 period of repair.

12 It requires the operator to
13 report these excess emissions to the
14 agency, but it does not impose numeric or
15 temporal limits on emissions during these
16 periods.

17 It does not require the owner or
18 operator to recalculate annual emission
19 increases attributable to excess
20 emissions, occurred during these
21 start-up/shutdown periods. Consequently,
22 in this key matter, there is no practical

1 enforceability of annual emission limits
2 or credible determination of potential PSD
3 or NSR major source applicability.

4 Consequently, because emissions
5 during start-up/shutdown malfunction
6 repair are not numerically or temporarily
7 limited, the annual emission limits are
8 practicably unenforceable, and the permit
9 as written violates the Clean Air Act,
10 regulations and the stated limitation
11 plan. And should be challenged as a CIP
12 violation, if not remedied in the final
13 permit.

14 Finally, Mr. Hearing Officer,
15 with your indulgence, I would like to
16 address one other issue related to this
17 permit, and that is the issue of
18 environmental justice.

19 Many of the requirements in the
20 draft permit originate in this state
21 implementation plan, the agreement between
22 U.S. EPA and Illinois EPA to meet air

1 standards that originate in the Clean Air
2 Act. Illinois EPA is the recipient of
3 federal dollars, and therefore is subject
4 to Title 6 of the Civil Rights Act. To
5 ensure that the issuance of this permit
6 does not result in a significant adverse
7 disproportionate impact on the minority
8 community either alone or in combination
9 with other sources.

10 Therefore, we would request that
11 as part of the responsiveness summary, the
12 agency would clearly indicate how it has
13 evaluated the cumulative impact of this
14 source. While we understand that the
15 regional air impacts may be incremental
16 and small, the local impacts could still
17 be significant especially in light of
18 other existing sources.

19 This is true not only for
20 hazardous air pollutants, it is also true
21 as mentioned for odors. It may be true
22 for particulate matter, and it may also be

1 true for diesel emissions from truck and
2 rail equipment, which is being directed
3 into Ford Heights as part of the
4 operations of these facility.

5 We would fully expect in its
6 responsiveness summary that Illinois EPA
7 demonstrate that it has fulfilled its
8 affirmative obligations to assess if there
9 is any significant adverse
10 disproportionate impact on the residents
11 of Ford Heights alone or in combination
12 with other sources.

13 Thank you very much for your
14 time tonight.

15 HEARING OFFICER KIM: Thank you.

16 The next speaker will be Keith
17 Kemp.

18 MR. KEMP: Good evening. My
19 name is Keith Kemp, K-E-M-P. I live in
20 Chicago Heights, Illinois.

21 And a as citizen, I'm also a
22 member of S.S.-C.O.P.E., by the way, as a

1 citizen of the neighborhood.

2 I'm very much concerned about
3 two issues. One of which is the host --
4 whether or not in the siting of this
5 facility, there was a host agreement with
6 Ford Heights? In many cases when a
7 development of this size, and with some of
8 the dangers it poses, were there any
9 guarantees with the City of Ford Heights
10 in terms of the facility?

11 HEARING OFFICER KIM: The
12 record --

13 MR. KEMP: In the siting
14 process, I assume, that the Illinois EPA
15 investigated whether or not the siting
16 process was completed satisfactorily. I
17 don't know how you approach these kinds of
18 facilities, but my concern is that this is
19 a major fuel processing facility in the
20 middle of a community with schools and so
21 forth being close-by, and that -- that the
22 siting itself would have had some

1 requirements.

2 Did the Illinois EPA -- do you know
3 whether the -- was the site changed? Was it
4 originally residential or -- prior to being
5 permitted?

