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COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEARING
RE: WHEELABRATOR, SAUGUS**

**EXTENSION OF PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD
ON PROVISIONAL DECISION**

RE: SAUGUS - Solid Waste Management
Wheelabrator Saugus, Inc. Ash Landfill
100 Salem Turnpike
FMF#: 39704
PWP SW11/Landfills - Major Modification
Transmittal Number: X271439

PRESENT FOR DEP BOARD:

MARK FAIRBROTHER, Hearing Officer,
Solid Waste Section Chief, NERO

ERIC WORRALL, Regional Director, Mass DEP, NERO

SUSAN RUCH, Deputy Regional Director,
Bureau of Air & Waste, NERO

RICK SPIELER, Environmental Engineer,
Bureau of Air & Waste, NERO

ROBERT BROWN, Mass DEP's Office of General Counsel

ANTHONY VALU, Mass DEP's Office of Municipal Partnerships
and Governmental Affairs

ED COLETTA, Mass DEP's Public Affairs Office

PRESENT FOR WHEELABRATOR:

Michelle Firmbauch Nadeau
Jim Connolly
Jack Walsh

Thursday, November 30, 2017, 6:50 p.m.

Held at:
Saugus High School
Pierce Memorial Drive
Saugus, MA 01906

CDA CONNOR & DESMARAIS AGENCY

517 Walnut Street, Saugus, MA 01906 (781) 231-0900

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P R O C E E D I N G S

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MR. FAIRBROTHER: Good evening.

I hope you can all hear me. Welcome. I declare this hearing open at 6:50 p.m. on November 30th, 2017 in Saugus, Massachusetts, here at the Saugus High School.

This hearing is being conducted by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Air and Waste, the Northeast Regional Office.

My name is Mark Fairbrother, the Solid Waste Section Chief for the Department and the Northeast Regional Office. I will be serving as the Hearing Officer for this hearing.

Sitting with me on the panel tonight is Eric Worrall, the Regional Director for the Mass DEP, Northeast Regional Office. We will refer to that as NERO.

Also, Susan Ruch, Deputy Regional Director for the Bureau of Air and Waste in Mass DEP's NERO Office, and Rick Spieler, Environmental Engineer for the Bureau of Air and Waste,

1 also from NERO.

2 In the audience is Robert Brown
3 from Mass DEP's Office of General Counsel,
4 Anthony Valu from Mass DEP's Office of
5 Municipal Partnerships and Governmental
6 Affairs, and Ed Coletta from Mass DEP's
7 Public Affairs Office.

8 The purpose of this hearing is to
9 allow an opportunity for interested persons
10 to provide comment to Mass DEP regarding a
11 provisional decision which Mass DEP issued,
12 for public comment on November 1st, 2017.

13 The provisional decision concerns
14 the application filed by Wheelabrator Saugus,
15 Incorporated for a major permit modification
16 relating to the placement of additional fill
17 in two valleys on the landfill, and is
18 referred to as, "The Partial Valley Fill
19 Project." The landfill is located at 100
20 Salem Turnpike in Saugus, Massachusetts.

21 The proposed project falls within
22 the designation of a major modification of
23 the landfill under the solid waste
24 regulations at 310 CMR 19.

1 As such, Wheelabrator Saugus,
2 Incorporated submitted a major modification
3 application, the permit category BWP SW11.

4 Mass DEP's review of major
5 modifications to a landfill is governed by
6 310 CMR 19.033. This regulation allows
7 Mass DEP to either issue its permit decision
8 directly, or to issue a provisional decision
9 to provide the opportunity for any interested
10 persons to submit written comments on Mass
11 DEP's provisional decision.

12 A public hearing is not required
13 or expressly authorized by the regulations.
14 Nonetheless, Mass DEP announced, in a
15 memorandum issued on May 5th, 2017, that the
16 Department would issue any decision on the
17 application as a provisional decision for
18 public comment, and would hold a hearing
19 solely for the purpose of accepting comment
20 on any such provisional decision.

21 Mass DEP is maintaining an
22 interested persons list for this proposed
23 project, including every person who
24 identified himself or herself as such during

1 the 2016 MEFA process for the proposed
2 project, and those who have subsequently
3 identified themselves as interested persons.

4 Mass DEP sent an e-mail to
5 interested persons in May of 2017 to alert
6 them that Mass DEP had established a web page
7 for the proposed project and had posted the
8 application and the May 5th memo concerning
9 public review and the comment opportunities.

10 A notice of tonight's public
11 hearing was also sent directly to the
12 interested persons by e-mail, as well as to
13 the local Boards of Health in Saugus and
14 Revere. Notice of tonight's public hearing
15 was also provided with the provisional
16 decision itself and posted on Mass DEP's web
17 page.

18 The Department is conducting this
19 hearing as scheduled today, November 30th,
20 2017. The Department has extended the
21 comment period from Friday, December 1st, 2017
22 to Friday, January 12th, 2018 at 5:00 p.m.

23 Mass DEP will accept comments up to
24 that time. All oral comments tonight and all

1 written comments received during the public
2 comment period will be compiled in a response
3 to comment document, will become part of the
4 administrative record for a final decision on
5 the application.

6 Now, before comments are presented,
7 I have a few ministerial items. First, I ask
8 all present here tonight, did you fill out
9 the record of attendance slip indicating
10 your attendance and whether or not you wish
11 to testify tonight. If not, please do so.
12 There are sign-up slips at the table down
13 to the left of the stage.

14 Second, we ask that each of you
15 observe the following rules to insure that
16 each person has the opportunity to provide
17 comments, or his comments to Mass DEP without
18 interruption or disruption.

19 Please be quiet and polite when
20 others are commenting so that Mass DEP can
21 hear those comments. This hearing is not a
22 place tonight to debate or argue, but a place
23 for each person who wants to comment on the
24 provision decision to have her or his

1 comments heard by Mass DEP.

2 And finally, based on the number
3 of individuals who have indicated tonight
4 that they wish to provide oral comments, we
5 will need to limit each speaker's time to
6 three minutes to insure there will be time
7 for everyone who wants to speak.

8 Mass DEP understands that time
9 limits can be frustrating, and therefore,
10 we will hold each speaker to the stated limit
11 to insure everyone gets an equal opportunity.

12 I encourage everyone to use their
13 time to provide substantive comments on the
14 provisional decision to the Mass DEP panel.

15 At the end of the hearing, if
16 time allows, there may be an opportunity to
17 provide additional comments. Again, you
18 may also submit your comments in writing
19 from now through the close of business on
20 January 12th, 2018.

21 I will now ask anyone who wishes
22 to offer testimony to come forward when
23 called. We'll call you in groups of three
24 or four, and have you line up to the left

1 of the stage here, near the left wall.

2 We have microphones in the front to address
3 the panel.

4 When the commenter proceeding you
5 ends, please approach the microphone. Once
6 you reach the microphone, please identify
7 yourself by name and spell your name, please,
8 for the record. Also, please note any
9 organizational affiliation that you may have.

10 Also, please submit any comments --
11 any copies of written testimony you may have
12 to the panel before testifying.

13 I will now open testimony, and we
14 will begin with elected officials.

15 State Representative RoseLee
16 Vincent.

17 MS. VINCENT: Good evening.

18 MR. FAIRBROTHER: Welcome.

19 MS. VINCENT: My name is RoseLee
20 Vincent, R-O-S-E-L-E-E, V-I-N-C-E-N-T. I'm a
21 lifelong Revere resident, and I'm the State
22 Representative for Revere, Chelsea, and
23 Saugus.

24 I first want to thank DEP

1 Commissioner Suuberg for hosting this
2 meeting. It's the first time in twenty years
3 that my constituents and myself have had the
4 opportunity to voice their concerns about
5 Wheelabrator Saugus, and I appreciate your
6 taking this opportunity to speak to this.

7 The first thing I want to say is
8 that I am actively opposed to any further
9 expansion of Wheelabrator ash landfills.
10 We are told this is not an expansion,
11 however, how can 500,000 tons of toxic ash
12 added into a landfill not be considered an
13 expansion.

14 Especially concerning is the area
15 of the proposed expansion, the storm water
16 valleys. These are the last two remaining
17 valleys of the five that were put there for
18 storm water drainage coastal flooding. The
19 other three have already been filled.

20 The two remaining valleys are
21 capped, and they are in the closest proximity
22 to the Pines River. Reopening these two
23 valleys and filling them with an additional
24 500,000 tons of ash flies in the face of

1 common sense, especially with projected
2 flooding, sea level rises. In this area,
3 it's an extremely sensitive wetland.

4 As many already know, Wheelabrator
5 Saugus is one of the oldest trash incinerator
6 companies in the country, and it's the only
7 unlined ash landfill that is still allowed to
8 operate in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

9 By today's standards, the DEP would
10 never allow this facility and landfill to be
11 built, yet unfortunately, DEP continues to
12 allow it to expand.

13 Most notably, it's the only ash
14 landfill located in the midst of a wetland
15 and surrounded by an area of critical
16 environmental concern, with more than 140,000
17 people living within three miles of its
18 footprint.

19 Perhaps even more disturbing, this
20 unbuffered site is situated less than a half
21 a mile from residences in Revere, Saugus, and
22 Lynn, and all are designated as environmental
23 justice communities.

24 My friends, my neighbors, and my

1 constituents have been enduring the effects
2 of this environmental injustice for over
3 forty years. This landfill was never meant
4 to be a forever solution, and was scheduled
5 to stop accepting ash in December, 1996.
6 That's twenty-one years ago next month.

7 Yet, unfortunately, time and time
8 again, DEP has allowed them to expand, using
9 the consent order as a loophole to skirt the
10 public process.

11 Tomorrow is December, 2017, twenty-
12 one years beyond the scheduled closure date,
13 and we are still talking about adding more
14 ash to this facility for up to an additional
15 ten years. The landfill has already exceeded
16 its lifetime by two decades, and we are
17 talking about extending it another decade.
18 Another ten years is unacceptable.

19 It doesn't seem right, and in a
20 just world, this public meeting would have
21 been about closure and remediation, not
22 expansion.

23 So, in closing, I am going to ask
24 that Mass DEP do the right thing, protect my

1 neighbors, protect my constituency and the
2 environment by denying Wheelabrator's request
3 to continue dumping toxic ash in Saugus for
4 another ten years. Instead, I hope you will
5 require Wheelabrator to begin the closure of
6 this landfill and to begin the remediation to
7 safeguard what is already there. Thank you.

8 MR. FAIRBROTHER: Thank you. And
9 next, Anthony Zambuto from the Revere City
10 Council.

11 MR. ZAMBUTO: Good evening.
12 My name is Anthony Zambuto, Z-A-M-B-U-T-O.
13 I'm a Revere City Counselor at Large. I
14 represent the entire City of Revere.

15 I'm here tonight, first to offer my
16 support for the DEP's decision to issue this
17 provisional permit. This waste to energy
18 plant and wildlife sanctuary -- I appreciate
19 the laughter, but those of us who toured the
20 facility and my friends in the Audubon
21 Society have counted the species that go up
22 there on a weekly basis would beg to differ
23 with the laughter that goes on here.

24 The bottom line here is, I know

1 I'm protected by the DEP, and my citizens
2 are protected by the DEP. I'll give a simple
3 -- one of the main reasons I support this
4 waste to energy plan.

5 You tell me this is non-toxic ash
6 that they're going to be burying. You're
7 the same people that tell me I have to move
8 soil that babies can eat. So, when you tell
9 me something is non-toxic, guess what, I
10 believe you.

11 I try to let people know, as a
12 City Councilor, why I support Wheelabrator.
13 Some people -- one of my, I thought friends
14 tonight, told me that I'm bought and paid for
15 by Wheelabrator. I was insulted by that.

16 MR. FAIRBROTHER: I will just
17 remind everyone to refrain from the
18 interruptions, as we want to try to stay on
19 course tonight with the number of speakers
20 we have. Thank you.

21 MR. ZAMBUTO: Bottom line is,
22 if Wheelabrator was forced to truck this
23 non-toxic ash to another facility such as
24 Shrewsbury, that would probably be fifty or

1 sixty trucks through Revere on a daily
2 basis. How's that work out for your carbon
3 footprint? Not well.

4 Bottom line is, that would
5 extrapolate possibly to fifty. And by the
6 way, Revere has a ten-year contract with
7 Wheelabrator for our ticket fees.

8 So, if we were forced to truck that
9 ash, let's assume it would be \$15.00 a ton
10 extra on the tax bill, on the ticket fee.
11 That extrapolates to probably \$300 bucks a
12 year a senior's tax bill. Do you know how
13 many seniors would be homeless from that?

14 That's if we're saying that this
15 toxic ash was causing a problem. Nobody has
16 proved that to me. I work with engineers and
17 scientists on a daily basis. They have to
18 deal in facts and science.

19 When you're building a bridge, you
20 have to work on the facts. Emotions don't
21 get involved. Unfortunately, the arguments
22 against this plan are emotional, not based in
23 science in fact.

24 I have to protect my seniors and my

1 taxpayers. There's a lot of them that
2 support Wheelabrator, as they just reelected
3 me. There are people here that don't support
4 me, and that's fine, but I have to do what's
5 best for the City, and that's why I'm here
6 tonight. Thank you.

7 MR. FAIRBROTHER: Next, we have
8 Debra Panetta.

9 MS. PANETTA: Hi, good evening.
10 My name is Debra Panetta, and I am the
11 Chairperson of the Saugus Board of Selectmen.
12 My name is spelled D-E-B-R-A, P-A-N-E-T-T-A.

13 First, I'd like to thank the DEP
14 for coming here this evening. It's very
15 important that our citizens from Saugus,
16 Revere, Lynn, and our neighboring communities
17 have a voice, so I truly appreciate you
18 coming.

19 The Board of Selectmen feel very
20 strongly that we want to mitigate any
21 health, safety, and environmental risk to
22 our community. The Saugus Town Charter
23 designates the Board of Selectmen as the
24 policy-making body of our Town.

1 It is the policy of the Saugus
2 Board to be opposed to any additional air or
3 ash emissions. Three successive Boards have
4 maintained the policy, which is stated as,
5 "We hereby declare that it shall be the
6 policy of the Town of Saugus to encourage and
7 support that which will result in a net
8 decrease in air emissions and ash disposal."

9 We are, therefore, opposed to any
10 additional forms of combustion, solid waste,
11 that will yield additional air and ash
12 emissions.

13 Our Saugus Town Meeting also
14 adopted the same language, fifty people
15 representing our Town, not only as a warrant
16 article several years ago, but also a
17 resolution back in May 2016. So, what I'm
18 saying is, our Town is saying enough.

19 The landfill was originally
20 supposed to be closed in 1996 for the grassy
21 season, as Representative RoseLee Vincent
22 said, over twenty-one years ago. They have
23 received nine extensions based on consent
24 order, and tonight, they're going for

1 their tenth.

2 The landfill is unlined, something
3 that never ever would be allowed with today's
4 standards, especially not in a wetland
5 environment within an area of critical
6 environmental concern of ACEC, which is a
7 big deal. In fact, Wheelabrator Saugus is
8 currently the only solid waste incinerator
9 and unlined ash landfill in Massachusetts.

10 Wheelabrator also lacks the
11 required groundwater monitoring and reporting
12 that is needed to determine whether the
13 contamination from the landfill is spreading
14 into the environment and into our
15 neighborhoods, and impacting our children,
16 impacting our seniors, impacting each and
17 every one of us.

18 In addition, we're concerned that
19 part of the landfill which they are seeking
20 to expand was originally required to be left
21 unfilled by you, by the Mass DEP, so as to
22 provide channels for storm water runoff.
23 With projected storm surges and rising tides,
24 it is only a matter of time before a

1 devastating coastal storm washes contaminants
2 into the Saugus and the Pine Rivers.

3 The new area to be filled, valleys
4 one and two, is a thirty-nine acre of the
5 landfill that is currently capped. The link
6 to these two valleys would allow the landfill
7 to accept over 500,000 tons of new ash over
8 the next five, and now I'm reading ten years.

9 Isn't this counterintuitive to what
10 we're supposed to really be doing? We're
11 supposed to capping the landfill, not
12 uncapping the landfill. The Board of
13 Selectmen is responsible for keeping Saugus
14 healthy and safe, and we feel strongly the
15 landfill should be closed and capped.

16 For over forty years, Saugus has
17 done more than it's fair share to deal with
18 the solid waste issues of the North Shore.
19 We've been increasing our recycling, we've
20 been doing what we need to do. Have the
21 other communities that have been sending
22 their trash to Saugus?

23 I know that Revere has been working
24 on, Lynn has been working on it. We've had

1 enough. We've been doing this a long time,
2 over forty years. The facility ----

3 MR. FAIRBROTHER: Again, you're
4 running into your time limit.

5 Please wrap up.

6 MS. PANETTA: I'm sorry.

7 MR. FAIRBROTHER: Thank you.

8 We just want to keep everybody on course
9 tonight.

10 MS. PANETTA: The facility and
11 the ash landfill is within a half a mile
12 of residential areas in Saugus, Revere,
13 and Lynn. We're asking the Mass DEP to say
14 no to the landfill expansion.

15 We can't forget about the seven and
16 a half million dollar settlement that they
17 had for environmental violations, they had
18 two recent spills. If it wasn't toxic, why
19 do they come down with their hazmat uniforms?
20 It's important. We need your protection.

21 It's vital that Saugus and the
22 neighboring communities have a voice in this
23 important matter. The health and well-being
24 is in your hands.

1 On behalf of the nearly 27,000
2 residents that we have in Saugus, the Board
3 of Selectmen appreciate your consideration,
4 and please, please help us. Please protect
5 us. Please, we're looking to you.

6 MR. FAIRBROTHER: We're asking
7 that you hold your applause, as it's taking
8 away from the time that others would like
9 to speak.

10 Next, we have Town Meeting
11 representative, Mark Costello.

12 MS. COSTELLO: Good evening.
13 My name is Mark Costello. I am Precinct 10
14 Town Meeting member, which is in East Saugus,
15 which is abutting or pretty much abutting the
16 Wheelabrator incinerator.

17 I'm standing here to address this
18 ongoing issue with the incinerator that
19 exists here in Saugus and is operated by
20 Wheelabrator.

21 The history of this plant's
22 existence here in Saugus is littered with
23 incidents of obfuscation and resistance to
24 being transparent, and many requests that

1 this Town has made as to the definitive
2 impact that this facility is having on the
3 environment and the health of the residents
4 of Saugus, as well as our neighbors in Lynn
5 and Revere.

6 From the outset, with their
7 reluctance to install more environmentally
8 sound technologies in their smoke stacks, to
9 be hitting with one of the largest lawsuits
10 in the history of the Commonwealth for
11 improper disposal of their ash, to their
12 periodic mishaps at their plant, which
13 necessitated their being required to notify
14 our Board of Health in a far more forthright
15 manner, they have not been a good neighbor,
16 and they continue to profess in their
17 company's literature.

18 Now, after a protracted period of
19 the Council chasing Wheelabrator in providing
20 the Town of Saugus with sufficient
21 investigative reports and an EIR report, to
22 be conducted as to the content of the scope
23 of their proposal to extend and enlarge their
24 ash piles, as well as the aspects to the

1 public health of Saugus and the surrounding
2 communities that this landfill presents, we
3 find ourselves at this point, another warrant
4 by them to extend the ash piles.

5 I'm asking you tonight to resist
6 this latest public relations attempt on
7 their part to expand those ash piles.
8 It's an unlined facility. We've asked on
9 numerous aspects for them to be accountable,
10 and they have not. It's just been one
11 extension after another.

12 Please, as the Chairman of our
13 Town Board of Selectmen said, please help us.
14 We need your help. Thank you.

15 MR. FAIRBROTHER: I'm going to
16 call up a few more names to queue us up.
17 Before I do that, I'd just like to remind
18 everyone, we're going to try -- please hold
19 the applause. We want to move through this
20 as efficiently as possible, which will take
21 away time from other people who want to
22 speak.

23 And next, Peter Kendrigan would
24 like to say a few words.

1 MR. KENDRIGAN: Good evening.

2 My name is Peter Kendrigan. That's
3 K-E-N-D-R-I-G-A-N. I'm the Plant Manager of
4 Wheelabrator Saugus.

5 Let me first thank DEP for your
6 diligence, professionalism, and transparency
7 throughout this permitting process. I also
8 want to thank the members of the public from
9 both sides of this issue for taking time to
10 get involved and make their voices be heard.

11 I especially want to thank our
12 supports who have taken the time to get to
13 know Wheelabrator, recognize what we have
14 done to improve the site, particularly the
15 nature trail and wildlife sanctuary, and
16 have offered us encouragement throughout
17 this process to keep doing what we are doing.
18 I'm grateful to see many of them here
19 tonight.

20 I speak for my entire team in
21 Saugus when I say we have a great pride in
22 the role we play in the region's
23 environmental infrastructure. By safely
24 managing solid waste, reducing the need for

1 landfilling and generating clean renewable
2 energy.

3 We also value our role as a real
4 member of the community by paying taxes,
5 providing jobs, and supporting local
6 organizations and causes. We hope we can
7 continue to do so. Thank you for your
8 consideration.