6 MR. ROMAINE: We have not looked
7 at the zoning for the site. It is not
8 something that is within our jurisdiction.

9 MR. KEMP: Purview?

10 MR. ROMAINE: The facility has
11 to be developed in an area that is
12 appropriately zoned for the proposed use.

13 MR. KEMP: Okay.

14 MR. ROMAINE: And that is
15 something that Ford Heights must address
16 with the Village of Ford Heights.

17 MR. KEMP: Okay. In other
18 words, the Illinois EPA, you could put a
19 plant with the kinds of fuel that we're
20 talking about and the storage anywhere? I
21 mean, you don't have any restrictions in
22 terms of where --

1 MR. ROMAINE: In terms of our
2 permitting process --

3 MR. KEMP: Right.

4 MR. ROMAINE: -- we do not look
5 at local land use. Local land use is a
6 matter that is addressed by the local
7 government.

8 MR. KEMP: Okay.

9 HEARING OFFICER KIM: And just
10 to make the record clear here, and so
11 the -- when people are looking at this
12 later and to make some sense, you
13 raised -- you had some questions that you
14 directed to the representatives of Ford
15 Heights.

16 MR. KEMP: Right.

17 HEARING OFFICER KIM: And,
18 again, I want to know that anyone can ask
19 any questions of those representatives
20 that they like. They're certainly under
21 no obligation to answer. They can do so
22 if they like.

1 MR. KEMP: Right.

2 HEARING OFFICER KIM: But before
3 we go too far afield, I noticed that Miss
4 Sharkey stood up, so she had something she
5 wanted to say.

6 MS. SHARKEY: Yes. Thank you.

7 I think that Mr. Romaine
8 actually addressed it, and when you use
9 the term host agreement, we were a little
10 uncertain about what you meant, but I
11 think that this is not a facility that is
12 required to go through any state level
13 siting process.

14 MR. KEMP: Or county.

15 MS. SHARKEY: Or county.

16 It is a facility, however, that
17 is required to meet the zoning
18 requirements, and as Mr. Romaine said,
19 that's not a state issue, but it's a local
20 issue. And, in fact, the zoning -- it
21 does meet the zoning requirements for
22 this --

1 MR. KEMP: So you could put an
2 oil refinery right in the middle of the
3 city, if you wanted to --

4 MS. SHARKEY: Not --

5 MR. KEMP: -- because there's no
6 state or federal or, apparently, EPA laws
7 regulating where the siting of such a
8 facility could be?

9 I have a follow-up question,
10 obviously.

11 MS. SHARKEY: Sure. I think the
12 answer is the one you have already gotten
13 is that local zoning controls the siting
14 of a minor emissions source such as this.

15 If you were talking about
16 something like a regional pollution
17 control facility, you might have a siting,
18 but this isn't that kind of facility. You
19 might have a statewide siting. This is
20 just subject to -- it is a manufacturing 1
21 zone, and that manufacturing 1 zone under
22 the zoning ordinance of the Village of

1 Ford Heights, authorizes ethanol
2 production storage and transportation as
3 well as bio-diesel production, storage and
4 transportation on this --

5 MR. KEMP: Bio-diesel
6 production?

7 MS. SHARKEY: Ethanol production
8 as well as bio-diesel.

9 MR. KEMP: And that's a local --

10 MS. SHARKEY: Yes. This is a
11 local ordinance of the Village of Ford
12 Heights.

13 MR. KEMP: Okay. A follow-up --
14 a follow-up to that, and the reason I
15 wanted to get to this point is that
16 60 million gallons of fuel is going to be
17 sitting in amongst the community right
18 here. And from just reading the permit,
19 the largest tank is 1,358,000 gallons of
20 ethanol. I assume, these are fairly
21 volatile products.

22 And I'm just curious with the

1 difficulties we have had in the past,
2 certainly with the tire burning
3 incinerator next door, in terms of fires,
4 et cetera, what kind of safety provision
5 for the citizens -- not just Ford Heights,
6 but Chicago Heights also because we are
7 right next door, across the street, in
8 fact, and have a major plant, has been
9 prepared in terms of safety? And is the
10 Illinois EPA responsible for that, or is
11 it just an issue that that's not
12 addressed?

13 MR. ROMAINE: It's not an issue
14 that the Illinois EPA is responsible for.
15 It is an issue that is addressed by other
16 authorities. It's addressed by local fire
17 protection, agency regional fire
18 protection agencies.