9 MR. FAIRBROTHER: Thank you.

10 Okay, like I said, to keep this
11 moving along, I'll ask the next four
12 commenters to come up and queue up for the
13 microphone. I have Diane Rosenbeck, Eileen
14 Matthieu, Andrew Hrycyna from the Mystic
15 River Watershed Association, and Bill
16 and/or Carol O'Malley.

17 If the first of you would come
18 right over. Again, please identify yourself
19 and spell your name for the record, please?

20 MS. ROSENBECK: It's Diane,
21 D-I-A-N-E, R-O-S-E-N-B-E-C-K. I'm from
22 Revere. And I just want to say that I feel
23 Wheelabrator has had enough time, and it's
24 time for them to do what they do. And I'd

1 like to see it be closed. And that's all I
2 have to say at this time. That's how I feel.
3 Thank you.

4 MR. FAIRBROTHER: Thank you for
5 your comments. Eileen, please? Please come
6 right up to the microphone, please.

7 MS. MATTHIEU: My name is Eileen
8 Matthieu, and I'm here wearing two hats.

9 I'm representing HealthLink, which
10 is an organization that's been formed almost
11 twenty years ago, that's very strongly in
12 favor of clean water, clean air, and was
13 instrumental in helping close the coal power
14 plant in Salem.

15 And we have some written comments
16 which have also been submitted, but I'm going
17 to read -- basically try to enter those and
18 read those for you.

19 So, it has come to the attention
20 of our citizen's group that your Department
21 has provisionally allowed the Wheelabrator
22 RESCO Incinerator to expand the landfill
23 area in which it dumps its toxic ash in
24 environmentally sensitive dromady marshes on

1 the Mystic River watershed and Pine River
2 watershed.

3 The poisons captured by the
4 environmental scrubbers and not scented air,
5 are instead being concentrated in the
6 landfill and potentially in the marsh, which
7 serves as a nursery for the surrounding
8 waters of Massachusetts Bay.

9 As you well know, Massachusetts'
10 zero waste policy has already reduced the
11 state's human waste and many citizens are
12 very conscious of the need to compost,
13 recycle, and reuse, so that the burning
14 should not continue, certainly not in this
15 place, so close, as many of my previous
16 speakers have said, to the communities of
17 Saugus, Revere, and Lynn, and so vulnerable
18 to environmental stresses, such as sea level
19 the rise, storm surge, and stronger storms
20 due to climate change, which we all know is
21 occurring.

22 And for example, during the recent
23 rain storm on September 30th, when there was
24 heavy flooding, both in land and along the

1 marsh road, 1A, traffic was slowed and
2 stopped for almost an hour, and one certainly
3 could be concerned that this kind of event
4 could spread toxins from an unlined landfill,
5 especially if it's combined with any other
6 storm event.

7 And so, we also are very concerned
8 that Wheelabrator and RESCO, which has
9 grandfathered in since its scheduled closing
10 in 1996, we really feel that Wheelabrator,
11 like the Salem Harbor plant, is a plant that
12 is kind of outgrown its purpose and should be
13 removed and closed with its kind of activity,
14 rather than allowing it to be tendered for
15 another ten years.

16 And a quick thing I want to say is
17 that as a person who loves the shores, I'm
18 sure many people here do, I brought a chart
19 of Mass Bay and an Eldridge map of the
20 currents in Mass Bay just to point out,
21 although I'm sure many people here are very
22 correctly concerned about the immediate
23 impact of all of our immediate environment.

24 But, the currents in Mass Bay are

1 real, they have a ton of flow. Obviously,
2 you won't be able to see this from here, but
3 I will submit it by e-mail. And Mass Bay is
4 quite shallow in this area, and it extends
5 all the way from Cape Ann past Nahant and the
6 Saugus River, into Boston Harbor, and the
7 current continue counterclockwise out past
8 Cape Cod.

9 So, anything that's happening any
10 of our contributing rivers and estuaries is
11 being spread in all directions to the sea
12 life and coast that we all enjoy and want to
13 see our seafood come from, and so forth.
14 So, thank you.

15 MR. FAIRBROTHER: I'll call a few
16 other names to come up here. Robert Logue,
17 Michael Obitane, Anne Dublin, and Al Baker.

18 MR. HRYCYNA: Hi, I'm Andy Hrycyna,
19 last name H-R-H-C-Y-N-A. I want to speak to
20 just one aspect of this project, which is
21 worth noting, namely, the thoughtful
22 management of the land as rare and valuable
23 grass lined habitat.

24 The facility is an example of

1 intensive human use of land, coupled with
2 the creation and maintenance of high
3 quality habits. Often, those things are in
4 opposition to each other, and here they are
5 arguably maintained together.

6 Assuming that other environmental
7 entries are minimized and public health
8 protected, this can be a model for intensive
9 land use that is also protection of a
10 valuable habitat. Thank you.

11 MR. FAIRBROTHER: Thank you. Next?

12 MALE VOICE: We can't hear the
13 speakers, so could you tell them to reverse
14 the microphone closer.

15 MR. O'MALLEY: Good evening, my
16 name is Kevin O'Malley.

17 MR. FAIRBROTHER: Could you
18 approach the mike there?

19 MR. O'MALLEY: Certainly.

20 My name is Kevin O'Malley. I live
21 at 221 Mills Avenue in Revere, which is right
22 on the Pine River.

23 Every day, I look across the river
24 and see this plant. I understood when I

1 bought my home, and I've lived in this area
2 my entire life, that decades ago, this plant
3 was scheduled to be closed.

4 I'm trying to figure out what's
5 changed. What's happened and why hasn't it
6 been closed? This is an endangered area,
7 it's a recognized endangered, an endangered
8 estuary of two rivers that are frequented by
9 fish, shellfish, people swimming, people boat
10 on, yet we have an endangered -- a plant
11 that's endangering our environment. It's the
12 only plant in Massachusetts that's not
13 protected from the potential of overflow.

14 I lived in my home in 2015 when the
15 water came all the way up the street, and
16 thirty yards up the street. It certainly
17 could happen there, and it certainly could
18 cause a problem with Wheelabrator.

19 So, what is the justification for
20 this? There are alternatives. Now, we've
21 heard tonight from a ludicrous statement that
22 if Wheelabrator is forced to ship this
23 dangerous material, it would cause forty or
24 fifty trucks to come through our

1 neighborhoods.

2 Well, if Wheelabrator was shut
3 down, there would be no trucks, and if was
4 shut down as it was supposed to be, there
5 would be no trucks.

6 MR. FAIRBROTHER: Again, please,
7 no interruptions.

8 MR. O'MALLEY: Pardon me?

9 MR. FAIRBROTHER: I'm asking the
10 audience to allow you to give you time to
11 speak uninterrupted.

12 MR. O'MALLEY: I would love that
13 time to be put back in my time here.

14 Now, again, there's two estuaries.
15 They talk about a wildlife sanctuary. Well,
16 good for them. They covered like two miles
17 of dump and created a wildlife sanctuary.
18 Well, they're required to cover that dump.

19 So now, they've created a wildlife
20 sanctuary, and they make a big deal to the
21 effect that the kids from Saugus High School
22 should hit their golf balls there.

23 Well, you know what, I'm not
24 impressed because if there's an accident

1 there, there'll be no wildlife left.
2 There'll be no wildlife left in that
3 sanctuary, there'll be no wildlife left on
4 our river, our rivers, and it will be
5 polluted by Wheelabrator's sludge.

6 What's the inference here? What's
7 going on with our government? With all due
8 respect, I really appreciate you people
9 holding a hearing that you weren't required
10 to hold, however, who is protecting us?
11 Isn't that your job? Isn't that your job
12 to protect us?

13 Wheelabrator has alternatives,
14 we don't. We don't have an alternative.
15 If there's an accident at Wheelabrator, we
16 suffer, not Wheelabrator. Wheelabrator just
17 moves to Shrewsbury, or wherever else they
18 have their plants that are protected, because
19 I don't know why; maybe the people in
20 Shrewsbury pay more taxes; maybe the people
21 in Shrewsbury got more respect than we got.

22 But I firmly believe that this is a
23 travesty that we are even here today to
24 present ourselves, all of us, just to come

1 here to defend our right to live in a clean
2 environment, when we know by proof -- by
3 proof, that this company is polluting our
4 environment, and wants to expand that
5 pollution. Thank you.

6 MR. FAIRBROTHER: Thank you.

7 MS. DUBLIN: Hello, my name is Ann
8 Dublin, A-N-N, D-U-B-L-I-N, Town Meeting
9 Member, Precinct 1, and President of SAVE,
10 Saugus Action Volunteers for the Environment,
11 whose longtime mission has been to promote a
12 better quality of life through environmental
13 action and concern.

14 And I am here tonight to express
15 that concern regarding the provisional
16 approval, which would allow Wheelabrator to
17 continue to dump ash onto the landfill in
18 Saugus for five to ten more years.

19 This ash landfill, which you've
20 heard was supposed to be closed and capped
21 over twenty years ago, but instead,
22 Wheelabrator has been given nine extensions
23 to date to continue to dump ash onto that
24 landfill.

1 The is the only active landfill
2 in this state, which is unlined, and the only
3 active landfill in Massachusetts that sits in
4 an area of critical environmental concern.

5 This ACEC designation was given to
6 this area because of its importance as a
7 wetland. And since this designation comes
8 from a state agency, it's hard to believe
9 that the Department of Environmental
10 Protection would continue to allow additional
11 ash to be dumped there.

12 Saugus has the unique distinction
13 of hosting both the ash incinerator and the
14 landfill. And we know that incineration is
15 a very dangerous way to dispose of trash,
16 because the very nature of high temperature
17 burning causes dioxin, a carcinogen, even
18 in minute amounts, that has been found in
19 breast milk.

20 The more improved structures
21 just lead to more toxic byproducts of trash
22 burning. And this residue ends up in the
23 ash landfill.

24 Saugus's ash landfill is worse than

1 most because it sits in the middle of a
2 marsh, the start of the food chain in an
3 unlined landfill, further endangering the
4 communities in and around Saugus and beyond.

5 It is disturbing to me to see the
6 efforts that have been steadily undertaken by
7 Wheelabrator to buy support for their planned
8 expansion. They have generously donated to
9 schools, baseball fields, and other community
10 events in order to gain this support. And I
11 find it troubling that anyone would consider
12 the money before their own health and the
13 health of their children.

14 I also find it troubling that
15 Wheelabrator would spend that money on
16 these efforts, including the cost of their
17 television commercials, instead of putting
18 those funds toward water quality testing, a
19 federal requirement, which is even more
20 necessary as this ash landfill sits in a
21 wetland.

22 MR. FAIRBROTHER: I have to remind
23 you of our time limit tonight, ma'am.

24 MS. DUBLIN: The DEP, the

1 Department of Environmental Protection,
2 is charged with making decisions that will
3 protect the environment, and I urge you to
4 rethink this provisional approval and close
5 this toxic landfill once and for all.

6 MS. BAKER: Hi. Thank you so much
7 for having this public hearing tonight and
8 allowing all of us to have our voices be
9 heard.

10 MR. FAIRBROTHER: State your name,
11 please?

12 MS. BAKER: My name is Elle Baker.
13 I live in Revere, Massachusetts, and I'm a
14 founding member of the Alliance for Health
15 and the Environment.

16 I have a number of things to
17 mention, and I also have some questions for
18 DEP, and I assume that you will not be able
19 to answer them here today, but I will submit
20 them in written comment, and I do hope you'll
21 be able to respond to them. Thank you.

22 So, a number of things have
23 happened over the past twenty years. One,
24 as has been previously mentioned, which I'll

1 skip over, is that it has been slated to
2 close twenty years ago.

3 The valleys were designated and
4 approved by Mass DEP many years ago for a
5 purpose, and I assume that was for storm
6 water runoff. It seems interesting now that
7 they are no longer required, since we've
8 already filled in three of the five that were
9 initially required, and now the proposal is
10 to close the additional two. So, my question
11 is, why are they no longer required, and why
12 is that a good plan?

13 My second question to DEP, and also
14 to Wheelabrator is, the planning. So, they
15 know what their capacity is, and they have an
16 annual fly-over every single year,
17 approximately in the fall, from what I
18 understand, and now, we as a community, seem
19 to be faced with the necessity for them to
20 expand, because there is no other plan at
21 this time.

22 So, they want to fill in the
23 valleys because they've reached their
24 capacity. So, why are we now at the eleventh

1 hour, trying to make a plan for that? It
2 doesn't seem logical.

3 The Rumney Marsh is an area that
4 was deemed critical environmental concern in
5 1988 for two specific things; it's relevance
6 and it's importance for supporting its
7 ecosystem, the fish and wildlife resources.
8 It's important that has locally significant
9 qualities and the waterways run into the
10 Atlantic Ocean.

11 This is an unlined landfill, so the
12 proposed solution which was implemented was a
13 slurry wall. I looked to find out if any
14 other landfills are using slurry walls, and
15 best practice, I've not been able to find
16 any. So, why is it acceptable in this area
17 of critical environmental concern?

18 As far as capacity, based on
19 available annual reports from Wheelabrator to
20 the Mass DEP, there is currently 5,200,000
21 tons of ash already dumped there. This is on
22 top of an existing dump. So, they claim in
23 previous questions that the site chose them;
24 that they needed to cover that trash to make

1 it better for the environment.

2 I also ask, in regards to daily
3 cover; the ash covered by daily cover. I
4 asked of Wheelabrator, what is the daily
5 cover. The daily cover is more ash. I fail
6 to see how that's a cover, and I would
7 welcome more information about how that's
8 realistic.

9 MR. FAIRBROTHER: You've reached
10 your time limit.

11 MS. BAKER: Okay. For one moment,
12 I'd like everyone to just close their eyes
13 and imagine one elephant, one African
14 elephant. Now, imagine 1,040,000 African
15 elephants. That's how much ash is already in
16 the landfill. I ask you, DEP, to consider
17 closing this ash landfill. Thank you.

18 MR. FAIRBROTHER: Thank you. I'm
19 going to call out some more names. Heather
20 Murray, it looks like Mr. Williams, Brian
21 Williams, Norman Heich, and Marilyn Carlson.

22 MR. LOGUE: Good evening. My name
23 is Robert Logue. Robert, common spelling,
24 last name, L-O-G-U-E.

1 And I'd like to thank the
2 impassioned speakers who spoke out on behalf
3 of closing Wheelabrator. I can't imagine
4 that an unlined landfill that outlived its
5 operation more than twenty years ago, when
6 I still had black hair, is now seeking to
7 expand.

8 Even the Councilor in support of
9 Wheelabrator misspoke the truth on his way
10 out the door when he mentioned it as a toxic
11 landfill.

12 I'm a resident of Point of Pines,
13 Riverside, and I love nothing in the
14 summertime more than a nice ocean breeze.
15 However, I can't keep my windows open all the
16 time because I get a layer of ash sitting on
17 the windowsill. How that would not cause a
18 physical impact or an environmental impact is
19 well beyond me. Thank you for your time.

20 MR. FAIRBROTHER: Thank you.

21 MR. ORBITANE: Mike Orbitane, 24
22 Spencer Ave.

23 The percentages that you have of
24 different types of cancer in Saugus, I don't

1 think the numbers are correct, or the ones
2 that are more affected by Wheelabrator.
3 Breast cancer in five of the houses that
4 about my house, seven of those houses have
5 had breast cancer. And I'm sorry, I don't
6 know who is up there.

7 I keep hearing about trucking,
8 trucking, and the birds over there. What
9 about the cancers? The whole area where
10 that's affected with the wind flow from that
11 stack, you've even got leukemia over there,
12 you've got breast cancers, testicular cancer,
13 prostate, throat cancer.

14 I'm talking neighbors that I've
15 known. I've been there ten years, but
16 they're all dying of all cancers; they've
17 lived there all their life.

18 So, I haven't heard the word since
19 I've been here, but the numbers need to be
20 looked at for Saugus, affected in that area
21 by Wheelabrator.

22 MR. FAIRBROTHER: Thank you. Next.

23 MR. ORBITANE: I'm sorry, excuse
24 me. My wife, right now, is four-years cancer

1 free, that she got in 2013.

2 MS. MURRAY: Good evening. My name
3 is Heather Murray, M-U-R-R-A-Y. I'm with the
4 Conservation Law Foundation.

5 CLF shares many of the concerns
6 that have already been raised here tonight,
7 and I'm sure will be raised. But I wanted to
8 focus specifically on the Massachusetts Solid
9 Waste Regulations, which apply to this
10 facility, and require certain protections,
11 such as liners and ground water monitoring,
12 to be implemented at landfills and ash
13 landfills in order to protect the public
14 health and the environment, something DEP is
15 charged with.

16 These protections are especially
17 important in this case, where you have a
18 massive landfill surrounded by neighborhoods,
19 and sitting in a salt marsh that the state
20 has designated as an area of critical
21 environmental concern.

22 DEP has allowed Wheelabrator to
23 develop alternatives to the protections
24 required under the state regulations, but

1 those alternatives do not provide the same
2 amount of protection to public health and the
3 environment.

4 It is particularly concerning that
5 DEP does not require Wheelabrator to conduct
6 groundwater monitoring, something required of
7 other landfills across the state, that would
8 determine whether toxic pollutants are
9 leaching from the landfill into the
10 surrounding environment.

11 All DEP requires Wheelabrator to do
12 is measure water levels inside and outside of
13 the slurry wall to see if water is flowing
14 into or out of the landfill. There are no
15 checks in place that would allow the public
16 to confirm that no contamination is being
17 released from this landfill.

18 Further, the information that the
19 public does have access to, the records
20 provided by Wheelabrator to DEP, consistently
21 show that the containment system is not
22 operating as intended.

23 In other words, the vacuum that is
24 supposed to keep contamination inside the

1 slurry wall isn't working, despite DEP's
2 assurances that the system is working fine.

3 Without groundwater monitoring,
4 which is required under the state
5 regulations, there is no way for Wheelabrator
6 or DEP to confirm that pollution is not
7 leaching public landfill. The public has no
8 way to know whether the landfill is as safe
9 as DEP and Wheelabrator claim it is, other
10 than to take DEP's word for it. That's not
11 sufficient, especially given all of the other
12 concerns that are being raised tonight.

13 CLF urges DEP to deny
14 Wheelabrator's request to expand this
15 landfill, and we appreciate the opportunity
16 to provide this comment. Thank you.

17 MR. FAIRBROTHER: Thank you. I'll
18 call a few other names. Ryan Duggan, Kirstie
19 Pecci, Eric Lampedecchio, James Anthony
20 Catizone.

21 MR. HEICH: Hello, I'm Norman
22 Heich. I'm a member of the Lynnfield
23 Conservation Commission, but I'm certainly
24 not an expert on ash or what's out on the

1 table here. But I want to talk you now.

2 It's good to be honest with you.

3 I'm a regular person who uses the
4 sanctuary. I'm very thankful that
5 Wheelabrator has hired a full-time wildlife
6 expert to manage the land out there, and the
7 grasslands, in particular. I'm out there,
8 you know, most Sundays, and I find that
9 it's just a wonderful glorious place for
10 birds and animals.

11 This year, we've seen mink out
12 there, we've seen coyotes out there, we've
13 seen turkeys, we see just tremendous amount
14 of holes and birds, and over a hundred
15 different species of birds have gone through,
16 and it's a very important area for the
17 migration of many birds that are endangered,
18 threatened, that come through this area.
19 It's also a breeding place in the summer,
20 and it's great for birds.

21 So, I'm concerned about -- I have
22 not seen anything in terms of wildlife that
23 tells me that the area is dangerous. I'm not
24 seeing animals that are dead, like on the

1 ground; I'm not seeing boles dead. They're
2 in the ground, and they're running around
3 there.

4 So, I'm pretty happy from what I
5 see in that part of the facility. Again,
6 I'm not an expert on what's happening with
7 the ash, or anything else about that. But it
8 is a critical area that should be maintained
9 no matter what.

10 MR. FAIRBROTHER: Thank you.
11 Next, please.

12 MS. CARLSON: Good evening. Marilyn
13 Carlson, M-A-R-I-L-Y-N, C-A-R-L-S-O-N. Thank
14 you for coming here tonight and listening to
15 our concerns.

16 I am here tonight to support the
17 provisional permit that has been issued to
18 Wheelabrator by DEP. It is my understanding
19 that the provisional decision would allow
20 Wheelabrator to place additional ash fill
21 within the limits of the landfill, and be
22 subject to specific conditions.

23 It is the responsibility of DEP
24 to insure the protection of our environment.

1 I place my trust in this state agency to
2 render an appropriate opinion and monitor
3 the progression.

4 Not being a scientist, I cannot
5 speak with any authority why people all over
6 the world, not just in Saugus, are subject
7 to cancer. I am aware of the concerns people
8 have over the health effects of dioxin
9 emissions. Today, these emissions have
10 significantly been reduced by advances in
11 mission control designs and new and very
12 stringent government regulations.

13 The issue of incineration of solid
14 waste, although controversial, is important
15 to everyone.

16 And in closing, I would just like
17 you to know that Wheelabrator Saugus is a
18 very strong supporter of the community.

19 Two examples that I am aware of
20 are, Wheelabrator supported the creation of
21 the Brown Hill historic site, which preserves
22 the history, culture, and natural resources
23 along the Saugus River.

24 Wheelabrator also provided a

1 valuable educational opportunity for our
2 students in the Saugus Public Schools to the
3 Bear Creek Wildlife Center.

4 Thank you very much.

5 MR. FAIRBROTHER: Thank you.

6 MR. DUGGAN: Hello. My name is
7 Ryan Duggan, R-Y-A-N, D-U-G-G-A-N. As of
8 now, I have no affiliations with anyone,
9 other than being a Saugus resident.

10 I am currently a student, and I've
11 spent a lot of time studying environmental
12 science, through high school and through
13 college. And one of the things I've learned
14 is that there is two ways a community can
15 function.

16 There's the precautionary
17 principle, where operations aren't allowed
18 to happen if there's any risk whatsoever that
19 they could be dangerous. And the other way
20 is being a risk society, in which you do
21 something, and then if there's a problem, you
22 figure out about it later, and then pull it
23 off the market and stop it.

24 And right now, it feels like we're

1 living in a risk society, but there's no
2 risk assessment being done. So, I think
3 that either way, whether the landfill is
4 expanded, or whether it's not, the water
5 and the ash should be tested.

6 I mean, that really seems like
7 the only way we can find out what's actually
8 going on, so why not let this be part of the
9 decision? If it's found that the ash and the
10 water aren't polluted, and that it's safe,
11 and that Wheelabrator can expand, then keep
12 the tests regular. Make it so that tests
13 will be frequent and that people can know
14 what's going on.

15 I have no idea what's in that
16 water and what's in that ash. No one in
17 this room has any idea what's in the water
18 and what's in the ash. But I feel as though,
19 as residents that live with this every day,
20 we have the right to know.

21 Additionally, if it is shown that
22 there is a problem and that the ash and the
23 water are polluted, then we'll know that more
24 ash can't go in this landfill, and we'll also

1 know what needs to be fixed.

2 I mean, look at all of us here
3 today. With people, there's two sides to
4 every story, but the numbers aren't going
5 to lie.

6 I've done water testing before
7 in high school. I was a sophomore when I
8 did it, so I know it's possible. Like I
9 said, I am no expert, but I'm aware of
10 what's going on. So, I thank you for
11 giving us all the opportunity to come and
12 comment, and I also would like to thank
13 everyone else that has come and commented.

14 But before I go back and sit down,
15 I would like to make another point clear that
16 I think is important. Even if the ash goes
17 somewhere else, the wildlife don't have to.
18 The sanctuary can stay a sanctuary, and the
19 ash can just be shipped off to wherever else
20 it's going in Shrewsbury. No one is saying
21 that the end of the ash means the end of the
22 birds. Thank you.

23 MR. FAIRBROTHER: Thank you.

24 Next, please.

1 MS. PECCI: My name is Kirstie
2 Pecci, K-I-R-S-T-I-E, P-E-C-C-I. I'm with
3 the Conservation Law Foundation.

4 And I actually do know what's in
5 the ash. For this younger gentleman who
6 just spoke a minute ago, I really appreciated
7 this point, and it's entirely correct. But
8 I do know what's in the ash, and that making
9 me wonder, why does Massachusetts hate
10 Saugus, Revere, and Lynn? I have to ask
11 that question.

12 I study landfills and incinerators.
13 That's what I do full-time as an attorney.
14 There are nineteen ash and municipal solid
15 waste landfills in this state. All of them
16 have liners, as we've heard earlier. None
17 of them are an ACDC. None of them are in an
18 area where there are 130,000 people within a
19 couple of miles.

20 Are you kidding me? This is going
21 to continue on and on until you stop it.
22 And I don't mean just the folks on this
23 stage. They only have so much power. The
24 citizens in this room have to stop this.

1 I would want to make it clear,
2 as I said earlier, I know what's in the ash;
3 municipal solid waste from every business,
4 every home, every institution you can think
5 of. Think of the nastiest thing you've ever
6 thrown away; that's what goes in that
7 incinerator, one of the oldest incinerators
8 in this country. Incinerators don't get
9 better with age, they're not wine, okay.

10 Then, that ash from the incinerator
11 is dumped on this landfill. The ash contains
12 heavy metals, dioxin, and a myriad of other
13 chemicals. We know that they are there; we
14 know that they are making the people in this
15 community sicker. We know that.

16 We don't know which of you is
17 getting sicker, we don't know which cancers
18 are responsible -- you know, which
19 contaminants are responsible for what
20 contaminant, or which cancer should be, but
21 we do know that the people in this community
22 are sicker because Wheelabrator Saugus is in
23 this community. That is true of every
24 incinerator and ash landfill in the world.

1 The people on this stage are doing
2 the best they can, and I appreciate them
3 holding this hearing, because it's tough to
4 come up here and hear all of us criticize and
5 complain. But the best way to get anything
6 done is to make your voices heard, like
7 you're doing tonight, and also to contact
8 your legislators, contact the DEP and
9 comment. The comment period, as they said
10 earlier, goes until January 12th.

11 I have set up the link online,
12 CLF.org/ashlandfill. Please go online and
13 comment. The numbers are there to contact
14 people. Because they're doing the best they
15 can, but we need to do a better job to help
16 them, give them cover, and also start
17 diverting this waste.

18 If you want to save money as a
19 community -- people were talking earlier --
20 a Councilor from Revere was talking about
21 the cost of not having this ash landfill.
22 Recycling is half the cost. It's about sixty
23 bucks a ton to dump something in a landfill
24 or incinerator in Massachusetts; it's thirty

1 bucks a ton to recycle it.

2 That's where we need to be going,
3 and we can do that. Wheelabrator's own
4 numbers for 2016 show that about eighty
5 percent of what's being burned in that
6 incinerator are recyclable or compostable
7 items.

8 So, I ask the DEP, you need to
9 start enforcing our waste bans. As you
10 know, we need to start increasing the waste
11 regulations that we have so that we divert
12 more from our incinerators and landfills.
13 And we need to shut down the worst of these
14 facilities, and I think, personally, that the
15 Saugus ash landfill is the worst one in the
16 state. So, please look at CLF.org/ashlandfill
17 and contact the DEP and your legislators.
18 Thank you very much.

19 MR. FAIRBROTHER: Thank you. I'm
20 going to call some more names. Maryellen
21 Martin, Kelly Slater, and Jean Wrynn.

22 MR. LAMPEDECCHIO: Hello.
23 Eric Lampedecchio. E-R-I-C, last name,
24 L-A-M-P-E-D-E-C-C-H-I-O, Revere, Mass.

1 I'd like to thank you guys for
2 hosting this meeting, but in the same breath,
3 I need to voice my displeasure with the DEP
4 and their past actions for the last twenty-
5 one years.

6 I grew up on Hills Avenue, which
7 is adjacent to the Pines River, and as a boy,
8 I could see the Town of Saugus. As a man,
9 all I see is a fifty foot high landfill. As
10 a boy, I would play in that river every day,
11 every hot summer day I could. As a man, I am
12 horrified to know that I'm at a greater risk
13 for both testicular and brain cancer.

14 This group, you guys need to
15 take action. Now is your chance. An
16 additional ten years of extending this
17 unlined carcinogenic landfill -- those
18 carcinogens permeate through the landfill
19 into the river, include the river, and
20 cause illness to the nearby residents.

21 The cancer rates down there are
22 ridiculous. We just lost a nine-year-old
23 boy to brain cancer, and there's a thirty-
24 year-old woman on her second bout with

1 leukemia.

2 Please don't repeat your past
3 mistakes. Make the right decision tonight,
4 and grant no further extensions. Thank you.

5 MR. CATIZONE: Hello, my name is
6 James Anthony Catizone, C-A-T-I-Z-O-N-E.

7 And I just want to let you know
8 that I am a Saugus resident, been here for
9 fifteen years, and I've also worked at
10 Wheelabrator for the last thirteen years.

11 I want to say I support the DEP in
12 their decision to grant the provisional
13 permit. I know that Wheelabrator's
14 operations are safe. I wouldn't work there
15 if I didn't.

16 My friends work there, have been
17 there. I couldn't support something that
18 would hurt them, myself, my family, my town.
19 I'm a Saugus resident first. I work there,
20 that's all.

21 I also want to thank the DEP for
22 giving us this opportunity to speak today and
23 to hear our comments. Thank you.

24 MR. FAIRBROTHER: Thank you.

1 MS. MARTIN: Maryellen Martin,
2 M-A-R-T-I-N. I'm a resident of Point of
3 Pines in Revere, and I'm opposed to the
4 expansion of Wheelabrator.

5 MR. FAIRBROTHER: Thank you.

6 MR. RILEY: Good evening. My name
7 is Patrick Riley. I am a Sharon resident and
8 I'm a high school physics teacher, and I'm a
9 bird watcher.

10 I think there's been an awful
11 lot of alarmist testimony here this evening.
12 I don't believe that this is the cause of all
13 these cancers I've heard about. I don't
14 believe it is horribly polluting our world.
15 Wheelabrator didn't put the landfill there.
16 It was considered wasteland years ago.

17 I go up there and bird watch, and
18 I've seen 178 species of birds there. There
19 are owls up there, there are falcons up
20 there. It's a fantastic and beautiful place.

21 Waste disposal is a very
22 complicated issue. Would it be better for
23 the people of Saugus if their ash or their
24 solid landfill gets shipped elsewhere, to

1 someone else's town? This is not someone
2 else's landfill; this is not someone else's
3 trash; this is from local communities. This
4 stuff is burned at such a high temperature,
5 I believe it is, in fact, safe.

6 It's a beautiful place up there.
7 I don't think enough attention is being paid
8 to the beautiful wildlife sanctuary that
9 exists up there.

10 If the arrangement with
11 Wheelabrator falls apart, I believe all of
12 the concerns about the environment are not a
13 hundred percent genuine. I think there are
14 people with their eyes on the property for
15 other uses. I think this is quite a
16 complicated question. I think people would
17 like to see building up there; I think they'd
18 like to see solar fields.

19 Solar fields sound lovely, but in
20 fact, other parks you may have seen, like
21 John Paul, II Park in Dorchester or the
22 Millennium Park in West Roxbury are not
23 wildlife sanctuaries; they're mowed and
24 sprayed like golf courses. There are no

1 owls up there.

2 This is a very special place, and
3 I'd like to see the wildlife sanctuary aspect
4 of it given some importance. Thank you.

5 MR. FAIRBROTHER: I'll call some
6 more names. It's Peter Manoogian, Loretta
7 LaCentra, and it looks like Ricci LaCentra,
8 and Sofia Owen. Thank you.

9 MS. SLATER: Hi, my name is Kelly
10 Slater, K-E-L-L-Y, S-L-A-T-E-R. I'm a
11 resident of Saugus. I live at 75 Hurd
12 Avenue.

13 I would just like to make a few
14 points. I do not know what the concentrations
15 of various toxic substances are in the ash,
16 but I do know from many years of studying
17 ecology that dissolution is not an answer to
18 pollution.

19 So, if indeed there are heavy
20 metals and other contaminants in there,
21 just having them spread around in a lower
22 concentration mixed with whatever ash there
23 is, does not mean that there is less of those
24 items in there.

1 The total amount would still be
2 the same, so I have some concern about people
3 interpreting various readings to mean
4 nontoxic when we know that those materials
5 are staying there in that ash; they don't
6 just go away.

7 I'd also like to point out that
8 Wheelabrator is on an area of critical
9 environmental concern, our salt marsh and
10 estuary area, and I think anyone who does
11 know about the environment knows that that
12 is an area that attracts tons of wildlife.

13 So, I think it's not quite correct
14 to say that Wheelabrator has brought this
15 wildlife there. I'm not saying they haven't
16 done anything to provide some habitat, but
17 that is an area that would naturally be a
18 place where birds and other wildlife would
19 congregate.

20 And finally, in closing, I'd like
21 to say that I think we'd all like to believe
22 that there is equal justice under the law,
23 however, lots of us have concerns that
24 because the area surrounding Wheelabrator are

1 somewhat lower income areas, that we may
2 not be receiving that justice.

3 And I would just like to ask that
4 you do protect us, and I'm opposed to any
5 further expansion of the ash of Wheelabrator.
6 Thank you.

7 MR. FAIRBROTHER: Thank you.

8 MS. WRYNN: Hi, my name is Jean
9 Wrynn, J-E-A-N, W-R-Y-N-N, and I live at 23
10 Stream in Lynn.

11 And at my age, I've been to many of
12 these hearings. I try to get to every single
13 one of them. And I've heard everything
14 tonight that I've heard before, over and over
15 again, and still, it doesn't seem to
16 register.

17 So, tonight, I'm going to talk
18 about something that I've been thinking
19 about a lot this past fall; it's been touched
20 on tonight, but it's going to be my main
21 concern.

22 Earlier tonight, a gentleman said
23 that the people who are against this permit
24 are emotional about it and not scientific.

1 Well, I disagree with that, but I'm going
2 to state a couple of scientific things.

3 It's a scientific fact that our
4 sea levels are rising. It's a scientific
5 fact that we are having more and severer
6 storms. Now, we have not had a major
7 hurricane in our area in many, many, many
8 years. Now, I lived through, you know,
9 Diane and Carol and Gloria, and all of them.

10 But it's naive of us to think that
11 this can't happen. And we saw, this past
12 September -- August, September, October, what
13 seemed like forever -- we saw the effects of
14 these storms.

15 Now, if we get a major hurricane,
16 and as I said, the likelihood is probably
17 greater than smaller, and it coincides with
18 a tidal surge, with a high tide, and it hits
19 and slams into this tonnage that is in an
20 unlined landfill, we are probably going to
21 see the kind of destruction we saw in Houston
22 and Louisiana and Florida and Puerto Rico,
23 and everybody else, and this area that's been
24 mentioned over and over, the ACEC, could be

1 inundated by all of this stuff.

2 Now, we've heard people talk about
3 how they love the birds. Well, nobody loves
4 the birds more than I do. But do they love
5 the little things they can't see in the
6 marsh, the estuary, that is a nursery?
7 Do they like the little crummy looking little
8 ugly crab and minnows and all of those things
9 that would be completely destroyed if this
10 landfill were to collapse?

11 So, I agree with everything that's
12 been said tonight against this permitting,
13 but I'm going to say that because of what's
14 been happening with the climate change, we
15 don't know what's in the future, and so, I'm
16 asking you, please, to listen to these things
17 tonight and not re-permit, like you have
18 before. Thank you.

19 MR. FAIRBROTHER: Thank you.

20 MR. MANOOGIAN: My name is Peter
21 Manoogian, M-A-N-O-O-G-I-A-N.

22 Before the clock starts ticking on
23 me tonight, may I just ask you a clarifying
24 question?

1 MR. FAIRBROTHER: Okay.

2 MR. MANOOGIAN: Do you have the
3 ability to say no, or is this a fait accompli?
4 Is it possible at the end of this process you
5 could reject this permit request?

6 MR. FAIRBROTHER: We're to listen
7 to comments. I understand that concern, and
8 at the end of the comment period, we will
9 review all of the comments and issue a final
10 decision on the permit application.

11 We're here to listen to comments
12 only, and that's it.

13 MR. MANOOGIAN: So, it's
14 theoretically possible that you could say no?

15 MR. WORRALL: We're here to listen
16 to comments and that's it.

17 AUDIENCE: Answer his question.
18 Answer it. Do you have the authority ----

19 MR. FAIRBROTHER: We're going to
20 stay on form with our comments tonight.

21 MR. MANOOGIAN: Well, it's sort
22 of ----

23 MR. FAIRBROTHER: Please, no
24 interruptions.

1 MR. MANOOGIAN: And thank you for
2 that. I think it's important not to have
3 interruptions. It's not -- it's important
4 not to have interruptions in our neighborhood
5 when there steam that lets go, and it is them.
6 It's not the GE.

7 It's important to have no
8 interruptions when your home shakes at night
9 and in the daytime when the trash trucks go
10 by, that they're supposed to be directed to
11 go elsewhere. Yeah, we appreciate when
12 there's no interruptions.

13 You know, I hear so much about a
14 health study. Isn't it amazing that Nat
15 Beaton, who is from Shrewsbury, who took money
16 from Wheelabrator for a golf outing, is able
17 to get a health study like that for Saugus,
18 saying that there's no appreciable cancer
19 rating, but they didn't even look at Revere,
20 and they didn't even look at the fellow that
21 lives on Valley Street for most of his life
22 and died of cancer you hear from.

23 What health study does he show up
24 on in all the people that moved away. What

1 health study shows up the people that have
2 respiratory illness? Those aren't studied.

3 Consent order. Since when is a
4 consent order a permit. How many times have
5 you folks amended it, twelve, thirteen times?
6 A consent order is a permit, really? Where
7 else is that done?

8 You know, I appreciate all of you,
9 Mark, Eric, Susan, Richard, that you probably
10 have a highly degree of professionals,
11 idealistic going through the process of
12 getting to where you are. But, how can you
13 justify when you go into the lunch room in
14 Woburn there, and how do you look at each
15 other and say about what's going on in Saugus?

16 This is an abomination that's been
17 going on, not for forty years, but since 1962
18 when Martin DiMatteo was able to dump solid
19 waste into a marsh, a sea level marsh. And
20 in '73, this plant was built and they never
21 mentioned about the ash.

22 In '86, Thomas McLaughlin, who I
23 believe had your position, Eric, came to
24 Saugus and said the ash is not dumped, it's

1 stored for future use and future testing.
2 That's what DEP told us in '86.

3 We fought hard to get those
4 scrubbers on that plant and Ed Cooks, an
5 another one of your predecessors made sure
6 that in '96, that was going to shut done,
7 that's what the consent order said. But
8 somehow, not science, but politics got in
9 the way.

10 You don't have to look hard to
11 see the contributions to Karen Polito and
12 the other Shrewsbury people that have
13 influence over your agency, okay, as to
14 what's going on here.

15 So, why not allow it elsewhere.
16 If a consent order and a slurry wall, without
17 liner, without cover, is okay, well why did
18 you make Shrewsbury do it? Why can't we have
19 the same protection, equal protection under
20 the law afforded to us that every other people
21 are going to get?

22 So, I would suggest to you -- I
23 will conclude with this, that if you're going
24 to give them the 10 years -- they've written

1 the permit, not you. They wrote the schedule,
2 it's here, they submitted it, and you're going
3 to rubberstamp it because that's what Matt
4 Beaton and Karen Polito want. All right?

5 My final comment is, if you're
6 going to do this, let every other community
7 do it, too. No more liners, no more covers,
8 slurry walls. And Selectmen, Todd, you can
9 appeal this.

10 MR. FAIRBROTHER: That's your time.
11 We are at the time limit. Thank you. Could
12 you please hold your applause so we can get
13 through all of the commenters tonight.

14 Thank you.

15 MS. LACENTRA: Peter, you're a
16 tough act to follow. My name is Loretta
17 LaCentra, L-O-R-E-T-T-A, L-A-C-E-N-T-R-A.

18 I'd just like to say thank you for
19 allowing me to speak before you this evening.
20 As a resident of the Riverside of Revere,
21 I am adamantly against any further ash
22 disposal, based on the reasons outlined by
23 RoseLee Vincent and Debbie Panetta.

24 We currently put up with noise,

1 odor, and ash from the plant, and enough
2 is enough.

3 My husband has had two separate
4 cancers. His first one started at the age
5 of forty-two. He recently had another
6 diagnosis of a different type of cancer,
7 and he grew up in the Riverside. He's lived
8 there his entire life.

9 I would like to ask that, at the
10 minimum, if you're going to go ahead with
11 this, that we need to see some cancer studies,
12 not only of Saugus, but Revere and Lynn, as
13 well. We are just as impacted as the Saugus
14 residents.

15 The Wheelabrator plant does not
16 operate in a vacuum. We actually are downwind
17 of it because the west winds seem to be quite
18 prevalent, and we're east of the plant.

19 At this point, I think we should
20 be talking about closure and not expansion.
21 The word protection is in the name of your
22 organization, so please, please, please, do
23 your jobs and protect of us in Revere, Lynn,
24 Saugus, and any other communities that are

1 impacted by this plant. Thank you.

2 MS. OWEN: Good evening. My name
3 is Sofia Owen. It's S-O-F-I-A, and the last
4 name is Owen. I'm an attorney and the
5 Massachusetts community organizer for Toxics
6 Action Center, and I'm here today to express
7 my opposition to Wheelabrator's application
8 for a permit modification.

9 At Toxics Action Center, we start
10 our work with the core belief that everyone
11 has a right to breathe clean air, drink clean
12 water, and live in a healthy community where
13 government operates responsibly and
14 democratically.

15 Our mission is to make these
16 rights a reality by organizing, side-by-side,
17 with community groups to tackle environmental
18 threats and develop and train new leaders to
19 strengthen the environmental and social
20 change movements.

21 We have been around since 1987,
22 and have helped over 800 communities prevent
23 and clean up pollution. We work proactively
24 to protect our health and environment

1 throughout the region, and from our work in
2 front-line communities, including supporting
3 groups fighting the continued use and
4 expansion of ash landfills and incinerators.

5 We know that we have every reason
6 to be concerned about the effects of these
7 facilities on public health and the
8 environment, and I'd like to share three of
9 these reasons with you tonight.

10 First, we know that all landfills
11 eventually leak, so claims that state of the
12 art technology will protect our ground water
13 and our communities by waste industry
14 representatives are never true.