19 It's also addressed through the
20 design and operation of the plant as the
21 plant must be insured, and insurance
22 companies have very specific desires with

1 regard to the level of fire protection
2 that is included in the plants in terms of
3 hydrant systems, reserve, water supplies,
4 emergency water supplies.

5 MR. KEMP: Right.

6 MR. ROMAINE: Sprinkler systems.

7 So there is another venue in
8 which those issues are addressed. It is
9 not our area of responsibility.

10 MR. KEMP: Okay. So the safety
11 of the citizens, that is not your concern,
12 only the air pollution and water
13 pollution?

14 MR. ROMAINE: That's correct.

15 We address the issues of impact
16 on the environment, air pollution,
17 wastewater and ground water pollution.

18 MR. KEMP: And the floating
19 covers on these tanks, I don't know what
20 that all means, by the way. I'm not an
21 engineer, but that there's no pollution
22 that can escape from the tanks? They said

1 they have floating roofs.

2 MR. ROMAINE: No. The floating
3 roofs are a technique to reduce the
4 emissions -- the amount of ethanol that is
5 lost in the tanks.

6 MR. KEMP: From --

7 MR. ROMAINE: Yeah. The
8 floating roof is actually inside the shell
9 of the tank.

10 MR. KEMP: I see.

11 MR. ROMAINE: So if you think
12 about a conventional tank, you have an
13 exposed liquid surface that through the
14 vents at the top or side of the tank is
15 exposed to direct to the atmosphere.

16 And with a floating roof tank,
17 there is actually an -- it says, floating
18 roof that floats on the surface of the
19 liquid that prevents the liquid from being
20 exposed directly to the atmosphere, except
21 for what leakage occurs around the edge of
22 the floating roof.

1 MR. KEMP: Okay.

2 MR. ROMAINE: It's a common
3 technique that's used for minimizing
4 emissions.

5 MR. KEMP: Just the point being
6 that people live real close-by. My
7 neighbors, I'm concerned that the safety
8 of such a large facility with that kind of
9 volatile product is this close and being
10 permitted.

11 Thank you.

12 HEARING OFFICER KIM: Thank you.

13 The next speaker is Veria Ely.
14 And I apologize if I mispronounced your
15 name.

16 MS. ELY: Good evening. My name
17 is Veria Ely, and I get that all the time.
18 I'm the --

19 THE COURT REPORTER: Would you
20 spell your name, please.

21 MS. ELY: V-E-R-I-A, E-L-Y.

22 I'm the community development

1 director, and represent the Village of
2 Ford Heights here tonight.

3 In the absence of Mayor Saul
4 Beck, he wanted me to express the full
5 support of the board and the citizens for
6 this project. I have been asked to submit
7 a letter, but the letter has already been
8 submitted. So I will not resubmit that
9 letter. But there are a number of issues
10 that I would like to just pinpoint from
11 the letter in reference.

12 Ford Heights is being targeted
13 as a plant that needs to overcome more
14 significant hurdles than other ethanol
15 plants in the state. Because it is
16 located in a low income area that has
17 potential for environmental justice
18 claims.

19 Now, Mr. Hurley had spoken
20 earlier, and he mentioned that he felt
21 that this was a project that was actually
22 fitting for environmental justice. But

1 the Village itself does not feel that this
2 is environmental justice. The treatment
3 is being fair, and we know that the
4 project -- the safety of the project is
5 being secured. We have been told that the
6 project has been operated in other
7 communities, and we don't feel that there
8 is a danger to the residents of this
9 community.

10 And we think that the driving
11 development of this particular plant is
12 not whether or not the area is
13 economically depressed, it is the access
14 to railroad and highways, utilities and
15 other corn supplies of the end users.

16 Moreover, we support this
17 project wholeheartedly, and we urge EPA to
18 accept the application so that the permit
19 can go forward, and that the development
20 can commence.

21 Thank you for your time.

22 HEARING OFFICER KIM: And before

1 you go, the letter that was submitted --
2 and I apologize for not identifying this.
3 The letter that was submitted by Miss
4 Sharkey from Mayor Beck is a letter dated
5 July 25, 2006. I have also received a
6 letter, which is already in the file, but,
7 I believe, this is the letter you're
8 referring to, a more recent letter which
9 was addressed to me as the hearing officer
10 from Mayor Beck and that letter is dated
11 May 7th, 2007.

12 MS. ELY: That's correct.

13 HEARING OFFICER KIM: Okay. So
14 what I will do then -- just so that it is
15 clear is I will add that letter formally
16 as another exhibit, so that will now be
17 Exhibit Number 6.

18 (The documents were so marked
19 Exhibit Number 6.)

20 So the exhibit number -- just to
21 be clear, Exhibit Number 4 is the letter
22 from Mayor Beck, which is dated July 25,

1 2006. Exhibit Number 6 will be the letter
2 from Mayor Beck, which is dated May 7,
3 2007.

4 MS. ELY: Thank you.

5 HEARING OFFICER KIM: Thank you.

6 The next speaker is Charles
7 Dieringer, Jr.

8 MR. DIERINGER: Good evening.

9 Charles Dieringer, D as in, David,
10 I-E-R-I-N-G-E-R, Chicago Heights resident.
11 A member of the Thorn Creek Eco System
12 Partnership and the Sierra Club.

13 I recently had a letter
14 published in the Star Newspaper about my
15 concerns about this plant. Mainly,
16 there's a few. And the first instance is
17 the fact that it's going to use about a
18 billion cubic feet of our natural gas a
19 year.

20 And I know what happened this
21 last winter. I mean, we had tremendous
22 spikes in our heating supply. And this is

1 certainly not going to help that unless
2 they agree to curtail maybe during those
3 particular months. I mean, that probably
4 could be one way to get around that. But
5 we have limited pipe line supplies for
6 natural gas. And I think some other form
7 of energy should be considered for this
8 plant.

9 We have a tire burner down the
10 street here burning rubber tires. I
11 understand in talking to some of the other
12 members, it's not functioning at
13 100 percent. Maybe 50 percent, but
14 there's a source of fuel to operate this
15 plant.

16 Looking at what Indiana is doing
17 in terms of ethanol plants, they're going
18 to use garbage instead of corn. I mean,
19 that's what they're talking about right
20 over here in Lake County. I mean, when we
21 get on the corn issue, every farmer around
22 here is growing all kinds of corn, and

1 we're depleting our soils. And we are
2 creating -- well, if we have a drought
3 this year, we may not have enough corn to
4 feed ourselves.

5 And it's -- having paid 50-cents
6 an ear for sweet corn last week, it sort
7 of rings a bell. And I have heard also
8 even this morning that the price of meet
9 has gone up in restaurants. A steak
10 dinner now costs a couple dollars more.
11 And so there is a need for corn.

12 And I don't know that using it
13 for ethanol purposes is constructive, but
14 these are not only my ideas, 20/20 and
15 John Stossel did a report on this, pretty
16 lengthy, about a month before your --
17 about the time when your notice came out.
18 And there's a tremendous subsidy --
19 federal subsidy driving this. And it's
20 not -- doesn't appear to be very cost
21 effective.

22 So I'm -- and it seems to be a

1 pretty well documented report. I'm going
2 to submit that tonight because I would
3 like some response. If John Stossel and
4 his research is bogus, I would like
5 somebody from the Illinois EPA to address
6 that because they have named the various
7 universities that have looked into the
8 cost and production issues on ethanol.
9 And I do think there's better ways of
10 going about it.

11 And I would like to see that
12 plant here, but I would like to see it not
13 have an impact upon our economy and the
14 rest of the residents.

15 Other than that, I have one
16 other issue. And carbon dioxide -- and I
17 did look the report over. Thank you for
18 keeping me on your mailing list. It's in
19 the Chicago Heights Library.