15 We have worked closely with
16 residents whose drinking water has been
17 contaminated by landfills throughout our
18 region, most recently in Southbridge. We
19 know that more than 85 residential wells in
20 Charlton and Sturbridge, near the Southbridge
21 landfill, have tested positive for pollutants,
22 including dioxin, fluorobenzine, lead, and
23 arsenic, all of which are linked to negative
24 health consequences.

1 This threat is particularly
2 relevant to the Wheelabrator landfill, which
3 is unlined, as we've heard several times
4 tonight, making it all but certain that
5 pollutants from this landfill have or will
6 contaminate the drinking water of local
7 residents.

8 Second, we know that landfills
9 release potentially harmful gasses, and odors
10 often permeate neighborhoods. In South Hadley
11 and Harwich, we worked with residents whose
12 communities were filled with fumes so pungent
13 that they did not want to leave their homes.

14 It took years of organizing, but
15 community members in both towns worked with
16 their Boards of Health and eventually the
17 landfills in both locations were shut down.
18 Residents living near the Wheelabrator
19 facility should not have to wait any longer
20 to breathe cleaner air.

21 Finally, we know that incineration
22 does not eliminate waste, it simply
23 redistributes toxic chemicals into the air,
24 and produces ash to be landfilled. Not only

1 do the dioxins, heavy metals, and other toxins
2 in ash particles cause cancer, reproductive
3 problems, and learning disabilities, but they
4 also build up in the environment and magnify
5 in the food chain, posing serious
6 developmental and health threats to wildlife.

7 We know that Wheelabrator currently
8 buries 100,000 tons of ash each year, but
9 according to the company's own record, about
10 eighty percent of the materials being burned
11 are recyclable or compostable.

12 Instead of allowing Wheelabrator to
13 continue to dump ash into the landfill, the
14 DEP should be aggressively pursuing options
15 that will reduce waste, spur local green
16 economic innovation, and offer safe and good
17 paying jobs to area residents.

18 For all of these reasons, I ask you
19 to protect local residents' health and the
20 environment by denying Wheelabrator's
21 application for a permit modification.

22 Thank you.

23 MR. FAIRBROTHER: I'm going to call
24 a few more names now. Councilor John Powers,

1 Gabriel Farhat, Terri Lehane, and Jeff Wilson,
2 please.

3 MR. LACENTRA: My name is R-I-C-C-I,
4 LaCentra, L-A-Capital C-E-N-T-R-A, lifelong
5 resident of the Riverside area, right across
6 from Wheelabrator.

7 I find it very ironic that the
8 plant was supposed to close in 1996, the
9 same year I was diagnosed with kidney cancer.

10 I am vehemently opposed to any
11 further expansion of this abomination. I've
12 seen many neighbors and friends in their
13 thirties and forties pass away.

14 And our Councilor at Large in
15 Revere, when he said, you know, he's concerned
16 about the cost of hauling out ash to
17 taxpayers, I'd rather pay more money for trash
18 than to see more people pass because of what
19 this abomination is causing. Thank you.

20 MR. POWERS: Good evening, and
21 thank you for this opportunity to appear here.
22 I think there is one thing we would all ----

23 MR. FAIRBROTHER: Could you please
24 state your name for the record, please?

1 MR. POWERS: My name is John
2 Powers. I'm a City Councilor for the City of
3 Revere, and I represent the district that is
4 severely impacted by Wheelabrator.

5 I think the one thing that all of
6 us would agree on this evening is, we all
7 generate trash, and trash has to go somewhere.
8 How about taking that trash to a landfill
9 that's not a quarter of a mile from Riverside,
10 where over 300 residents reside? How about
11 taking it to a landfill that doesn't affect
12 the Town of Saugus?

13 I lost my wife and two children to
14 cancer. I live approximately a half a mile
15 from Wheelabrator. As a City Councilor, I get
16 calls during the evening, 1:00-2:00 in the
17 morning, "What's that noise over there?
18 What's going on over there?" And then you
19 find out that there was some type of a
20 malfunction, something didn't work right.

21 And then I get people that I ran
22 into this evening at another meeting, talking
23 about the soot on their furniture. They
24 live on Revere Beach Boulevard, which is

1 fairly close.

2 This shouldn't be about dollars
3 and what it costs for tipping fees for trash.
4 This should be about getting the trash out of
5 the area that it impacts the people that
6 reside there. Take it somewhere else.

7 They've been operating there since
8 1962. That's a long time ago. Actually, I
9 believe it's fifty-seven years ago. We don't
10 need that there. Give the people a break.
11 Make your voice heard like these people are
12 making their voice heard coming here this
13 evening. We don't want it anymore.

14 I go down to the Youth Center at
15 the Senior Center in Revere, and I see the --
16 we'll call them lobbyists for lack of a better
17 word -- from Wheelabrator, "We'll do this,
18 we'll do that, we'll do this." You can't
19 buy health.

20 When people get sick, go into the
21 Mass General some day and sit in a cancer ward
22 and see the people coming in there with lung
23 cancer. Talk to the children and the husbands
24 and the wives that are losing their mate or

1 their mother or their father because of
2 lung cancer. Thank you very much.

3 MR. FAIRBROTHER: Thank you.

4 MR. FARHAT: Good evening. My name
5 is Gabriel Farhat. I'm an engineer and a
6 business owner in Saugus. My name is spelled
7 G-A-B-R-I-E-L, F-A-R-H-A-T.

8 My job is not to judge or discover
9 whether they are environmentally friendly or
10 not, that's your job. And I see that you have
11 done your job; you have done your research,
12 the discoveries, and you have given
13 Wheelabrator a provisional approval, and I
14 feel comfortable with that.

15 I have worked with your agency in
16 the past as an engineer, and I know you are
17 very stringent, and I know that you look at
18 all the parts. So, that's your job now.

19 I have visited Wheelabrator. I
20 have looked at how they do things, I have
21 asked a lot of questions. Since I'm an
22 engineer, I'm very curious.

23 I've toured their bird sanctuary,
24 and I've seen all the birds. I've seen

1 beautiful things, I've seen kids practicing
2 and playing golf there. I have seen beautiful
3 birds, I've seen nice landscape, I've seen
4 the items that people have concern about
5 being handled properly. Again, that's what
6 I've seen.

7 As a business owner, I know that
8 Wheelabrator is very supportive of the
9 community. They are one of the largest,
10 if not the largest, taxpayer for the Town of
11 Saugus. We do need that, and we do need that.
12 They employ a lot of people. They are a big
13 company.

14 I've seen a lot of other big
15 companies go out of business. We lost Eastern
16 Tool, for example. Their product is being
17 manufactured in China. Do we want to see
18 another big company go out of town?
19 Personally, I don't.

20 So, I realize that a lot of people
21 are not happy with some things that
22 Wheelabrator might be doing, or if they feel
23 uncomfortable with that. I feel that you are
24 there to be that protection for me and for my

1 family and for my loved ones. So, it's
2 not my job to judge that part.

3 Before you throw me out, thank you,
4 and I appreciate your decision. I'm
5 supportive. Good night.

6 MR. FAIRBROTHER: Thank you.

7 MALE VOICE: I have a question.
8 Did he give his home address?

9 MR. WORRALL: Excuse me, sir.
10 Please remember to be respectful tonight.
11 We're trying to do this ----

12 FEMALE VOICE: Everybody gave their
13 address. Where does he live. That's being
14 respectful. Where does he live?

15 MR. FAIRBROTHER: We have that
16 address.

17 FEMALE VOICE: Yes, but he didn't
18 say it like everybody else.

19 MS. RUCH: Ma'am, we ask people to
20 give their name and spell their name for the
21 record. We did not ask for that.

22 FEMALE VOICE: But everyone has
23 been giving that.

24 MS. RUCH: And what you're doing is

1 disruptive. If you continue to be disruptive,
2 then that's going to be taking away time from
3 the rest of the people and are quiet, who have
4 comments to make to us, and we'd like to hear
5 what they have to say.

6 MR. FAIRBROTHER: Thank you.

7 MS. LEHANE: My name is Terri
8 Lehane, T-E-R-R-I, L-E-H-A-N-E.

9 My comments regarding Wheelabrator,
10 located on Route 107, Saugus, Massachusetts.
11 On November the 1st, 2017, the Massachusetts
12 Department of Environmental Protection, the
13 DEP, issued a provisional decision that would
14 allow Wheelabrator Saugus to dispose an
15 additional estimate 400,000 cubic yards of
16 contaminated ash adjacent to the Rumney
17 Marshes, a critical environmental concern, on
18 Route 107, Saugus, Mass. This provisional
19 decision should not be finalized or approved.

20 James Conway, Vice President of
21 Environmental Health and Safety at
22 Wheelabrator asserted that Mass DEP's
23 provisional decision to grant a permit
24 allowing the continued use of the ash monofill

1 by Wheelabrator represents the best
2 environmental solution for the town, state,
3 and region. This is a complete fallacy.

4 In truth, by the Mass DEP granting
5 a permit to allow Wheelabrator to continue
6 using the ash monofill, you are protecting a
7 billion dollar company that continues doing
8 havoc to people's health and lives in Saugus
9 and surrounding communities, the Rumney Marsh
10 land and the Atlantic Ocean waters adjacent
11 to Wheelabrator.

12 You, as the Environmental
13 Protection Agency, you are supposed to be
14 protecting the environment, people's health,
15 and their lives. The pollution situation at
16 Wheelabrator affects people's health, the air
17 we breathe, our land and ocean waters.

18 On November the 1st, Mass DEP also
19 issued a final decision supporting
20 Wheelabrator's application for a minor permit
21 to establish an ash staging area within the
22 active limits of the landfill, where ash can
23 be stored before it is shipped offsite for
24 further processing by disposal.

1 This statement alone proves that
2 the Wheelabrator Saugus plant is inadequate to
3 handle toxic ash that is produced at this
4 facility. No ash should be allowed to be in a
5 staging area for any length of time. How
6 could the DEP allow Wheelabrator to keep a
7 staging area of toxic ash even one day, let
8 alone fifteen days.

9 This is toxic ash dust we are
10 talking about, that cannot be contained, even
11 if the ash is so-called covered while standing
12 outside the Wheelabrator's facility in the
13 windy air for fifteen days.

14 The Wheelabrator Saugus facility
15 now and has been obsolete for a very long
16 time. The facility should have been closed
17 twenty years ago or more, as it does not have
18 adequate processing equipment and enough
19 filters to properly incinerate the many tons
20 of trash from fourteen communities on a daily
21 basis without polluting the very air we
22 breathe, the land and Rumney Marsh surrounding
23 the plant, and the Atlantic Ocean, which is an
24 offshoot of the marshes. How can the DEP

1 ignore these facts?

2 The people of Saugus and
3 surrounding communities should be breathing
4 fresh clean air, without contaminated toxic
5 air. The men who work in the Wheelabrator
6 Saugus facility should be working in a clean
7 environment, and they are not.

8 Wheelabrator Saugus has had many
9 violations, such as ash overfills, loud
10 noises and fires in the facility. Trucks are
11 continually driving through Hamilton Street,
12 Saugus, loaded with ash being trucked out of
13 Wheelabrator.

14 On May 5th, 2016, I was driving down
15 Hamilton Street.

16 MR. FAIRBROTHER: Excuse me, I just
17 want to remind you that you are approaching
18 the time limit and if you could just wrap up
19 your comments.

20 MS. LEHANE: Okay. And an extra
21 long open truck was filled with a mound of
22 ash, uncovered, driving up Hamilton Street.
23 Imagine the wind blowing this toxic ash all
24 over its route out of Saugus and other

1 communities, contaminating the air and the
2 health of people who live along the way.

3 MEFA has classified this ash in the
4 category as non-toxic, which allows
5 Wheelabrator to continue working its facility,
6 which is another complete fallacy. This ash
7 is toxic.

8 MR. FAIRBROTHER: I'm going to have
9 to hold you there. I'm sorry. We have more
10 people here.

11 MS. LEHANE: Okay, I'm just going
12 to have to say just one ending.

13 The Wheelabrator Saugus facility
14 should be torn down and sold for scrap metal.
15 A new modern facility should be built in a
16 completely different location, out of Saugus,
17 away from residential areas, and not a running
18 marsh that empties into ocean or lake waters.
19 Thank you.

20 MR. FAIRBROTHER: I'm going to call
21 a few more names. Norma Giraldi, Soheil
22 Zendehe, Bill Brown, and Debra Daigle.

23 MR. WILSON: Good evening, my
24 name is Jeff Wilson from Northeast Wetland

1 Restoration, and I'm a co-manager at the
2 Bear Creek Wildlife Sanctuary.

3 I would like to thank the DEP for
4 the opportunity to be here tonight, and I
5 would also like to take this time to
6 appreciate the DEP's process and decision
7 making.

8 Since 2002, 178 migratory bird
9 species, three migratory dragonfly species,
10 and three migratory butterfly species have
11 been observed utilizing the Bear Creek
12 Wildlife Sanctuary.

13 Many of these species are
14 grassland dependent species that have been
15 attracted to the actively managed habitats
16 at the sanctuary.

17 In this region, quality grassland
18 habitats are extremely rare. The presence of
19 these species at the sanctuary is a testament
20 to the quality of the habitats that are
21 maintained at the wildlife sanctuary.

22 Thank you.

23 MR. FAIRBROTHER: Thank you.

24 Next, please.

1 MS. GIRALDI: Hello, my name is
2 Norma Giraldi, and I live on Ann Hatherton
3 Street. N-O-R-M-A, G-I-R-A-L-D-I.

4 I have worked at Wheelabrator for
5 the last two years, and I want to say that I
6 support the DEP and the decision to grant the
7 provisional permit.

8 I love our hometown, I live here,
9 and I am part of this community. Like many of
10 my neighbors, I care about Saugus, and I want
11 our town to continue to move forward. I
12 believe Wheelabrator has been an important
13 part of making Saugus an even better place.

14 At Wheelabrator, there is real
15 commitment to being more than just a business,
16 but being a partner and a good neighbor.

17 I want to thank the DEP for giving
18 us this opportunity today to share our
19 comments on this process. Thank you.

20 MR. FAIRBROTHER: Thank you.
21 Next, please.

22 MR. BROWN: My name is Bill Brown.
23 I'm a Town Meeting member for the Town of
24 Saugus. I guess you don't need me to spell

1 my name.

2 Thank you tonight for coming here
3 and giving us this opportunity. I look back
4 -- I've been in town all my life, and that's
5 69 years now.

6 I look back, and prior to
7 Wheelabrator, it was RESCO, and prior to
8 RESCO, it was a wide open dump where dump
9 trucks and trash trucks came in and dumped
10 their load, bulldozers pushed it into a pile,
11 seagull floated overhead, there was an
12 incredible stench, and rats lived underneath.

13 What we have now is the same
14 problem that we had back then, and that is
15 that each and every person in this auditorium
16 and all across the communities of the North
17 Shore produces about a bag of trash a week.
18 That trash has to go somewhere, and right now,
19 it's going to Wheelabrator.

20 I would like to see some kind of an
21 effort, some kind of an investment in finding
22 a useful purpose for this ash, instead of
23 fighting over it, instead of trying to ship
24 it out.

1 If you ask me, the last thing that
2 I want to see is 40 or 50 trucks traveling
3 through Saugus, or Revere, or Lynn, or
4 anywhere else, carrying this ash out, and
5 delivering it to somebody else's back yard,
6 and dumping it in their back yard, and calling
7 ourselves environmentalists, because as far as
8 I can see, that's not environmentally friendly
9 for the people who are receiving this.

10 I just don't understand why we
11 can't get together and get some of the
12 colleges in this area, some of the smart
13 people that run these colleges, and get them
14 to sit down and come up with a solution to
15 this problem.

16 I am compelled to support the
17 provisional decision that you made, and I
18 just think that, you know, there's a better
19 solution here. I know that recycling helps a
20 little bit, but it doesn't do the whole job.

21 I hope that you base your decision
22 on fact, and not assumption, not supposition,
23 and not emotion. Make sure that whatever you
24 decide, you do it based on the facts. And

1 thank you for your time.

2 MR. FAIRBROTHER: I'd like to cue
3 up a few more commenters, Casey Byrd,
4 Kadineyse Paz, Joan LeBlanc, and John Polcari.

5 MR. ZENDEH: Good evening. My name
6 is Soheil Zende. That's spelled S-O-H-E-I-L,
7 last name is Z-E-N-D-E-H.

8 I've been doing nature walks at the
9 landfill for about forty years, and started
10 going to Saugus Rumney Marsh, they used to
11 call it Saugus Marsh, forty years ago, and
12 looking up into that huge hill that was the
13 landfill, as well, and finding wildlife there.

14 About twenty-five years ago, it
15 began to be transformed into an actual
16 wildlife sanctuary and landscaped. Before
17 that, it was just a dump.

18 The place always attracted a large
19 variety of birds and insects. Now, it also
20 attracts people who watch them. It also
21 attracts school groups that use this facility
22 for nature study and golf.

23 So, I'm very encouraged by what
24 it's turned into. I'm happy that we keep

1 this a sanctuary going forward, otherwise
2 what, you want another shopping mall or
3 industrial plant? I don't get it.

4 So, I would like everyone here to
5 come on our walks every Sunday at 9:00.
6 Come and walk with us and enjoy the place.
7 Thank you very much.

8 MR. FAIRBROTHER: Thank you. Next?

9 MS. DAIGLE: Hi, thank you for
10 having us. My name is Debra Daigle. I'm a
11 resident at the Point of Pines. I've been
12 there for almost over three decades.

13 My house used to be white and
14 now it's black. The soot has increased
15 over the past decade by inches. I can't
16 keep my house clean.

17 Besides being a resident of the
18 Point of Pines, like you, I've serve the
19 state, the Commonwealth, for over three
20 decades. I worked with five governors,
21 I've worked through six state agencies, one
22 of the first ones being, I was one of the
23 first twelve people hired at the Mass Water
24 Resources Authority.

1 Being in the Pines, we endured a
2 lot already. I was working for the Water
3 Authority when there were combined soil
4 overflows that dumped right out next to
5 the yacht club, human feces on our beach,
6 and years of being able to -- not being
7 able to take a walk or open your doors
8 because the stench was so bad. It was one
9 of the reasons why I was so committed to
10 being a civil servant.

11 I remember being overjoyed when the
12 Daltons came back into Boston Harbor, because
13 it finally meant that there was sea life that
14 was recouping from the disaster of all of the
15 years of dumping into the Boston Harbor.

16 I look so forward to being down
17 that beach, I always love the ocean, and I was
18 overjoyed to be able to finally walk and swim
19 in the Point of Pines.

20 What's happened over the last
21 decade has been atrocious. I vehemently
22 oppose the expansion. Not only that, I really
23 can appreciate everybody doing all their
24 wandering and watching birds, but I'm here to

1 tell you that I've survived cancer, I've been
2 diagnosed with MS, which as we know is the
3 result of heavy metal toxic poisoning, and
4 most recently, I got a call last week that
5 there is spots all over my lungs that they
6 can't identify.

7 So, while everybody is happy with
8 the bird sanctuaries, I'm here to tell you
9 that there is some real serious problem with
10 people's health. I served as a Director half
11 of my career at the Executive Office of Health
12 & Human Services, and while I'm no scientist,
13 I'm old enough to remember when we were
14 allowed to burn trash in a barrel in our
15 backyard for leaves when I was a kid.

16 And that was done away with because
17 everybody knows that burning causes toxins.
18 And even back when I was a kid and we burned,
19 there weren't the chemicals that are in the
20 mattresses for flame retardant, there wasn't
21 BPA in the plastic, there wasn't any of those
22 things.

23 And here I am with two big recycle
24 bins going out every other week, I'm eating

1 all organic, I'm doing whatever I can do to
2 try to be healthy, and I'm getting sicker and
3 sicker. I don't swim in the beach anymore
4 because I don't trust the water.

5 I'm on the water, and I don't open
6 my windows because the soot on my house tells
7 me that whatever's on my screens in my house
8 is going to go directly into my lungs, and
9 it's scary. It's scary.

10 I just don't understand how we're
11 even here. The Department of Environmental
12 Protection, and we're not being protected.
13 You know what this feels like to me? This
14 feels like the residents of Woburn who came
15 forward over and over again to complain
16 about the water, or the people out in
17 California who were complaining about
18 everybody dying from leukemia.

19 MR. FAIRBROTHER: Please hold
20 the applause.

21 MS. DAIGLE: I know you want to
22 interrupt me because you don't like what
23 I'm saying.

24 MR. FAIRBROTHER: I wanted them

1 to hear your comments. Thank you.

2 MS. DAIGLE: All right. But what
3 I want to tell you is, there is only so long
4 that you can play the game, and then make
5 believe the cancers aren't happening and the
6 people aren't dying, because all it's going to
7 take is one Erin Brockovich to find out what's
8 going on, and just like in California and in
9 Woburn, these companies all pay for golf
10 courses and educations and health spas, and
11 when companies start doing that, I have to
12 wonder why they're really paying, because
13 they're really caring about the community?

14 No, I worked for so many governors
15 and saw so much in my political life that I
16 know what's going on, and you can't fool all
17 of the people all of the time, not even some
18 of the time.

19 And since I'm just recently retired,
20 I've got plenty of time now to do all the
21 legwork it's going to take to get this all
22 taken care of.

23 MR. FAIRBROTHER: Thank you.

24 MS. DAIGLE: I just want to ask you

1 to answer the question someone asked before.
2 Do you have the authority, you as a party
3 here, do you have the authority to stop this,
4 or does it go up higher up the ladder?

5 MR. FAIRBROTHER: We're reviewing
6 the comments received tonight, we've reviewed
7 the application that was submitted by
8 Wheelabrator Saugus. We will make a final
9 decision once all these comments have been
10 considered.

11 MS. DAIGLE: Okay, but who is
12 making that final decision? Is it one
13 person or all of you?

14 MS. RUCH: We're not here to
15 answer questions.

16 MALE VOICE: It's a simple question.

17 MS. RUSH: We are here for the
18 purpose of taking comments, not for answering
19 questions.

20 MS. DAIGLE: I understand that and I
21 respect that, and I've been very respectful of
22 you. I just ask you show me the same respect
23 by answering that one question.

24 Do you have the authority?

1 MS. RUCH: Please don't talk and
2 scream. A lot of you are talking. Talk one
3 at a time up at the microphone.

4 MS. DAIGLE: Okay, I'm on the mike.
5 Do you have the authority to stop this?

6 MS. RUCH: The whole purpose, as
7 described in all of the documents we've put
8 out is to take the comments.

9 We issued a provisional decision
10 so you could see what our understanding,
11 based on the application and our research,
12 where we think a decision lies.

13 The purpose of taking comments is
14 so we can understand everyone's concerns,
15 everyone's comments, what was provided to us
16 orally and in writing. We will consider them,
17 and as appropriate, make any changes to the
18 decision.

19 MS. DAIGLE: Okay. Well, unlike
20 South Pacific and Flint, Michigan, and Woburn,
21 we're not just talking about water; we're
22 talking about water, land, and air. We're
23 talking about all three things that let the
24 human breathe and live.

1 And there is no way -- forget not
2 even having a liner, sitting on the water,
3 there is no way that these toxins aren't
4 leaching into our water and into our air.

5 And I hope that while these people
6 are strolling around twenty years from now
7 looking at birds and owls, I want to hear them
8 in twenty years come back and tell me they're
9 cancer free.

10 MR. FAIRBROTHER: Thank you for
11 those comments.

12 MR. POLCARI: I'm John Polcari,
13 P-O-L-C-A-R-I, Revere. My affiliation, I am
14 an officer of the Point of Pines Beach
15 Association. We own and manage thirty acres
16 of dunes and beach right at the mouth of the
17 Pines River, just beyond the yacht club.

18 As an organization, we oppose the
19 expansion. Personally, I can't do any better
20 than Representative Vincent in terms of the
21 reasoning, but as a practical engineer, I want
22 to know why what twisted logic can we allow
23 the expansion of something that would never
24 have been allowed to be built today.

1 And that's where I'm going to
2 leave it. Thank you.

3 MS. BYRD: Hi, my name is Casey
4 Byrd. Last name, B-Y-R-D, first name,
5 C-A-S-E-Y. I am from Appalachia. I am here
6 in the Massachusetts area as a student, for
7 sustainability at the University of
8 Massachusetts in Boston. I am also on the
9 Youth Advisory Board with Clean Water Action.

10 I am here to invite you into the
11 green industry and the green world. It's a
12 world where we really think about our future,
13 not only your future, but my future, my
14 children's future.

15 And a lot of what I'm hearing today
16 from, you know, the people here, remind me of
17 Appalachia; cancer, soot. In my community,
18 if you stay there for three days, your mucus
19 turns black. It's a real thing.

20 And I really would love for you guys
21 to reframe this question of how, instead of
22 how can we expand, or how can we get approval
23 from the community for this, how can we safely
24 and swiftly close this up and create a

1 green economy. Thank you.

2 MR. FAIRBROTHER: I'll call a few
3 more names here. James DeMiles, Kevin
4 O'Malley, Steven Horlick, and Jan McWilliams.

5 MS. PAZ: Hi, my name is Kadineyse
6 Paz, and I'm the environmental health and
7 justice organizer from Clean Water Action.
8 I am here on behalf of Clean Water Action's
9 great 1,000 plus Massachusetts members.

10 We urge the Department of
11 Environmental Protection to reconsider their
12 provisional decision allowing the ash landfill
13 to expand. We ask you to say no to further
14 burdening of Saugus and neighboring towns.

15 Key reasons for our opposition
16 include, one, violation of environmental
17 justice. The ash landfill is located within
18 one mile of previous environmental justice
19 communities of Saugus, and it's impacted EJ
20 communities in Revere and Lynn.

21 Where is the consideration of the
22 additional burden that this facility's
23 expansion would place on these formerly
24 designated low income communities and

1 communities of color? Where is the state's
2 commitment to better protect these
3 overburdened neighborhoods. Where is the
4 proper ground water monitoring to analyze
5 local impacts on this unlined landfill?

6 Two, environmental health threat.
7 The ash is laced with toxic chemicals
8 contained in the trash that is incinerated
9 at the facility, including the most hazardous
10 bioaccumulative emphasis of chemicals, such
11 as dioxin, lead, and mercury.

12 The International Agency for
13 Research on Cancer has classified dioxin as
14 a known human carcinogen, with no known safe
15 dose of exposure. Mercury and lead are proven
16 neurotoxins. Additional ash containing these
17 substances has no place in a densely settled
18 area such as this one.

19 Three, commitment to Massachusetts'
20 zero waste plan. At the very least, before
21 expansion of this landfill is even considered,
22 there should be a concerted effort to enforce
23 the state's waste bans and focus on increasing
24 compulsory reuse and recycling.

1 According to Wheelabrator's own
2 records, approximately 80 percent of the
3 materials they incinerate are recyclable and
4 compostable, which is something you've heard
5 already. Those proven solid waste management
6 tools would zero out this landfill's need for
7 expansion.

8 In conclusion, we strongly oppose
9 this provisional decision that would amplify
10 the unjust burden already placed upon Saugus
11 and the around communities. We ask the
12 Department to reconsider their decision and
13 say no to this proposed expansion. Thank you
14 for the opportunity to speak tonight.

15 MS. LEBLANC: My name is Joan
16 LeBlanc and I'm here on behalf of the Saugus
17 River Watershed Council.

18 I have given up on any of my
19 comments, so I'm just going to speak to you
20 frankly.

21 We are a nonprofit organization
22 and our mission is protecting the natural
23 resources in the watershed. The geographic
24 area of the watershed includes all of Saugus,

1 significant portions of Lynn and Revere,
2 as well as eight other communities.

3 We have been working with partners
4 at the local level, the state level, the
5 federal level, on many issues that are aimed
6 at protecting and restoring the Rumney Marsh's
7 ACEC. You've heard quite a bit about that --
8 the importance of that.

9 The concern I have standing before
10 you tonight is this. You have issued your
11 provisional decision, you have said that,
12 based on what you have looked at, you think
13 that this is the way to go.

14 We don't think this is the way to
15 go, and so, I'd like to just spend my three
16 minutes trying to give you some information,
17 and we will send something in writing, as
18 well, but trying to give you some information
19 that will help you to shift from thinking this
20 is a great idea to understanding that it isn't
21 a great idea.

22 In fact, it could be very damaging
23 to the community, to the environment, to the
24 neighborhoods, to the beaches, and to

1 people's health.

2 So, first, I'd like to talk a little
3 bit about climate change. We have worked on
4 fish restoration, we have worked on wetlands
5 restoration, etc. One of our big priorities
6 over the past eight years has been climate
7 adaptation and understanding risks to people
8 in the watershed, and related to sea level
9 rise, storm surge, and increasing rainfall.

10 We have partnered with the park
11 service and done a climate adaption plan of
12 the Saugus Iron Works, we have been on the
13 working committee for the City of Lynn in
14 putting together their risk assessment related
15 to coastal resiliency. So, I want to share
16 with you a couple things related to that.

17 Way upstream in the Saugus Iron
18 Works, you have what I would call a mini
19 landfill. There is a historic dumping of
20 arsenic related to the iron production.
21 The reason I bring this up is, I think it's
22 a good comparison.

23 Here, that's closed; okay, it's
24 capped, but that's not enough. Even way

1 upstream, with minimal impacts from sea level
2 rise and rainwater, the park service partied
3 with us and worked proactively to develop a
4 plan to try and shore that thing up, to make
5 sure that that arsenic is not resuspended into
6 the environment.

7 If anyone suggested to you, hey,
8 that's a nice capped arsenic landfill, how
9 about we rip that thing open and put some
10 more contaminants in there on the banks of
11 the Saugus River. I believe you would laugh.
12 I believe you would think that this was the
13 most crazy idea you ever heard.

14 However, further downstream, we
15 have identified the ash landfill in Saugus
16 as the number one risk to climate change,
17 to the community, to the beaches, and to
18 public health.

19 Here, we are talking -- we're not
20 talking about the bureaucratic way it sounds
21 in that provisional decision; we are talking
22 about the capped portion of the landfill,
23 the part of the landfill that is right on
24 the banks of the river, right adjacent to

1 the marsh. We're talking about ripping that
2 cap open and putting more contamination in
3 there.

4 And we know a lot more things today
5 than we did ten years ago, so I understand
6 you might be thinking, hey, we approved this
7 before, so we have to approve it again. No.
8 We never have to make the same mistakes twice,
9 especially when we have information today that
10 we didn't have in the past.

11 We know that sea level rise is
12 increasing, we know that the risks to the
13 environment are greater because you have a
14 combination of potentially damaging storms
15 that we've seen wreaking havoc all over the
16 country.

17 MS. FAIRBROTHER: We are up against
18 the time limit, if I could hold you there.

19 MS. LEBLANC: Thank you. If I could
20 just finish up with just one more minute,
21 please? Not a full minute, but just a couple
22 additional comments. Thank you.

23 So, this is very important, and that
24 site is basically a risk waiting to happen.

1 The ACEC regulations that are in place today
2 have all sorts of requirements for why we
3 need to hold this site to the highest standard
4 possible.

5 Ripping open that landfill and
6 bringing in a half a million tons of
7 contamination to this site is not holding it
8 to any standard. We have no monitoring of
9 ground water, no monitoring of surface water,
10 no monitoring of sediments adjacent to that
11 facility. There is no information that
12 gives us any level of comfort that this is
13 a good idea.

14 And I need to make one final point,
15 the bird sanctuary. Those plantings were
16 required as environmental mitigation, the
17 purpose of which is to mitigate the
18 environmental damage related to bringing
19 contaminants and disposing of them at that
20 site. The capping of this landfill that's
21 in place, the grassy cover now that this
22 permit would rip up is part of that habitat.

23 So, if anyone here does care about
24 the birds, they would not support ripping open

1 the bird habitat to bring in more
2 contamination. Thank you.

3 MR. FAIRBROTHER: Thank you.

4 MR. DEMILES: Good evening. My
5 name is Jim DeMiles, D-E-M-I-L-E-S. I reside
6 at 12 Pevwell Drive in Saugus.

7 And the first, I'd like to start off
8 by thanking all of the previous speakers for
9 their passion, their point on. And when you
10 stop and you think about it, I've been in this
11 community with my wife for thirty-three years,
12 and for thirty-three years, it's been the same
13 thing, and it's been the same passion.

14 With the RESCO third burner
15 expansion, my wife and I got involved, and
16 with one of the local groups, SAVE, we did a
17 health survey in Precinct 10. I believe we
18 did about 800 households.

19 The numbers were staggering, and
20 when you went back in time to their parents,
21 which was pre acid scrubbers, and the health
22 effects it had on their parents, so it was a
23 little easier on them, because -- people in
24 my generation, because we lived mostly with

1 the acid scrubbers.

2 What is before you is, if you look
3 at demographics, in the general areas of pre
4 acid scrubbers and the health and cause and
5 effect, the acid scrubbers, the numbers come
6 down possibly a tad bit.

7 You have a unique opportunity for --
8 I'm not going to say the next generation, but
9 let's use like the generation that's not even
10 here yet. They have a fighting chance to
11 potentially go through life in this town
12 without a cancer. You can actually make that
13 happen right now. How cool would that be?
14 That's what I want to put upon you, sir, or
15 this board. Thank you.

16 MR. FAIRBROTHER: Thank you.

17 MR. HORLICK: Steven Horlick,
18 H-O-R-L-I-C-K, Town Meeting member,
19 Precinct 8, and a Saugus resident about
20 twenty-five years.

21 I just want to go back about
22 twenty-five years ago when we used to be
23 able to put up so many different things in
24 the trash, and then the DEP said, "We're

1 here to protect you. You can no longer put
2 this, this, this, out in the trash, because
3 we want to keep that out of the environment,
4 so now you can't send that to a landfill or
5 to an incinerator, or anyplace else."

6 And during the past twenty years,
7 my trash has got smaller and smaller and
8 smaller from things I can no longer throw out.

9 During that twenty years, you have
10 given these people here at RESCO a pass, that
11 there have been extension after extension
12 after extension to still dump this
13 contaminated ash in a landfill where you force
14 me and every resident in Massachusetts to put
15 out less because you say you're protecting the
16 environment by not allowing me to put things
17 out in my trash.

18 The stuff that I would have put out
19 over the last twenty years is paled compared
20 to all of the extra ash they've been allowed
21 to dump in that landfill for the past twenty
22 years.

23 There's been a lot of good people
24 here, Lynn, Revere, Saugus -- Saugus with a

1 watershed, SAVE, all these people and hundreds
2 of volunteers every year fight to keep that
3 Saugus River and the estuary around there
4 clean. The volunteers clean it up, and they
5 always constantly fight to make sure that that
6 -- the water comes back and the marine life
7 comes back.

8 Now, if everybody is so concerned
9 about renewable energy, then why don't you
10 just shut it down and tell them to put up a
11 solar farm, that that would give you, I think,
12 better renewable energy than having a plant
13 that burns ash and dumps it down here.

14 We have one up at the Saugus
15 landfill, we put one up there. It's getting
16 tens of thousands of dollars back to the town
17 every year in solar energy, it's renewable,
18 and it's saving everybody money, and it causes
19 no harm to the environment that we can see,
20 because it's solar.

21 Also, too, everybody is worried
22 about trash being trucked out. I would r
23 ather have the trash being trucked out than
24 have more of it being put there, because

1 eventually, like it's been said, we get
2 these major storms coming up now.

3 You've seen the devastation just
4 three hurricanes did in Florida, the Virgin
5 Islands, Puerto Rico, and Texas. I mean,
6 who would think that there would be hundreds
7 and billions of dollars damage just from
8 these three storms, and they're going to be
9 rebuilding for the next five to seven years.

10 All we need is one storm, not a
11 Category 5, but something smaller, to make a
12 direct hit anywhere near that area and it
13 will probably rip the top of that landfill
14 right off because it's the highest point.
15 Everything there is flat in comparison to
16 that landfill.

17 So, I'd just ask you to make sure
18 that you don't allow anymore of this to be
19 dumped. Please close this down and let's set
20 up a plan to end up finally capping this off
21 and finding another use for it, like I said,
22 a solar farm.

23 We have another neighboring town
24 who decided after twenty years of fighting

1 with the town, which is Advocate Industries,
2 and you people have been involved in Advocate
3 Industries, the issues we've had up there.

4 Now, we decided after twenty years
5 of fighting with the town, we're going to work
6 with the town, we're going to fill in the
7 whole area up there, the pit, and we're going
8 to come up with a solution that's going to
9 benefit the residents of Saugus.

10 We're not going to do anymore
11 environmental damage by mining rock up there
12 anymore, and we're going to make it a place
13 that everybody can remember. This is what we
14 did as a good neighbor to the Town of Saugus.
15 Thank you.

16 MR. FAIRBROTHER: Thank you.
17 I'm going to call a couple more names here.
18 Katie LaJoie and John Tuthill, please.

19 MS. McWILLIAMS: My name is Jan
20 Sculla McWilliams, M-C-W-I-L-L-I-A-M-S. I've
21 lived in Revere for over forty years. I'm an
22 educator, I've raised three children in this
23 city, and I'm standing here absolutely shocked
24 that the same issue is still going on. You

1 know, I feel like I'm in some kind of a
2 nightmare, and I can't get out.

3 These people that have all testified
4 before me, they have done such a wonderful
5 job, and I have really nothing to add
6 statistically to what they had to say.
7 I'm very proud to be part of this active
8 community.

9 But what I do want to ask you to
10 do is what others have asked you to do,
11 protect us. The cancer rate is horrible in
12 this community, and we have been fighting
13 this, we have been talking about this, we have
14 been trying to do something with this forever.

15 I was a community activist, I did a
16 lot of work in Roxbury, and now I'm going to
17 say the same thing that Debra Daigle said.
18 She's retired, I'm retired, and now I feel
19 it's time to do something for the community
20 that I've lived in.

21 I'm asking you to please change
22 your decision and close this facility, and
23 together, we can all come up with some kind
24 of way to make our towns a better place to be.

1 But I'm also extremely angry and frustrated,
2 and I do feel that if this does not happen,
3 it is time for a lot of us in these
4 communities to get together, and it might be
5 time to, you know, start thinking about a
6 documentary, because this is just going too
7 far. Thank you very much.

8 MR. FAIRBROTHER: Thank you. A
9 couple more names to queue up. Jim Connolly.

10 MS. LAJOIE: Hello, my name is
11 Katie LaJoie. I'm actually from New
12 Hampshire. I'm a nurse, and I have a lot of
13 experience with Wheelabrator. They had a
14 facility in Claremont, New Hampshire, and it
15 is now closed. There was a lot of work done
16 by citizens like this for about twenty years.

17 And with all due respect, I think
18 the people who are supporting incineration
19 don't really understand how it works. And
20 this ash landfill does have a lot of toxic
21 pollutants in it, so for people who think
22 it's nontoxic, that's just not true.

23 I urge the citizens to ask for a
24 transition plan to work with you on the

1 transition plan that closes the incinerator
2 and replaces it with conservation, maximum
3 recycling and composting. This way, there
4 would be no more burning, no more ash will
5 be dumped, and people could still have their
6 bird sanctuary, and the ash could be removed,
7 tested, and there could be some remediation
8 there.

9 I am really shocked what I've been
10 hearing about that's been going on here.
11 It's unbelievable. So, I hope that you'll
12 do the right thing and say no to Wheelabrator.
13 Thanks.

14 MR. FAIRBROTHER: Thank you. Next?

15 MR. TUTHILL: Good evening. My name
16 is John Tuthill, also from New Hampshire.

17 I've served many, many years as a
18 representative of a solid waste district in
19 New Hampshire, a district that was involved
20 with Wheelabrator from the mid '80's to the
21 beginning of the 21st century, a long and
22 difficult time for about thirty towns in the
23 upper valley of the Connecticut River.

24 Also served in the legislature in

1 New Hampshire and dealt with issues involving
2 environmental services in New Hampshire, and
3 other waste distribution.

4 I also would like to reiterate what
5 my colleague, Katie LaJoie has said, that it
6 really is stunning to hear some of the things
7 that have come out here this evening.

8 I'm tremendously impressed by the
9 citizens of these communities impacted, and
10 I'm frankly dismayed of what I've heard this
11 evening about the conduct of the Department
12 of Environmental Protection over two decades.

13 This really is simply unacceptable,
14 and I would strongly urge you to revisit this
15 decision to issue a provisional permit, and to
16 move in the direction of transition to a safer
17 and more fair system of managing our
18 resources. Thank you.

19 MR. FAIRBROTHER: Thank you.

20 MR. CONNOLLY: Jim Connolly with
21 Wheelabrator Technologies.

22 Thank you to the DEP for coming
23 tonight, thank you to the public who have come
24 out to comment, and especially thanks to our

1 supporters who have spoken tonight and to the
2 1,200 or so who have given us cards or letters
3 that we'll be submitting to the DEP.

4 I'd like to just take a minute to
5 clear up a few misconceptions that were put
6 out by a number of speakers.

7 First and foremost, the ash is
8 nontoxic.

9 MALE VOICE: You're lying.

10 MR. CONNOLLY: It's a material that
11 is -- the definition of what is a toxin ----

12 MR. FAIRBROTHER: Please remember
13 the rules tonight, to be respectful when a
14 commenter is talking.

15 MR. CONNOLLY: The definition of
16 what is a toxic or hazardous waste is made by
17 the EPA, and they've prescribed specific tests
18 to determine if waste is, in fact, toxic or
19 hazardous. Toxic or hazardous waste would not
20 be allowed by permit into this landfill.

21 The ash from our facility and all
22 other waste energy facilities are regularly
23 tested and found to be nontoxic.

24 The misconception that there is no

1 ground water protection system. We submitted
2 some supplementary information with the
3 application describing the performance of this
4 system. While it's not the traditional
5 plastic liner, it is a clay soil barrier wall,
6 with a leaching collection system, that serves
7 the same function and meets the same technical
8 standards for protecting ground water, as is
9 the more typical plastic liner.

10 As far as the lack of monitoring,
11 the storm water monitoring is described in the
12 supplemental information to the application
13 submitted in July. Information on the
14 leaching that's monitored is part of our
15 industrial discharge permit to the sewer, and
16 that's also described in the information that
17 was submitted, I believe, back in July.