20 Carbon dioxide is an option that
21 the plant is going to be monitoring, but
22 they're not going to deal with.

1 And I don't remember how many
2 tons of carbon dioxide a year, but that's
3 sort of a hot button right now with global
4 warming. And I do think that's something
5 that ought to be considered -- at least
6 the cost of it ought to be considered.
7 Maybe they would get a tax break for
8 considering it, but I think that's an
9 issue we need to really be conscientious
10 of, and not be behind the times.

11 Thank you, very much.

12 HEARING OFFICER KIM: Do you
13 have --

14 MR. DIERINGER: Yeah, I'm going
15 to give you a copy, the front page is the
16 letter, and the back page is the report
17 that I received from 20/20. I did
18 research on it.

19 HEARING OFFICER KIM: Okay.

20 MR. DIERINGER: Thank you.

21 HEARING OFFICER KIM: Thank you.

22 I'm going to mark this as two

1 separate exhibits, actually, because it's
2 a two-sided copy.

3 So Exhibit Number 7 will be a
4 letter, I believe, from Mr. Dieringer to
5 members of the Thorn Creek Eco System
6 Partnership.

7 MR. DERRINGER: It was published
8 in the Star Newspaper.

9 HEARING OFFICER KIM: It was
10 published in the Star Newspaper. It will
11 be Exhibit Number 7.

12 (The document was so marked
13 Exhibit Number 7.)

14 You don't happen to know the
15 date of the publication; do you?

16 MR. DERRINGER: Yes, I will have
17 that in a second.

18 HEARING OFFICER KIM: That's
19 fine. Exhibit Number 8 then will be a --

20 MR. DIERINGER: May 27.

21 HEARING OFFICER KIM: And
22 Exhibit Number 8 will be another document

1 submitted by Mr. Dieringer, which relates
2 to some information that was -- is this --

3 MR. DIERINGER: I found it.

4 HEARING OFFICER KIM: It's a
5 report via 20/20 about this issue.

6 (The document was so marked
7 Exhibit Number 8.)

8 MR. DERRINGER: Okay. Thank
9 you.

10 HEARING OFFICER KIM: Thank you.

11 The next speaker is Jimmy
12 Watson.

13 MR. WATSON: My name is Jimmy
14 Watson, citizen of the Village of Ford
15 Heights. W-A-T-S-O-N.

16 I stand here in support of this
17 ethanol plant because I think that the
18 auto -- excuse me -- the auto industry,
19 along with the Village of Ford Heights
20 will be able to use ethanol to cut down
21 the supply of natural gas that we use from
22 overseas, and it not only will benefit the

1 Village of Ford Heights, it will also
2 benefit the plant across the street, which
3 is Ford, which is now in the process of
4 testing ethanol used vehicles.

5 So as a citizen of Ford Heights,
6 I wholeheartedly support this endeavor.

7 HEARING OFFICER KIM: Thank you.

8 And the last card that I have is
9 for an individual who wishes to speak is
10 for Ladell Jones, who is not present.

11 MS. KEMP: I handed in a card.

12 HEARING OFFICER KIM: Oh, I'm
13 sorry. I don't have that.

14 MS. KEMP: Katherine Kemp.

15 HEARING OFFICER KIM: I
16 apologize. I don't have that card. Is
17 Mister -- is Mr. Jones present?

18 MR. KEMP: I think Mr. Frost
19 doesn't like me.

20 MR. FROST: You didn't mark that
21 you wanted to speak.

22 MS. KEMP: I didn't understand

1 that. I thought if I filled out a card, I
2 would get to do that.

3 HEARING OFFICER KIM: All right.

4 So Mr. Jones is not here.

5 MR. NORWOOD: I filled out a
6 card.

7 HEARING OFFICER KIM: Mr.
8 Norwood?

9 MR. NORWOOD: Yes.

10 HEARING OFFICER KIM: Okay.
11 Let's -- we'll start with Miss Kemp, and
12 then we'll go to Mr. Norwood.

13 So next would be Katherine Kemp.

14 MS. KEMP: Katherine Kemp,
15 K-E-M-P. I live in Chicago Heights, and
16 I'm also a member of S.S.-C.O.P.E.

17 And my concerns through all
18 these battles and incinerators and
19 different polluting facilities have been
20 for the health of the children who live in
21 the area.