18 The ACEC is very important. We
19 recognize the values of that, and we feel that
20 we've been a major contributor to the success
21 of that ACEC. The values of the ACEC are to
22 preserve the environment, remediate past
23 problems, and restore habitats. We've done
24 all of that.

1 Land we own outside of the boundary
2 of the landfill is preserved as salt marsh.
3 The installation of that ground water
4 protection system was the largest remediation
5 project, \$17 million dollars, back in 1991 to
6 complete that. And the habitat restoration
7 with our nature trail is, so far, the most
8 successful habitat restoration project in
9 Rumney Marsh's ACEC. We're very proud of
10 those accomplishments.

11 Regarding flood impacts, all of
12 the environmental protection systems of the
13 existing landfill are well out of the flood
14 plan, and with the wildlife sanctuary
15 development, we have created a living
16 shoreline which serves to further protect
17 against any coastal storm impact.

18 And then just one other thing,
19 people talked about extension, extension,
20 extension. Since 1991, with the original
21 permit and the authorization to operate,
22 and the current ground water protection
23 system and configuration was issued, the
24 landfill, in 1996, went through a MEFA

1 process with extensive public comment,
2 was granted a permit to continue to operate
3 until those configurations were met.

4 And then again, in 2008, there was
5 an additional permit modification. Those are
6 the extensions, and they are associated with
7 the permit.

8 So, with that, again, I just want to
9 thank the DEP for taking the time to come out
10 and hear the public comment. Thanks for the
11 people who came tonight to share their views.

12 MR. FAIRBROTHER: Thank you.

13 MR. SERINO: Good evening. My name
14 is Michael Serino, S-E-R-I-N-O. I'm a
15 lifelong Saugus resident, a Town Meeting
16 member from Precinct 10, current Chairman of
17 the Board of Assessors, former Chairman of the
18 Board of Selectmen, and Chairman of the
19 Conservation Commission.

20 I stand before you tonight in
21 opposition to the Massachusetts Department of
22 Environmental Protection's decision to allow
23 Wheelabrator, RESCO, to dump an additional
24 400,000 cubic yards of toxic ash along the

1 Saugus River and into the state's designated
2 ACEC area, an area of critical environmental
3 concern.

4 The Wheelabrator toxic ash
5 landfill is an unlined landfill. Considering
6 today's updated environmental standards, the
7 landfill would not be allowed to operate in
8 Massachusetts. The Wheelabrator incinerator
9 produced carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, and
10 nitrous oxide, which results in innocuous
11 toxic ash being dumped in the unlined
12 landfill.

13 The expansion of the Wheelabrator
14 landfill is not in the best interest in
15 regards to the protection of our environment.

16 Some forty years ago, when
17 Wheelabrator, RESCO, began operating, nobody
18 had any idea of the potential health risks in
19 the state, however, some forty years later, we
20 do know this. According to the Massachusetts
21 Cancer Registry, Saugus has elevated cancer
22 rates compared to the statewide average.

23 Latest data from the Massachusetts
24 Cancer Registry shows that Saugus has elevated

1 cancer rates in 15 out of 23 cancer type
2 studies.

3 The expansion of the Wheelabrator
4 landfill is not in the best interest in
5 regards to the protection of the health of
6 our residents. I honestly believe any further
7 discussion of the Wheelabrator landfill should
8 focus on quality environmental development
9 of that site, which would provide jobs and
10 new revenue opportunities for Massachusetts
11 and Saugus.

12 In conclusion, like my cousin,
13 Pam Harris, who is a member of the Board of
14 Health in Saugus, who recently died from brain
15 cancer, who had been dealing with this issue
16 for many years, we need your help.

17 I ask, when is enough, enough? The
18 Town of Saugus has done more than it's fair
19 share in regards to the disposal of solid
20 waste in Massachusetts. The expansion of the
21 Wheelabrator toxic ash landfill is not the
22 answer to quality economic growth, the
23 protection of our environment, and the health
24 of our residents. Thank you.

1 MR. FAIRBROTHER: Is there anyone
2 here now who did not previously indicate the
3 desire to present comment tonight. If you
4 wish, you can do so now.

5 Is there anyone else?

6 MS. LESTER: My name is Mary Lester,
7 M-A-R-Y, L-E-S-T-E-R. I am the Chair of the
8 Lynn Conservation and Saugus River Watershed.

9 I live directly across from RESCO,
10 and see the smoke tower, white dust all over
11 the windows every day. When I was thirty-
12 seven, I was diagnosed with Stage IV breast
13 cancer. I'm looking for a way to get my son
14 out of this area.

15 None of you would move to where
16 I am and live there. You can help us.
17 You need to help us. It's not fair. Every
18 other person on our street has cancer.
19 Please help us. Thank you.

20 MS. DEMILES: Hi, my name is Lena
21 DeMiles, I live at 12 Pevwell Drive. I'm on
22 the Saugus Board of Health, but I'm not here
23 as a Saugus Board of Health member.

24 I'm here as a townie. For thirty-

1 three years, we've lived in the neighborhood
2 with RESCO and Wheelabrator. Unfortunately,
3 like some of the other folks, I'm nine months
4 out of cancer. I've had surgery, chemo,
5 radiation.

6 It's got to stop. The study that
7 my husband spoke about, I went door-to-door.
8 Nineteen communities. Every house in the
9 neighborhood has some type of cancer. Every
10 house in the neighborhood, some people have
11 two to three family members.

12 One of the gentlemen before me,
13 Pam Serino, she had glioblastoma. That's a
14 terrible way to die.

15 And I'm a registered nurse; I don't
16 know if I said that. So, I've dedicated
17 forty-three years of my life to help, and to
18 be now one of the people that's got to have
19 that type of care, that's pretty sad.

20 You guys have to stop this. When
21 we see the smoke coming out, we get woken up
22 in the middle of the night, lots of noise,
23 lots of smoke. You know, there's piles along
24 107. We've had people go up there and check it

1 out. We don't know what's flying down.

2 We have no idea.

3 We keep talking about these health
4 studies. Everyone talks a good talk, but
5 when it comes to action, having action, I
6 don't see it. I haven't seen it in the last
7 twenty years. What I've seen is a lot of good
8 people die. I saw my son's friend, twenty-
9 eight years old, die last year of leukemia.
10 Where does it end?

11 So, you guys do have the power;
12 you have the power to make this go away.
13 We know we have to take care of the trash,
14 but we also have to take care of the people,
15 because I tell you, I know what my cancer
16 bills were, and that's a lot of money.

17 I know what each chemo treatment
18 costs, because I'm not only on the end of
19 taking care of people, I'm on the end now
20 of being one of the patients, and it's got
21 to stop.

22 You need to stop this expansion.
23 It's got to go away. Forty years, no way.
24 Our poor kids in this town -- you know,

1 they talk about the children, they talk
2 about these grounds as if it's a public park.
3 Well, this public park, they have children
4 running all over it. What are these kids
5 going to do thirty years from now? What
6 kind of cancers are they going to have?

7 We talk and talk and talk. And I
8 talk about it at some other meetings. I am
9 passionate about this. I've given this the
10 last twenty years at different levels, and
11 sometimes I have to walk away just to keep
12 my head straight.

13 But the problem is, no one is making
14 it go away, because it's about the greed, but
15 it takes more greed to take care of people.
16 So, you do have the power to stop the
17 expansion, please.

18 MR. FAIRBROTHER: Thank you.

19 MR. TRUNFIO: My name is Paul
20 Trunfio, spelled T-R-U-N-F-I-O. I'm a
21 resident of Saugus.

22 We've had a lot to say to you about
23 health issues, and I'd like to continue that
24 effect on health issues, especially cancer.

1 I'm a cancer survivor, and I have
2 had numerous doctors that treat me, asking all
3 of them what is the cause of cancer. And they
4 answer me, all of them, these are doctors of
5 oncology, that they don't know the answer.
6 It's either -- but I get the same answer all
7 the time; it is either environmental or it's
8 genetic. That's how they answer me.

9 In addition to myself, my wife is a
10 survivor of cancer also, and I've confronted
11 her numerous number of doctors also of
12 oncology, asking the same question, and the
13 answer is the same.

14 So, we hear an awful lot about
15 cancer; I think it's probably the second or
16 third most frequent cause of death behind
17 heart attacks. And with all of the
18 improvements they've made in treatment,
19 we still do not know the cause of it.

20 So, I'm here just to simply say
21 that we've heard a lot of sad stories about
22 people that have had cancer and died from
23 cancer, but yet, we don't know if the
24 relationship comes from living in Saugus,

1 being close to Wheelabrator.

2 I don't know how you commit that
3 relationship that it's the cause from living
4 in Saugus, because you hear it all over
5 Massachusetts, all over the country, really,
6 and it's becoming more and more prevalent.

7 So, I am here to just simply say
8 that I support your decision on what you
9 come across and finally make a decision on
10 Wheelabrator, and I just want to say that they
11 are a benefit to the town, in that regard,
12 that they do -- and all the towns that they
13 support them also, that it's a necessary thing
14 to have, and I just support your decision in
15 whatever you decide. Thank you.

16 MR. FAIRBROTHER: Thank you.

17 Do we have anymore? One more?

18 MR. MCWILLIAMS: Larry McWilliams,
19 M-C-Williams, 666 Revere Beach Boulevard.
20 I've been living there for forty-four years.

21 When we moved there in '73, they had
22 had a vinyl siding on it, it was white, but it
23 wasn't very white. About ten years into that,
24 we decided to get better -- the vinyl had come

1 out, so we did vinyl.

2 But even for the last twenty years,
3 I've been having to wash the vinyl -- white
4 vinyl siding at least three times a year with
5 a hose, a power hose.

6 And I thought, to tell you the
7 truth, that this was from the airplanes
8 landing at Logan Airport, with you know, the
9 jet fuel exhaust coming down. But I realize
10 tonight, after listening to this testimony,
11 that it definitely couldn't have been that
12 because we have, you know, prevailing winds
13 that are offshore, west to east, and the jet
14 fuel would have been much more out to sea than
15 anywhere near my house.

16 And I just, from the testimony
17 tonight about the dirtiness of the houses and
18 on the windowsills -- two days ago, I Windexed
19 my car windows, and overnight, we got a little
20 bit of rain, so I went out the next morning
21 and there was water on the windshield.

22 And I put the windshield wipers
23 on, and it was like swishing brown water back
24 and forth. And I said to myself, that's

1 definitely not jet fuel. And I realize
2 tonight what it was. I had no idea about
3 this.

4 So, I hope you're going to
5 reconsider your application. Thank you.

6 MR. FAIRBROTHER: Thank you. Is
7 that everyone here tonight who wishes to
8 provide comment?

9 MR. PANETTA: Hello, Mark Panetta,
10 1 Bellevue Street in Saugus.

11 I wasn't going to speak this
12 evening because there's been so many wonderful
13 speakers here, and I don't intend to be one
14 of them. But I will tell you, hearing the
15 testimony this evening, when I hear money,
16 health, profit, death, and you've got to
17 decide?

18 This is not something that's that
19 complicated to look at. Whether it's cancer;
20 we know that RESCO Wheelabrator, it's not
21 healthy. We know that already.

22 This application, there's so much
23 talk about the birds and how important they
24 are. This application is the eviction notice

1 to those birds. This application doesn't
2 improve anything.

3 Before you can talk about expansion,
4 shouldn't you talk about the end? How are you
5 going to end this? How are you going to let
6 this become the termination of this at some
7 point, because at some point, it does have to
8 end, whether they want it to or not.

9 As a business, they're never going
10 to just decide to just close it. That is
11 incumbent upon us as a community to decide
12 enough, and incumbent upon you as the agents
13 that protects us to say, even if you expand
14 it, we want to know when will this end,
15 because this is not ----

16 The application, this approval of
17 this permit does not lead to any sort of
18 resolution of the matter, and no matter what
19 side you're on, shouldn't you at least agree
20 that at some point, this has to end.

21 I urge you to reject this
22 application and let this process begin to end.
23 Thank you.

24 MR. FAIRBROTHER: Thank you.

1 So, in closing, I'd like to thank
2 all present in attendance tonight. If you
3 have not filled out an attendance slip, please
4 do so before you leave tonight, to insure that
5 you will receive any future communications
6 sent to the interested persons list.

7 The comments submitted at this
8 hearing will be considered by the Department
9 before taking further action on the
10 provisional decision of the partial valley
11 fill project.

12 The public comment period to the
13 provisional decision closes at 5:00 p.m.
14 January 12th, 2018. Comments may be
15 submitted to the Department by e-mail, to
16 WheelabratorSaugus.massdep@state.ma.us, or by
17 mail to the Mass DEP Solid Waste Section,
18 Northeast Regional Office, 205B Lowell Street
19 in Wilmington, Massachusetts, 01887.

20 Following the close of the public
21 comment period, the Department will summarize
22 and respond to the oral and written comments
23 submitted during the public comment process.

24 Notice of the final permit decision

1 and response to comments document will be sent
2 to all persons by e-mail who have participated
3 in the public review process and provided us
4 an e-mail address.

5 Considering that there is no further
6 testimony, I will hereby close this hearing at
7 9:20 on November 30th, 2017. Thank you again
8 for your time tonight.

9
10
11 (Hearing Adjourned at 9:20 p.m.)
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C E R T I F I C A T E

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I, Julie Desmarais, a Notary Public in
and for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, do
hereby certify that the foregoing record, Pages
1 to 137, inclusive, is a true and accurate
transcript of my System Tapes to the best of my
knowledge, skill and ability.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my
hand and Notarial Seal this 18th day of December,
2017.

Julie Desmarais
Notary Public

My Commission expires: November 28, 2023

HEARING OF WHEELABRATOR/SAUGUS

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEARING
RE: WHEELABRATOR, SAUGUS

EXTENSION OF PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD
ON PROVISIONAL DECISION

RE: SAUGUS - Solid Waste Management
Wheelabrator Saugus, Inc. Ash Landfill
100 Salem Turnpike
FMF#: 39704
PWP SW11/Landfills - Major Modification
Transmittal Number: X271439

PRESENT FOR DEP BOARD:

MARK FAIRBROTHER, Hearing Officer,
Solid Waste Section Chief, NERO

ERIC WORRALL, Regional Director, Mass DEP, NERO

SUSAN RUCH, Deputy Regional Director,
Bureau of Air & Waste, NERO

RICK SPIELER, Environmental Engineer,
Bureau of Air & Waste, NERO

ROBERT BROWN, Mass DEP's Office of General Counsel

ANTHONY VALU, Mass DEP's Office of Municipal Partnerships
and Governmental Affairs

ED COLETTA, Mass DEP's Public Affairs Office

PRESENT FOR WHEELABRATOR:

Michelle Firmbauch Nadeau
Jim Connolly
Jack Walsh

Thursday, November 30, 2017, 6:50 p.m.

Held at:
Saugus High School
Pierce Memorial Drive
Saugus, MA 01906

CDA CONNOR & DESMARAIS AGENCY

517 Walnut Street, Saugus, MA 01906 (781) 231-0900

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HEARING OF WHEELABRATOR/SAUGUS

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

2
3 MR. FAIRBROTHER: Good evening.
4 I hope you can all hear me. Welcome. I
5 declare this hearing open at 6:50 p.m. on
6 November 30th, 2017 in Saugus, Massachusetts,
7 here at the Saugus High School.

8 This hearing is being conducted by
9 the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Department
10 of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Air
11 and Waste, the Northeast Regional Office.

12 My name is Mark Fairbrother, the
13 Solid Waste Section Chief for the Department
14 and the Northeast Regional Office. I will
15 be serving as the Hearing Officer for this
16 hearing.

17 Sitting with me on the panel
18 tonight is Eric Worrall, the Regional
19 Director for the Mass DEP, Northeast Regional
20 Office. We will refer to that as NERO.

21 Also, Susan Ruch, Deputy Regional Director
22 for the Bureau of Air and Waste in Mass DEP's
23 NERO Office, and Rick Spieler, Environmental
24 Engineer for the Bureau of Air and Waste,

1 As such, Wheelabrator Saugus,
2 Incorporated submitted a major modification
3 application, the permit category BWP SW11.

4 Mass DEP's review of major
5 modifications to a landfill is governed by
6 310 CMR 19.033. This regulation allows
7 Mass DEP to either issue its permit decision
8 directly, or to issue a provisional decision
9 to provide the opportunity for any interested
10 persons to submit written comments on Mass
11 DEP's provisional decision.

12 A public hearing is not required
13 or expressly authorized by the regulations.
14 Nonetheless, Mass DEP announced, in a
15 memorandum issued on May 5th, 2017, that the
16 Department would issue any decision on the
17 application as a provisional decision for
18 public comment, and would hold a hearing
19 solely for the purpose of accepting comment
20 on any such provisional decision.

21 Mass DEP is maintaining an
22 interested persons list for this proposed
23 project, including every person who
24 identified himself or herself as such during

1 also from NERO.

2 In the audience is Robert Brown
3 from Mass DEP's Office of General Counsel,
4 Anthony Valu from Mass DEP's Office of
5 Municipal Partnerships and Governmental
6 Affairs, and Ed Coletta from Mass DEP's
7 Public Affairs Office.

8 The purpose of this hearing is to
9 allow an opportunity for interested persons
10 to provide comment to Mass DEP regarding a
11 provisional decision which Mass DEP issued,
12 for public comment on November 1st, 2017.

13 The provisional decision concerns
14 the application filed by Wheelabrator Saugus,
15 Incorporated for a major permit modification
16 relating to the placement of additional fill
17 in two valleys on the landfill, and is
18 referred to as, "The Partial Valley Fill
19 Project." The landfill is located at 100
20 Salem Turnpike in Saugus, Massachusetts.

21 The proposed project falls within
22 the designation of a major modification of
23 the landfill under the solid waste
24 regulations at 310 CMR 19.

1 the 2016 MEFA process for the proposed
2 project, and those who have subsequently
3 identified themselves as interested persons.

4 Mass DEP sent an e-mail to
5 interested persons in May of 2017 to alert
6 them that Mass DEP had established a web page
7 for the proposed project and had posted the
8 application and the May 5th memo concerning
9 public review and the comment opportunities.

10 A notice of tonight's public
11 hearing was also sent directly to the
12 interested persons by e-mail, as well as to
13 the local Boards of Health in Saugus and
14 Revere. Notice of tonight's public hearing
15 was also provided with the provisional
16 decision itself and posted on Mass DEP's web
17 page.

18 The Department is conducting this
19 hearing as scheduled today, November 30th,
20 2017. The Department has extended the
21 comment period from Friday, December 1st, 2017
22 to Friday, January 12th, 2018 at 5:00 p.m.