22 And I'm still worried about that

1 children's health systems and metabolic
2 systems are different from adults. And so
3 I am concerned about what effect the
4 health of the children will be in this
5 neighborhood from this facility. And I'm
6 particularly concerned about what will
7 happen when the emissions are combined
8 with other emissions in this area,
9 particularly, the tire plant, which it's
10 my understanding has never really been in
11 compliance.

12 So somebody who is really
13 serious about the concerns of the children
14 in this neighborhood, I think, really
15 needs to take a look at this. And I hope
16 that would be done, but I don't have much
17 faith.

18 HEARING OFFICER KIM: Thank you.

19 The next speaker then would be
20 Leon Norwood.

21 MR. NORWOOD: Leon Norwood, Park
22 Forest and Chicago Heights.

1 My concern is -- I'm not against
2 the plant, but I got a lot of concerns,
3 say, for instance, when you have an
4 emergency, you have an explosion or an
5 emergency situation in Ford Heights, and
6 they do happen.

7 Is there an emergency in place
8 were we can get the citizens out?
9 Somewhere for the citizens to go?

10 Just -- say, like, if you have a
11 big fire or something, is there somewhere
12 where you can get the citizens out, enough
13 equipment, ambulance or whatever, the
14 emergency equipment to get the people out?

15 MR. ROMAINE: I guess, that's
16 not something that's within my expertise
17 in terms of emergency management. It's
18 not a topic that's addressed as part of
19 this permitting process.

20 MR. NORWOOD: But it should be.
21 When you're talking about fuel, you have
22 to have some kind of emergency just in

1 case something happen.

2 And another thing, most of the
3 fire departments in Ford Heights have been
4 volunteer. Is this company going to build
5 a permanent fire station and have
6 permanent fireworkers in the City of Ford
7 Heights, because they're really need it?
8 If you're going to have that much fuel
9 around, you need a permanent fire station.

10 If this company can support a
11 fire station -- build a fire station when
12 they're building that plant, and have
13 people on staff, that would be a great
14 need for the City of Ford Heights.

15 MR. ROMAINE: Again, fire
16 protection is not something that's address
17 by the Illinois EPA permitting process.
18 We have a number of ethanol plants that
19 are going in rural communities that also
20 rely on volunteer fire departments. They
21 also have inter-cooperative agreements
22 with other communities as needed to assist

1 in fire protection and fighting activities
2 at ethanol plants.

3 MR. NORWOOD: Okay. What about
4 the route? What route is they going to
5 use? Because, I know, Ford Heights, they
6 need new sewer lines, new asphalt, new
7 concrete. And you got to have the right
8 route and the right concrete and the right
9 roads to support that kind of traffic
10 coming in and out. And the traffic
11 pattern has to be safe from the citizens
12 of Ford Heights.

13 MR. ROMAINE: Is that something
14 that Ford Heights would like to address?

15 MR. KAHN: I don't know if you
16 have other questions?

17 MR. NORWOOD: No, but I would
18 like to address that.

19 MR. PERDUE: My name is Andy
20 Perdue. I'm with Weaver Boos Consultants
21 working with Ford Heights Ethanol.

22 The truck routes that will come

1 in through the plant -- well, product will
2 be shipped two ways in and out of the
3 plant, by rail extensively to the extent
4 that we can, and the balance by truck.
5 So --

6 MR. NORWOOD: I worry about the
7 trucks.

8 MR. PERDUE: What we will be
9 using is existing 80,000 pound truck
10 routes, which would be 30 and Cottage
11 Grove Avenue. So the desire would be to
12 come through off 394, 30 to the plant here
13 or from the south. To not utilize village
14 streets or anything that would be in a
15 residential neighborhood for truck
16 traffic.