23 Mass DEP will accept comments up to
24 that time. All oral comments tonight and all

HEARING OF WHEELABRATOR/SAUGUS

1 written comments received during the public
2 comment period will be compiled in a response
3 to comment document, will become part of the
4 administrative record for a final decision on
5 the application.
6 Now, before comments are presented,
7 I have a few ministerial items. First, I ask
8 all present here tonight, did you fill out
9 the record of attendance slip indicating
10 your attendance and whether or not you wish
11 to testify tonight. If not, please do so.
12 There are sign-up slips at the table down
13 to the left of the stage.
14 Second, we ask that each of you
15 observe the following rules to insure that
16 each person has the opportunity to provide
17 comments, or his comments to Mass DEP without
18 interruption or disruption.
19 Please be quiet and polite when
20 others are commenting so that Mass DEP can
21 hear those comments. This hearing is not a
22 place tonight to debate or argue, but a place
23 for each person who wants to comment on the
24 provision decision to have her or his

1 comments heard by Mass DEP.
2 And finally, based on the number
3 of individuals who have indicated tonight
4 that they wish to provide oral comments, we
5 will need to limit each speaker's time to
6 three minutes to insure there will be time
7 for everyone who wants to speak.
8 Mass DEP understands that time
9 limits can be frustrating, and therefore,
10 we will hold each speaker to the stated limit
11 to insure everyone gets an equal opportunity.
12 I encourage everyone to use their
13 time to provide substantive comments on the
14 provisional decision to the Mass DEP panel.
15 At the end of the hearing, if
16 time allows, there may be an opportunity to
17 provide additional comments. Again, you
18 may also submit your comments in writing
19 from now through the close of business on
20 January 12th, 2018.
21 I will now ask anyone who wishes
22 to offer testimony to come forward when
23 called. We'll call you in groups of three
24 or four, and have you line up to the left

1 of the stage here, near the left wall.
2 We have microphones in the front to address
3 the panel.
4 When the commenter proceeding you
5 ends, please approach the microphone. Once
6 you reach the microphone, please identify
7 yourself by name and spell your name, please,
8 for the record. Also, please note any
9 organizational affiliation that you may have.
10 Also, please submit any comments --
11 any copies of written testimony you may have
12 to the panel before testifying.
13 I will now open testimony, and we
14 will begin with elected officials.
15 State Representative RoseLee
16 Vincent.
17 MS. VINCENT: Good evening.
18 MR. FAIRBROTHER: Welcome.
19 MS. VINCENT: My name is RoseLee
20 Vincent, R-O-S-E-L-E-E, V-I-N-C-E-N-T. I'm a
21 lifelong Revere resident, and I'm the State
22 Representative for Revere, Chelsea, and
23 Saugus.
24 I first want to thank DEP

1 Commissioner Suuberg for hosting this
2 meeting. It's the first time in twenty years
3 that my constituents and myself have had the
4 opportunity to voice their concerns about
5 Wheelabrator Saugus, and I appreciate your
6 taking this opportunity to speak to this.
7 The first thing I want to say is
8 that I am actively opposed to any further
9 expansion of Wheelabrator ash landfills.
10 We are told this is not an expansion,
11 however, how can 500,000 tons of toxic ash
12 added into a landfill not be considered an
13 expansion.
14 Especially concerning is the area
15 of the proposed expansion, the storm water
16 valleys. These are the last two remaining
17 valleys of the five that were put there for
18 storm water drainage coastal flooding. The
19 other three have already been filled.
20 The two remaining valleys are
21 capped, and they are in the closest proximity
22 to the Pines River. Reopening these two
23 valleys and filling them with an additional
24 500,000 tons of ash flies in the face of

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1 common sense, especially with projected
2 flooding, sea level rises. In this area,
3 it's an extremely sensitive wetland.
4 As many already know, Wheelabrator
5 Saugus is one of the oldest trash incinerator
6 companies in the country, and it's the only
7 unlined ash landfill that is still allowed to
8 operate in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.
9 By today's standards, the DEP would
10 never allow this facility and landfill to be
11 built, yet unfortunately, DEP continues to
12 allow it to expand.
13 Most notably, it's the only ash
14 landfill located in the midst of a wetland
15 and surrounded by an area of critical
16 environmental concern, with more than 140,000
17 people living within three miles of its
18 footprint.
19 Perhaps even more disturbing, this
20 unbuffered site is situated less than a half
21 a mile from residences in Revere, Saugus, and
22 Lynn, and all are designated as environmental
23 justice communities.
24 My friends, my neighbors, and my

1 neighbors, protect my constituency and the
2 environment by denying Wheelabrator's request
3 to continue dumping toxic ash in Saugus for
4 another ten years. Instead, I hope you will
5 require Wheelabrator to begin the closure of
6 this landfill and to begin the remediation to
7 safeguard what is already there. Thank you.
8 MR. FAIRBROTHER: Thank you. And
9 next, Anthony Zambuto from the Revere City
10 Council.
11 MR. ZAMBUTO: Good evening.
12 My name is Anthony Zambuto, Z-A-M-B-U-T-O.
13 I'm a Revere City Counselor at Large. I
14 represent the entire City of Revere.
15 I'm here tonight, first to offer my
16 support for the DEP's decision to issue this
17 provisional permit. This waste to energy
18 plant and wildlife sanctuary -- I appreciate
19 the laughter, but those of us who toured the
20 facility and my friends in the Audubon
21 Society have counted the species that go up
22 there on a weekly basis would beg to differ
23 with the laughter that goes on here.
24 The bottom line here is, I know

1 constituents have been enduring the effects
2 of this environmental injustice for over
3 forty years. This landfill was never meant
4 to be a forever solution, and was scheduled
5 to stop accepting ash in December, 1996.
6 That's twenty-one years ago next month.
7 Yet, unfortunately, time and time
8 again, DEP has allowed them to expand, using
9 the consent order as a loophole to skirt the
10 public process.
11 Tomorrow is December, 2017, twenty-
12 one years beyond the scheduled closure date,
13 and we are still talking about adding more
14 ash to this facility for up to an additional
15 ten years. The landfill has already exceeded
16 its lifetime by two decades, and we are
17 talking about extending it another decade.
18 Another ten years is unacceptable.
19 It doesn't seem right, and in a
20 just world, this public meeting would have
21 been about closure and remediation, not
22 expansion.
23 So, in closing, I am going to ask
24 that Mass DEP do the right thing, protect my

1 I'm protected by the DEP, and my citizens
2 are protected by the DEP. I'll give a simple
3 -- one of the main reasons I support this
4 waste to energy plan.
5 You tell me this is non-toxic ash
6 that they're going to be burying. You're
7 the same people that tell me I have to move
8 soil that babies can eat. So, when you tell
9 me something is non-toxic, guess what, I
10 believe you.
11 I try to let people know, as a
12 City Councilor, why I support Wheelabrator.
13 Some people -- one of my, I thought friends
14 tonight, told me that I'm bought and paid for
15 by Wheelabrator. I was insulted by that.
16 MR. FAIRBROTHER: I will just
17 remind everyone to refrain from the
18 interruptions, as we want to try to stay on
19 course tonight with the number of speakers
20 we have. Thank you.
21 MR. ZAMBUTO: Bottom line is,
22 if Wheelabrator was forced to truck this
23 non-toxic ash to another facility such as
24 Shrewsbury, that would probably be fifty or

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1 sixty trucks through Revere on a daily
 2 basis. How's that work out for your carbon
 3 footprint? Not well.
 4 Bottom line is, that would
 5 extrapolate possibly to fifty. And by the
 6 way, Revere has a ten-year contract with
 7 Wheelabrator for our ticket fees.
 8 So, if we were forced to truck that
 9 ash, let's assume it would be \$15.00 a ton
 10 extra on the tax bill, on the ticket fee.
 11 That extrapolates to probably \$300 bucks a
 12 year a senior's tax bill. Do you know how
 13 many seniors would be homeless from that?
 14 That's if we're saying that this
 15 toxic ash was causing a problem. Nobody has
 16 proved that to me. I work with engineers and
 17 scientists on a daily basis. They have to
 18 deal in facts and science.
 19 When you're building a bridge, you
 20 have to work on the facts. Emotions don't
 21 get involved. Unfortunately, the arguments
 22 against this plan are emotional, not based in
 23 science in fact.
 24 I have to protect my seniors and my

1 It is the policy of the Saugus
 2 Board to be opposed to any additional air or
 3 ash emissions. Three successive Boards have
 4 maintained the policy, which is stated as,
 5 "We hereby declare that it shall be the
 6 policy of the Town of Saugus to encourage and
 7 support that which will result in a net
 8 decrease in air emissions and ash disposal."
 9 We are, therefore, opposed to any
 10 additional forms of combustion, solid waste,
 11 that will yield additional air and ash
 12 emissions.
 13 Our Saugus Town Meeting also
 14 adopted the same language, fifty people
 15 representing our Town, not only as a warrant
 16 article several years ago, but also a
 17 resolution back in May 2016. So, what I'm
 18 saying is, our Town is saying enough.
 19 The landfill was originally
 20 supposed to be closed in 1996 for the grassy
 21 season, as Representative RoseLee Vincent
 22 said, over twenty-one years ago. They have
 23 received nine extensions based on consent
 24 order, and tonight, they're going for

1 taxpayers. There's a lot of them that
 2 support Wheelabrator, as they just reelected
 3 me. There are people here that don't support
 4 me, and that's fine, but I have to do what's
 5 best for the City, and that's why I'm here
 6 tonight. Thank you.
 7 MR. FAIRBROTHER: Next, we have
 8 Debra Panetta.
 9 MS. PANETTA: Hi, good evening.
 10 My name is Debra Panetta, and I am the
 11 Chairperson of the Saugus Board of Selectmen.
 12 My name is spelled D-E-B-R-A, P-A-N-E-T-T-A.
 13 First, I'd like to thank the DEP
 14 for coming here this evening. It's very
 15 important that our citizens from Saugus,
 16 Revere, Lynn, and our neighboring communities
 17 have a voice, so I truly appreciate you
 18 coming.
 19 The Board of Selectmen feel very
 20 strongly that we want to mitigate any
 21 health, safety, and environmental risk to
 22 our community. The Saugus Town Charter
 23 designates the Board of Selectmen as the
 24 policy-making body of our Town.

1 their tenth.
 2 The landfill is unlined, something
 3 that never ever would be allowed with today's
 4 standards, especially not in a wetland
 5 environment within an area of critical
 6 environmental concern of ACEC, which is a
 7 big deal. In fact, Wheelabrator Saugus is
 8 currently the only solid waste incinerator
 9 and unlined ash landfill in Massachusetts.
 10 Wheelabrator also lacks the
 11 required groundwater monitoring and reporting
 12 that is needed to determine whether the
 13 contamination from the landfill is spreading
 14 into the environment and into our
 15 neighborhoods, and impacting our children,
 16 impacting our seniors, impacting each and
 17 every one of us.
 18 In addition, we're concerned that
 19 part of the landfill which they are seeking
 20 to expand was originally required to be left
 21 unfilled by you, by the Mass DEP, so as to
 22 provide channels for storm water runoff.
 23 With projected storm surges and rising tides,
 24 it is only a matter of time before a

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1 devastating coastal storm washes contaminants
 2 into the Saugus and the Pine Rivers.
 3 The new area to be filled, valleys
 4 one and two, is a thirty-nine acre of the
 5 landfill that is currently capped. The link
 6 to these two valleys would allow the landfill
 7 to accept over 500,000 tons of new ash over
 8 the next five, and now I'm reading ten years.
 9 Isn't this counterintuitive to what
 10 we're supposed to really be doing? We're
 11 supposed to capping the landfill, not
 12 uncapping the landfill. The Board of
 13 Selectmen is responsible for keeping Saugus
 14 healthy and safe, and we feel strongly the
 15 landfill should be closed and capped.
 16 For over forty years, Saugus has
 17 done more than it's fair share to deal with
 18 the solid waste issues of the North Shore.
 19 We've been increasing our recycling, we've
 20 been doing what we need to do. Have the
 21 other communities that have been sending
 22 their trash to Saugus?
 23 I know that Revere has been working
 24 on, Lynn has been working on it. We've had

1 On behalf of the nearly 27,000
 2 residents that we have in Saugus, the Board
 3 of Selectmen appreciate your consideration,
 4 and please, please help us. Please protect
 5 us. Please, we're looking to you.
 6 MR. FAIRBROTHER: We're asking
 7 that you hold your applause, as it's taking
 8 away from the time that others would like
 9 to speak.
 10 Next, we have Town Meeting
 11 representative, Mark Costello.
 12 MS. COSTELLO: Good evening.
 13 My name is Mark Costello. I am Precinct 10
 14 Town Meeting member, which is in East Saugus,
 15 which is abutting or pretty much abutting the
 16 Wheelabrator incinerator.
 17 I'm standing here to address this
 18 ongoing issue with the incinerator that
 19 exists here in Saugus and is operated by
 20 Wheelabrator.
 21 The history of this plant's
 22 existence here in Saugus is littered with
 23 incidents of obfuscation and resistance to
 24 being transparent, and many requests that

1 enough. We've been doing this a long time,
 2 over forty years. The facility ----
 3 MR. FAIRBROTHER: Again, you're
 4 running into your time limit.
 5 Please wrap up.
 6 MS. PANETTA: I'm sorry.
 7 MR. FAIRBROTHER: Thank you.
 8 We just want to keep everybody on course
 9 tonight.
 10 MS. PANETTA: The facility and
 11 the ash landfill is within a half a mile
 12 of residential areas in Saugus, Revere,
 13 and Lynn. We're asking the Mass DEP to say
 14 no to the landfill expansion.
 15 We can't forget about the seven and
 16 a half million dollar settlement that they
 17 had for environmental violations, they had
 18 two recent spills. If it wasn't toxic, why
 19 do they come down with their hazmat uniforms?
 20 It's important. We need your protection.
 21 It's vital that Saugus and the
 22 neighboring communities have a voice in this
 23 important matter. The health and well-being
 24 is in your hands.

1 this Town has made as to the definitive
 2 impact that this facility is having on the
 3 environment and the health of the residents
 4 of Saugus, as well as our neighbors in Lynn
 5 and Revere.
 6 From the outset, with their
 7 reluctance to install more environmentally
 8 sound technologies in their smoke stacks, to
 9 be hitting with one of the largest lawsuits
 10 in the history of the Commonwealth for
 11 improper disposal of their ash, to their
 12 periodic mishaps at their plant, which
 13 necessitated their being required to notify
 14 our Board of Health in a far more forthright
 15 manner, they have not been a good neighbor,
 16 and they continue to profess in their
 17 company's literature.
 18 Now, after a protracted period of
 19 the Council chasing Wheelabrator in providing
 20 the Town of Saugus with sufficient
 21 investigative reports and an EIR report, to
 22 be conducted as to the content of the scope
 23 of their proposal to extend and enlarge their
 24 ash piles, as well as the aspects to the

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1 public health of Saugus and the surrounding
2 communities that this landfill presents, we
3 find ourselves at this point, another warrant
4 by them to extend the ash piles.

5 I'm asking you tonight to resist
6 this latest public relations attempt on
7 their part to expand those ash piles.
8 It's an unlined facility. We've asked on
9 numerous aspects for them to be accountable,
10 and they have not. It's just been one
11 extension after another.

12 Please, as the Chairman of our
13 Town Board of Selectmen said, please help us.
14 We need your help. Thank you.

15 MR. FAIRBROTHER: I'm going to
16 call up a few more names to queue us up.
17 Before I do that, I'd just like to remind
18 everyone, we're going to try -- please hold
19 the applause. We want to move through this
20 as efficiently as possible, which will take
21 away time from other people who want to
22 speak.

23 And next, Peter Kendrigan would
24 like to say a few words.

1 landfilling and generating clean renewable
2 energy.

3 We also value our role as a real
4 member of the community by paying taxes,
5 providing jobs, and supporting local
6 organizations and causes. We hope we can
7 continue to do so. Thank you for your
8 consideration.

9 MR. FAIRBROTHER: Thank you.

10 Okay, like I said, to keep this
11 moving along, I'll ask the next four
12 commenters to come up and queue up for the
13 microphone. I have Diane Rosenbeck, Eileen
14 Matthieu, Andrew Hrycyna from the Mystic
15 River Watershed Association, and Bill
16 and/or Carol O'Malley.

17 If the first of you would come
18 right over. Again, please identify yourself
19 and spell your name for the record, please?

20 MS. ROSENBECK: It's Diane,
21 D-I-A-N-E, R-O-S-E-N-B-E-C-K. I'm from
22 Revere. And I just want to say that I feel
23 Wheelabrator has had enough time, and it's
24 time for them to do what they do. And I'd

1 MR. KENDRIGAN: Good evening.
2 My name is Peter Kendrigan. That's
3 K-E-N-D-R-I-G-A-N. I'm the Plant Manager of
4 Wheelabrator Saugus.

5 Let me first thank DEP for your
6 diligence, professionalism, and transparency
7 throughout this permitting process. I also
8 want to thank the members of the public from
9 both sides of this issue for taking time to
10 get involved and make their voices be heard.

11 I especially want to thank our
12 supports who have taken the time to get to
13 know Wheelabrator, recognize what we have
14 done to improve the site, particularly the
15 nature trail and wildlife sanctuary, and
16 have offered us encouragement throughout
17 this process to keep doing what we are doing.
18 I'm grateful to see many of them here
19 tonight.

20 I speak for my entire team in
21 Saugus when I say we have a great pride in
22 the role we play in the region's
23 environmental infrastructure. By safely
24 managing solid waste, reducing the need for

1 like to see it be closed. And that's all I
2 have to say at this time. That's how I feel.
3 Thank you.

4 MR. FAIRBROTHER: Thank you for
5 your comments. Eileen, please? Please come
6 right up to the microphone, please.

7 MS. MATTHIEU: My name is Eileen
8 Matthieu, and I'm here wearing two hats.

9 I'm representing HealthLink, which
10 is an organization that's been formed almost
11 twenty years ago, that's very strongly in
12 favor of clean water, clean air, and was
13 instrumental in helping close the coal power
14 plant in Salem.

15 And we have some written comments
16 which have also been submitted, but I'm going
17 to read -- basically try to enter those and
18 read those for you.

19 So, it has come to the attention
20 of our citizen's group that your Department
21 has provisionally allowed the Wheelabrator
22 RESCO Incinerator to expand the landfill
23 area in which it dumps its toxic ash in
24 environmentally sensitive dromady marshes on

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1 the Mystic River watershed and Pine River
2 watershed.
3 The poisons captured by the
4 environmental scrubbers and not scented air,
5 are instead being concentrated in the
6 landfill and potentially in the marsh, which
7 serves as a nursery for the surrounding
8 waters of Massachusetts Bay.
9 As you well know, Massachusetts'
10 zero waste policy has already reduced the
11 state's human waste and many citizens are
12 very conscious of the need to compost,
13 recycle, and reuse, so that the burning
14 should not continue, certainly not in this
15 place, so close, as many of my previous
16 speakers have said, to the communities of
17 Saugus, Revere, and Lynn, and so vulnerable
18 to environmental stresses, such as sealing
19 the rise, storm surge, and stronger storms
20 due to climate change, which we all know is
21 occurring.
22 And for example, during the recent
23 rain storm on September 30th, when there was
24 heavy flooding, both in land and along the

1 real, they have a ton of flow. Obviously,
2 you won't be able to see this from here, but
3 I will submit it by e-mail. And Mass Bay is
4 quite shallow in this area, and it extends
5 all the way from Cape Ann past Nahant and the
6 Saugus River, into Boston Harbor, and the
7 current continue counterclockwise out past
8 Cape Cod.
9 So, anything that's happening any
10 of our contributing rivers and estuaries is
11 being spread in all directions to the sea
12 life and coast that we all enjoy and want to
13 see our seafood come from, and so forth.
14 So, thank you.
15 MR. FAIRBROTHER: I'll call a few
16 other names to come up here. Robert Logue,
17 Michael Obitane, Anne Dublin, and Al Baker.
18 MR. HRYCYNIA: Hi, I'm Andy Hrycyna,
19 last name H-R-H-C-Y-N-A. I want to speak to
20 just one aspect of this project, which is
21 worth noting, namely, the thoughtful
22 management of the land as rare and valuable
23 grass lined habitat.
24 The facility is an example of

1 marsh road, 1A, traffic was slowed and
2 stopped for almost an hour, and one certainly
3 could be concerned that this kind of event
4 could spread toxins from an unlined landfill,
5 especially if it's combined with any other
6 storm event.
7 And so, we also are very concerned
8 that Wheelabrator and RESCO, which has
9 grandfathered in since its scheduled closing
10 in 1996, we really feel that Wheelabrator,
11 like the Salem Harbor plant, is a plant that
12 is kind of outgrown its purpose and should be
13 removed and closed with its kind of activity,
14 rather than allowing it to be tendered for
15 another ten years.
16 And a quick thing I want to say is
17 that as a person who loves the shores, I'm
18 sure many people here do, I brought a chart
19 of Mass Bay and an Eldridge map of the
20 currents in Mass Bay just to point out,
21 although I'm sure many people here are very
22 correctly concerned about the immediate
23 impact of all of our immediate environment.
24 But, the currents in Mass Bay are

1 intensive human use of land, coupled with
2 the creation and maintenance of high
3 quality habits. Often, those things are in
4 opposition to each other, and here they are
5 arguably maintained together.
6 Assuming that other environmental
7 entries are minimized and public health
8 protected, this can be a model for intensive
9 land use that is also protection of a
10 valuable habitat. Thank you.
11 MR. FAIRBROTHER: Thank you. Next?
12 MALE VOICE: We can't hear the
13 speakers, so could you tell them to reverse
14 the microphone closer.
15 MR. O'MALLEY: Good evening, my
16 name is Kevin O'Malley.
17 MR. FAIRBROTHER: Could you
18 approach the mike there?
19 MR. O'MALLEY: Certainly.
20 My name is Kevin O'Malley. I live
21 at 221 Mills Avenue in Revere, which is right
22 on the Pine River.
23 Every day, I look across the river
24 and see this plant. I understood when I

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1 bought my home, and I've lived in this area
 2 my entire life, that decades ago, this plant
 3 was scheduled to be closed.
 4 I'm trying to figure out what's
 5 changed. What's happened and why hasn't it
 6 been closed? This is an endangered area,
 7 it's a recognized endangered, an endangered
 8 estuary of two rivers that are frequented by
 9 fish, shellfish, people swimming, people boat
 10 on, yet we have an endangered -- a plant
 11 that's endangering our environment. It's the
 12 only plant in Massachusetts that's not
 13 protected from the potential of overflow.
 14 I lived in my home in 2015 when the
 15 water came all the way up the street, and
 16 thirty yards up the street. It certainly
 17 could happen there, and it certainly could
 18 cause a problem with Wheelabrator.
 19 So, what is the justification for
 20 this? There are alternatives. Now, we've
 21 heard tonight from a ludicrous statement that
 22 if Wheelabrator is forced to ship this
 23 dangerous material, it would cause forty or
 24 fifty trucks to come through our

1 there, there'll be no wildlife left.
 2 There'll be no wildlife left in that
 3 sanctuary, there'll be no wildlife left on
 4 our river, our rivers, and it will be
 5 polluted by Wheelabrator's sludge.
 6 What's the inference here? What's
 7 going on with our government? With all due
 8 respect, I really appreciate you people
 9 holding a hearing that you weren't required
 10 to hold, however, who is protecting us?
 11 Isn't that your job? Isn't that your job
 12 to protect us?
 13 Wheelabrator has alternatives,
 14 we don't. We don't have an alternative.
 15 If there's an accident at Wheelabrator, we
 16 suffer, not Wheelabrator. Wheelabrator just
 17 moves to Shrewsbury, or wherever else they
 18 have their plants that are protected, because
 19 I don't know why; maybe the people in
 20 Shrewsbury pay more taxes; maybe the people
 21 in Shrewsbury got more respect than we got.
 22 But I firmly believe that this is a
 23 travesty that we are even here today to
 24 present ourselves, all of us, just to come

1 neighborhoods.
 2 Well, if Wheelabrator was shut
 3 down, there would be no trucks, and if was
 4 shut down as it was supposed to be, there
 5 would be no trucks.
 6 MR. FAIRBROTHER: Again, please,
 7 no interruptions.
 8 MR. O'MALLEY: Pardon me?
 9 MR. FAIRBROTHER: I'm asking the
 10 audience to allow you to give you time to
 11 speak uninterrupted.
 12 MR. O'MALLEY: I would love that
 13 time to be put back in my time here.
 14 Now, again, there's two estuaries.
 15 They talk about a wildlife sanctuary. Well,
 16 good for them. They covered like two miles
 17 of dump and created a wildlife sanctuary.
 18 Well, they're required to cover that dump.
 19 So now, they've created a wildlife
 20 sanctuary, and they make a big deal to the
 21 effect that the kids from Saugus High School
 22 should hit their golf balls there.
 23 Well, you know what, I'm not
 24 impressed because if there's an accident

1 here to defend our right to live in a clean
 2 environment, when we know by proof -- by
 3 proof, that this company is polluting our
 4 environment, and wants to expand that
 5 pollution. Thank you.
 6 MR. FAIRBROTHER: Thank you.
 7 MS. DUBLIN: Hello, my name is Ann
 8 Dublin, A-N-N, D-U-B-L-I-N, Town Meeting
 9 Member, Precinct 1, and President of SAVE,
 10 Saugus Action Volunteers for the Environment,
 11 whose longtime mission has been to promote a
 12 better quality of life through environmental
 13 action and concern.
 14 And I am here tonight to express
 15 that concern regarding the provisional
 16 approval, which would allow Wheelabrator to
 17 continue to dump ash onto the landfill in
 18 Saugus for five to ten more years.
 19 This ash landfill, which you've
 20 heard was supposed to be closed and capped
 21 over twenty years ago, but instead,
 22 Wheelabrator has been given nine extensions
 23 to date to continue to dump ash onto that
 24 landfill.