17 MR. NORWOOD: Okay.

18 THE COURT REPORTER: Spell your
19 name, please.

20 MR. PERDUE: It's Andrew,
21 A-N-D-R-E-W, Perdue, P-E-R-D-U-E.

22 MR. NORWOOD: Okay. One more

1 question.

2 When you said -- what is it, a
3 flat roof? What kind of roof did you say
4 it was, the type?

5 MR. ROMAINE: A floating roof.

6 MR. NORWOOD: Oh, a floating
7 roof.

8 MR. ROMAINE: An internal
9 floating roof tank.

10 MR. NORWOOD: Okay. Now, when
11 you say, a floating roof, what that
12 consists of a floating roof? How do the
13 emissions -- I know you say creep up, but
14 how do they creep up? How you going to
15 keep all the pollution -- I give you a for
16 instance.

17 In the south suburbs when it get
18 cold, when it rain and stuff like this
19 here, if you got a floating roof, the
20 companies is known for opening up their
21 vents and whoever the floating roof, and
22 let excess fumes out because of the

1 weather conditions.

2 Who going to be watching when
3 it's snow or raining or when it get real
4 cold, and you got this big smell? Who
5 going to be in charge of that operation?
6 Who going to monitor that and make sure
7 that that does not happen?

8 MR. ROMAINE: Our experience is
9 that floating roofs are routinely and
10 reliably operated. I'm not familiar with
11 the circumstances that you're describing.
12 That the roof is enclosed within what
13 would normally look like a regular tank,
14 and isn't feasible for the manager -- the
15 operator of a facility interfere with the
16 operation of the floating roof.

17 MR. NORWOOD: The reason I bring
18 this up is because you can come down Route
19 30, and as soon as you hit Cottage Grove
20 on a real cool day or a snowy or rainy
21 day, you can see all pollution coming down
22 30 from all the different plants just up

1 in the air. And that's been a big problem
2 in the south suburbs, especially in
3 Chicago Heights and Ford Heights.

4 And I hate to see ethanol fuel
5 polluting the air. And when they come
6 down on the ground when it rainy and
7 anything else, all that stuff going to
8 fall down on the ground. I just wish you
9 had somebody to monitor that operation for
10 safety of the citizens of Ford Heights.

11 Thank you.

12 MS. SHARKEY: We can respond to
13 that.

14 HEARING OFFICER KIM: Okay.
15 Sure.

16 MR. PERDUE: On the leak
17 detection issue -- again, this is Andy
18 Perdue.

19 The permittee is subject to a
20 leak detection and a reporting program.
21 It's administered by the federal
22 government.

1 So the plant itself is required
2 to monitor all the different valves and
3 flanges and connection points that will
4 have volatile liquids that will go through
5 them on a regular basis. So that will be
6 done and inherent to the permit and part
7 of the plant operation.

8 MR. NORWOOD: Okay. Thank you.

9 MS. STEIHOOR: Beth Steihour,
10 S-T-E-I-H-O-U-R.

11 Also, the aboveground storage
12 tanks that will be installed at the
13 facility, the design -- all of those tanks
14 will be in a secondary containment burn.
15 And that containment burn, and the design
16 of those tanks will have to go through
17 permitting through the office of the state
18 fire marshal.

19 So the office of the state fire
20 marshal, you will obtain the permit
21 approving the design and the containment,
22 and they will have to come out and approve

1 that before you even start-up operation of
2 those tanks.

3 And then whenever they load out
4 to vehicles from those tanks, the
5 emissions will be flared through a flare
6 system to control them.

7 MR. NORWOOD: Okay. Can I ask
8 her a question?

9 HEARING OFFICER KIM: Sure.

10 MR. NORWOOD: Okay. One of the
11 questions I asked earlier was about a fire
12 station. When you all is building this
13 new company, could you all see that the
14 City of Ford Heights have a brand new
15 facility with a full staff?

16 MR. PERDUE: I can answer.

17 MR. NORWOOD: Because they need
18 it. With that kind of fuel, you need a
19 fire station.

20 MR. PERDUE: I will have to
21 defer that question to Jonathan, but one
22 thing I did want to answer was that the

1 fire system, one of the other components
2 of the plant that will have to be designed
3 and constructed with it is a dedicated
4 fire system specific to the ethanol
5 facility.

6 And it's mainly mandated by the
7 financial institutions, the insurance
8 company that will provide coverage for the
9 plant that there is adequate protection
10 on-site to self-contain any fire issues
11 that may come up. So the capacity will be
12 there at the facility.

13 MR. NORWOOD: Okay. Well, I'm a
14 member of the S.S.-C.O.P.E., and we will
15 be watching.

16 Thank you.

17 HEARING OFFICER KIM: Thank you.

18 I have another card. And,
19 again, this is the last card that I have
20 right now. Jimmy Viverette.

21 MR. VIVERETTE: Good evening,
22 panel. My name is Jimmy Viverette. I'm a

1 village trustee of Ford Heights. V, as in
2 victory, I-V-E-R-E-T-T-E.

3 On behalf of our Mayor Saul
4 Beck, I'd just like to say to the panel
5 that the mayor and the board of trustees
6 has reviewed this package, and along
7 with -- along with -- Ford Heights, we
8 have reviewed this package.

9 We can assure our residents in
10 the Village of Ford Heights, as well as
11 the EPA, as well as our surrounding areas,
12 Park Forest, Sauk Village, Chicago
13 Heights, that we will make sure that every
14 I and T and dot before this plant is
15 built. We will make sure that the safety
16 of our residents and surrounding areas
17 come first.

18 Also, we will have a designated
19 area if anything should happen. We'll be
20 building our fire department. So we just
21 want to ensure -- and we definitely
22 support this plant.

1 That's all I have to say.

2 HEARING OFFICER KIM: Thank you.

3 Are there any other members of
4 the public or any other representatives
5 that would like to make a statement at
6 this time?

7 (No response.)

8 And, again, I'll remind you that
9 if you decide after this hearing that you
10 have some comment that you would like to
11 make that you just didn't get a chance to
12 think of tonight and that you wanted to
13 look into, you can send that in as a
14 written comment. And I'll repeat that
15 information again, and that will be
16 considered as part of the record when
17 we -- as part of our permit review process
18 when we issue our final decision.

19 Seeing that there are no other
20 members of the public with questions or
21 comments, we will -- I will bring this
22 hearing to a close.

1 I would like to, again, remind
2 everyone that the comment period for the
3 record in this matter closes on June 26th,
4 2007. Therefore, any written comments
5 must be postmarked before midnight on
6 June 26th and sent to me to be accepted as
7 part of the record.

8 Again, my address is John Kim,
9 Hearing Officer, Illinois EPA, 1021 North
10 Grand Avenue East, P.O. Box 19276,
11 Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276. It's a
12 very long address.

13 Copies of this transcript of the
14 hearing tonight will be made available on
15 the Illinois EPA web site as soon as we
16 obtain a copy from the court reporter, and
17 as soon as we're able to put that onto the
18 internet.

19 The Illinois EPA's web site -- I
20 did not mention that -- is
21 www.epa.state.il.us, and that will take
22 you to our home page. And there are links

1 on the side of that page to take you to
2 the public notices and the public hearing
3 section of the web site.

4 Any copies of the exhibits that
5 I have identified tonight are available
6 upon request. You can direct that request
7 to my attention. And, again, we do some
8 copies of those documents on the front
9 table.

10 The time is now approximately
11 8:05 p.m.

12 And, again, seeing that there
13 are no other comments or questions that
14 need to be made, we will now adjourn this
15 hearing.

16 I would like to thank you all
17 very much for your participation.

18 (The hearing in the
19 above-entitled matter
20 concluded at approximately
21 8:05 p.m.)

22

1 (Which were all the
2 proceedings had in the
3 above-entitled matter.)
4

5 C E R T I F I C A T E

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

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

18

19 Dated this 24th day of June, 2007.

20

21

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Gay Dall, CSR & RPR