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1 The is the only active landfill
2 in this state, which is unlined, and the only
3 active landfill in Massachusetts that sits in
4 an area of critical environmental concern.
5 This ACEC designation was given to
6 this area because of its importance as a
7 wetland. And since this designation comes
8 from a state agency, it's hard to believe
9 that the Department of Environmental
10 Protection would continue to allow additional
11 ash to be dumped there.
12 Saugus has the unique distinction
13 of hosting both the ash incinerator and the
14 landfill. And we know that incineration is
15 a very dangerous way to dispose of trash,
16 because the very nature of high temperature
17 burning causes dioxin, a carcinogen, even
18 in minute amounts, that has been found in
19 breast milk.
20 The more improved structures
21 just lead to more toxic byproducts of trash
22 burning. And this residue ends up in the
23 ash landfill.
24 Saugus's ash landfill is worse than

1 Department of Environmental Protection,
2 is charged with making decisions that will
3 protect the environment, and I urge you to
4 rethink this provisional approval and close
5 this toxic landfill once and for all.
6 MS. BAKER: Hi. Thank you so much
7 for having this public hearing tonight and
8 allowing all of us to have our voices be
9 heard.
10 MR. FAIRBROTHER: State your name,
11 please?
12 MS. BAKER: My name is Elle Baker.
13 I live in Revere, Massachusetts, and I'm a
14 founding member of the Alliance for Health
15 and the Environment.
16 I have a number of things to
17 mention, and I also have some questions for
18 DEP, and I assume that you will not be able
19 to answer them here today, but I will submit
20 them in written comment, and I do hope you'll
21 be able to respond to them. Thank you.
22 So, a number of things have
23 happened over the past twenty years. One,
24 as has been previously mentioned, which I'll

1 most because it sits in the middle of a
2 marsh, the start of the food chain in an
3 unlined landfill, further endangering the
4 communities in and around Saugus and beyond.
5 It is disturbing to me to see the
6 efforts that have been steadily undertaken by
7 Wheelabrator to buy support for their planned
8 expansion. They have generously donated to
9 schools, baseball fields, and other community
10 events in order to gain this support. And I
11 find it troubling that anyone would consider
12 the money before their own health and the
13 health of their children.
14 I also find it troubling that
15 Wheelabrator would spend that money on
16 these efforts, including the cost of their
17 television commercials, instead of putting
18 those funds toward water quality testing, a
19 federal requirement, which is even more
20 necessary as this ash landfill sits in a
21 wetland.
22 MR. FAIRBROTHER: I have to remind
23 you of our time limit tonight, ma'am.
24 MS. DUBLIN: The DEP, the

1 skip over, is that it has been slated to
2 close twenty years ago.
3 The valleys were designated and
4 approved by Mass DEP many years ago for a
5 purpose, and I assume that was for storm
6 water runoff. It seems interesting now that
7 they are no longer required, since we've
8 already filled in three of the five that were
9 initially required, and now the proposal is
10 to close the additional two. So, my question
11 is, why are they no longer required, and why
12 is that a good plan?
13 My second question to DEP, and also
14 to Wheelabrator is, the planning. So, they
15 know what their capacity is, and they have an
16 annual fly-over every single year,
17 approximately in the fall, from what I
18 understand, and now, we as a community, seem
19 to be faced with the necessity for them to
20 expand, because there is no other plan at
21 this time.
22 So, they want to fill in the
23 valleys because they've reached their
24 capacity. So, why are we now at the eleventh

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1 hour, trying to make a plan for that? It
2 doesn't seem logical.
3 The Rumney Marsh is an area that
4 was deemed critical environmental concern in
5 1988 for two specific things; it's relevance
6 and it's importance for supporting its
7 ecosystem, the fish and wildlife resources.
8 It's important that has locally significant
9 qualities and the waterways run into the
10 Atlantic Ocean.
11 This is an unlined landfill, so the
12 proposed solution which was implemented was a
13 slurry wall. I looked to find out if any
14 other landfills are using slurry walls, and
15 best practice, I've not been able to find
16 any. So, why is it acceptable in this area
17 of critical environmental concern?
18 As far as capacity, based on
19 available annual reports from Wheelabrator to
20 the Mass DEP, there is currently 5,200,000
21 tons of ash already dumped there. This is on
22 top of an existing dump. So, they claim in
23 previous questions that the site chose them;
24 that they needed to cover that trash to make

1 it better for the environment.
2 I also ask, in regards to daily
3 cover; the ash covered by daily cover. I
4 asked of Wheelabrator, what is the daily
5 cover. The daily cover is more ash. I fail
6 to see how that's a cover, and I would
7 welcome more information about how that's
8 realistic.
9 MR. FAIRBROTHER: You've reached
10 your time limit.
11 MS. BAKER: Okay. For one moment,
12 I'd like everyone to just close their eyes
13 and imagine one elephant, one African
14 elephant. Now, imagine 1,040,000 African
15 elephants. That's how much ash is already in
16 the landfill. I ask you, DEP, to consider
17 closing this ash landfill. Thank you.
18 MR. FAIRBROTHER: Thank you. I'm
19 going to call out some more names. Heather
20 Murray, it looks like Mr. Williams, Brian
21 Williams, Norman Heich, and Marilyn Carlson.
22 MR. LOGUE: Good evening. My name
23 is Robert Logue. Robert, common spelling,
24 last name, L-O-G-U-E.

1 And I'd like to thank the
2 impassioned speakers who spoke out on behalf
3 of closing Wheelabrator. I can't imagine
4 that an unlined landfill that outlived its
5 operation more than twenty years ago, when
6 I still had black hair, is now seeking to
7 expand.
8 Even the Councilor in support of
9 Wheelabrator misspoke the truth on his way
10 out the door when he mentioned it as a toxic
11 landfill.
12 I'm a resident of Point of Pines,
13 Riverside, and I love nothing in the
14 summertime more than a nice ocean breeze.
15 However, I can't keep my windows open all the
16 time because I get a layer of ash sitting on
17 the windowsill. How that would not cause a
18 physical impact or an environmental impact is
19 well beyond me. Thank you for your time.
20 MR. FAIRBROTHER: Thank you.
21 MR. ORBITANE: Mike Orbitane, 24
22 Spencer Ave.
23 The percentages that you have of
24 different types of cancer in Saugus, I don't

1 think the numbers are correct, or the ones
2 that are more affected by Wheelabrator.
3 Breast cancer in five of the houses that
4 abut my house, seven of those houses have
5 had breast cancer. And I'm sorry, I don't
6 know who is up there.
7 I keep hearing about trucking,
8 trucking, and the birds over there. What
9 about the cancers? The whole area where
10 that's affected with the wind flow from that
11 stack, you've even got leukemia over there,
12 you've got breast cancers, testicular cancer,
13 prostate, throat cancer.
14 I'm talking neighbors that I've
15 known. I've been there ten years, but
16 they're all dying of all cancers; they've
17 lived there all their life.
18 So, I haven't heard the word since
19 I've been here, but the numbers need to be
20 looked at for Saugus, affected in that area
21 by Wheelabrator.
22 MR. FAIRBROTHER: Thank you. Next.
23 MR. ORBITANE: I'm sorry, excuse
24 me. My wife, right now, is four-years cancer

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1 free, that she got in 2013.
 2 MS. MURRAY: Good evening. My name
 3 is Heather Murray, M-U-R-R-A-Y. I'm with the
 4 Conservation Law Foundation.
 5 CLF shares many of the concerns
 6 that have already been raised here tonight,
 7 and I'm sure will be raised. But I wanted to
 8 focus specifically on the Massachusetts Solid
 9 Waste Regulations, which apply to this
 10 facility, and require certain protections,
 11 such as liners and ground water monitoring,
 12 to be implemented at landfills and ash
 13 landfills in order to protect the public
 14 health and the environment, something DEP is
 15 charged with.
 16 These protections are especially
 17 important in this case, where you have a
 18 massive landfill surrounded by neighborhoods,
 19 and sitting in a salt marsh that the state
 20 has designated as an area of critical
 21 environmental concern.
 22 DEP has allowed Wheelabrator to
 23 develop alternatives to the protections
 24 required under the state regulations, but

1 those alternatives do not provide the same
 2 amount of protection to public health and the
 3 environment.
 4 It is particularly concerning that
 5 DEP does not require Wheelabrator to conduct
 6 groundwater monitoring, something required of
 7 other landfills across the state, that would
 8 determine whether toxic pollutants are
 9 leaching from the landfill into the
 10 surrounding environment.
 11 All DEP requires Wheelabrator to do
 12 is measure water levels inside and outside of
 13 the slurry wall to see if water is flowing
 14 into or out of the landfill. There are no
 15 checks in place that would allow the public
 16 to confirm that no contamination is being
 17 released from this landfill.
 18 Further, the information that the
 19 public does have access to, the records
 20 provided by Wheelabrator to DEP, consistently
 21 show that the containment system is not
 22 operating as intended.
 23 In other words, the vacuum that is
 24 supposed to keep contamination inside the

1 slurry wall isn't working, despite DEP's
 2 assurances that the system is working fine.
 3 Without groundwater monitoring,
 4 which is required under the state
 5 regulations, there is no way for Wheelabrator
 6 or DEP to confirm that pollution is not
 7 leaching public landfill. The public has no
 8 way to know whether the landfill is as safe
 9 as DEP and Wheelabrator claim it is, other
 10 than to take DEP's word for it. That's not
 11 sufficient, especially given all of the other
 12 concerns that are being raised tonight.
 13 CLF urges DEP to deny
 14 Wheelabrator's request to expand this
 15 landfill, and we appreciate the opportunity
 16 to provide this comment. Thank you.
 17 MR. FAIRBROTHER: Thank you. I'll
 18 call a few other names. Ryan Duggan, Kirstie
 19 Pecci, Eric Lampedecchio, James Anthony
 20 Catizone.
 21 MR. HEICH: Hello, I'm Norman
 22 Heich. I'm a member of the Lynnfield
 23 Conservation Commission, but I'm certainly
 24 not an expert on ash or what's out on the

1 table here. But I want to talk you now.
 2 It's good to be honest with you.
 3 I'm a regular person who uses the
 4 sanctuary. I'm very thankful that
 5 Wheelabrator has hired a full-time wildlife
 6 expert to manage the land out there, and the
 7 grasslands, in particular. I'm out there,
 8 you know, most Sundays, and I find that
 9 it's just a wonderful glorious place for
 10 birds and animals.
 11 This year, we've seen mink out
 12 there, we've seen coyotes out there, we've
 13 seen turkeys, we see just tremendous amount
 14 of boles and birds, and over a hundred
 15 different species of birds have gone through,
 16 and it's a very important area for the
 17 migration of many birds that are endangered,
 18 threatened, that come through this area.
 19 It's also a breeding place in the summer,
 20 and it's great for birds.
 21 So, I'm concerned about -- I have
 22 not seen anything in terms of wildlife that
 23 tells me that the area is dangerous. I'm not
 24 seeing animals that are dead, like on the

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1 ground; I'm not seeing boles dead. They're
 2 in the ground, and they're running around
 3 there.

4 So, I'm pretty happy from what I
 5 see in that part of the facility. Again,
 6 I'm not an expert on what's happening with
 7 the ash, or anything else about that. But it
 8 is a critical area that should be maintained
 9 no matter what.

10 MR. FAIRBROTHER: Thank you.
 11 Next, please.

12 MS. CARLSON: Good evening. Marilyn
 13 Carlson, M-A-R-I-L-Y-N, C-A-R-L-S-O-N. Thank
 14 you for coming here tonight and listening to
 15 our concerns.

16 I am here tonight to support the
 17 provisional permit that has been issued to
 18 Wheelabrator by DEP. It is my understanding
 19 that the provisional decision would allow
 20 Wheelabrator to place additional ash fill
 21 within the limits of the landfill, and be
 22 subject to specific conditions.

23 It is the responsibility of DEP
 24 to insure the protection of our environment.

1 I place my trust in this state agency to
 2 render an appropriate opinion and monitor
 3 the progression.

4 Not being a scientist, I cannot
 5 speak with any authority why people all over
 6 the world, not just in Saugus, are subject
 7 to cancer. I am aware of the concerns people
 8 have over the health effects of dioxin
 9 emissions. Today, these emissions have
 10 significantly been reduced by advances in
 11 mission control designs and new and very
 12 stringent government regulations.

13 The issue of incineration of solid
 14 waste, although controversial, is important
 15 to everyone.

16 And in closing, I would just like
 17 you to know that Wheelabrator Saugus is a
 18 very strong supporter of the community.

19 Two examples that I am aware of
 20 are, Wheelabrator supported the creation of
 21 the Brown Hill historic site, which preserves
 22 the history, culture, and natural resources
 23 along the Saugus River.

24 Wheelabrator also provided a

1 valuable educational opportunity for our
 2 students in the Saugus Public Schools to the
 3 Bear Creek Wildlife Center.

4 Thank you very much.

5 MR. FAIRBROTHER: Thank you.

6 MR. DUGGAN: Hello. My name is
 7 Ryan Duggan, R-Y-A-N, D-U-G-G-A-N. As of
 8 now, I have no affiliations with anyone,
 9 other than being a Saugus resident.

10 I am currently a student, and I've
 11 spent a lot of time studying environmental
 12 science, through high school and through
 13 college. And one of the things I've learned
 14 is that there is two ways a community can
 15 function.

16 There's the precautionary
 17 principle, where operations aren't allowed
 18 to happen if there's any risk whatsoever that
 19 they could be dangerous. And the other way
 20 is being a risk society, in which you do
 21 something, and then if there's a problem, you
 22 figure out about it later, and then pull it
 23 off the market and stop it.

24 And right now, it feels like we're

1 living in a risk society, but there's no
 2 risk assessment being done. So, I think
 3 that either way, whether the landfill is
 4 expanded, or whether it's not, the water
 5 and the ash should be tested.

6 I mean, that really seems like
 7 the only way we can find out what's actually
 8 going on, so why not let this be part of the
 9 decision? If it's found that the ash and the
 10 water aren't polluted, and that it's safe,
 11 and that Wheelabrator can expand, then keep
 12 the tests regular. Make it so that tests
 13 will be frequent and that people can know
 14 what's going on.

15 I have no idea what's in that
 16 water and what's in that ash. No one in
 17 this room has any idea what's in the water
 18 and what's in the ash. But I feel as though,
 19 as residents that live with this every day,
 20 we have the right to know.

21 Additionally, if it is shown that
 22 there is a problem and that the ash and the
 23 water are polluted, then we'll know that more
 24 ash can't go in this landfill, and we'll also

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1 know what needs to be fixed.
 2 I mean, look at all of us here
 3 today. With people, there's two sides to
 4 every story, but the numbers aren't going
 5 to lie.
 6 I've done water testing before
 7 in high school. I was a sophomore when I
 8 did it, so I know it's possible. Like I
 9 said, I am no expert, but I'm aware of
 10 what's going on. So, I thank you for
 11 giving us all the opportunity to come and
 12 comment, and I also would like to thank
 13 everyone else that has come and commented.
 14 But before I go back and sit down,
 15 I would like to make another point clear that
 16 I think is important. Even if the ash goes
 17 somewhere else, the wildlife don't have to.
 18 The sanctuary can stay a sanctuary, and the
 19 ash can just be shipped off to wherever else
 20 it's going in Shrewsbury. No one is saying
 21 that the end of the ash means the end of the
 22 birds. Thank you.
 23 MR. FAIRBROTHER: Thank you.
 24 Next, please.

1 MS. PECCI: My name is Kirstie
 2 Pecci, K-I-R-S-T-I-E, P-E-C-C-I. I'm with
 3 the Conservation Law Foundation.
 4 And I actually do know what's in
 5 the ash. For this younger gentleman who
 6 just spoke a minute ago, I really appreciated
 7 this point, and it's entirely correct. But
 8 I do know what's in the ash, and that making
 9 me wonder, why does Massachusetts hate
 10 Saugus, Revere, and Lynn? I have to ask
 11 that question.
 12 I study landfills and incinerators.
 13 That's what I do full-time as an attorney.
 14 There are nineteen ash and municipal solid
 15 waste landfills in this state. All of them
 16 have liners, as we've heard earlier. None
 17 of them are an ACDC. None of them are in an
 18 area where there are 130,000 people within a
 19 couple of miles.
 20 Are you kidding me? This is going
 21 to continue on and on until you stop it.
 22 And I don't mean just the folks on this
 23 stage. They only have so much power. The
 24 citizens in this room have to stop this.

1 I would want to make it clear,
 2 as I said earlier, I know what's in the ash;
 3 municipal solid waste from every business,
 4 every home, every institution you can think
 5 of. Think of the nastiest thing you've ever
 6 thrown away; that's what goes in that
 7 incinerator, one of the oldest incinerators
 8 in this country. Incinerators don't get
 9 better with age, they're not wine, okay.
 10 Then, that ash from the incinerator
 11 is dumped on this landfill. The ash contains
 12 heavy metals, dioxin, and a myriad of other
 13 chemicals. We know that they are there; we
 14 know that they are making the people in this
 15 community sicker. We know that.
 16 We don't know which of you is
 17 getting sicker, we don't know which cancers
 18 are responsible -- you know, which
 19 contaminants are responsible for what
 20 contaminant, or which cancer should be, but
 21 we do know that the people in this community
 22 are sicker because Wheelabrator Saugus is in
 23 this community. That is true of every
 24 incinerator and ash landfill in the world.

1 The people on this stage are doing
 2 the best they can, and I appreciate them
 3 holding this hearing, because it's tough to
 4 come up here and hear all of us criticize and
 5 complain. But the best way to get anything
 6 done is to make your voices heard, like
 7 you're doing tonight, and also to contact
 8 your legislators, contact the DEP and
 9 comment. The comment period, as they said
 10 earlier, goes until January 12th.
 11 I have set up the link online,
 12 CLF.org/ashlandfill. Please go online and
 13 comment. The numbers are there to contact
 14 people. Because they're doing the best they
 15 can, but we need to do a better job to help
 16 them, give them cover, and also start
 17 diverting this waste.
 18 If you want to save money as a
 19 community -- people were talking earlier --
 20 a Councilor from Revere was talking about
 21 the cost of not having this ash landfill.
 22 Recycling is half the cost. It's about sixty
 23 bucks a ton to dump something in a landfill
 24 or incinerator in Massachusetts; it's thirty

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1 bucks a ton to recycle it.
 2 That's where we need to be going,
 3 and we can do that. Wheelabrator's own
 4 numbers for 2016 show that about eighty
 5 percent of what's being burned in that
 6 incinerator are recyclable or compostable
 7 items.
 8 So, I ask the DEP, you need to
 9 start enforcing our waste bans. As you
 10 know, we need to start increasing the waste
 11 regulations that we have so that we divert
 12 more from our incinerators and landfills.
 13 And we need to shut down the worst of these
 14 facilities, and I think, personally, that the
 15 Saugus ash landfill is the worst one in the
 16 state. So, please look at CLF.org/ashlandfill
 17 and contact the DEP and your legislators.
 18 Thank you very much.
 19 MR. FAIRBROTHER: Thank you. I'm
 20 going to call some more names. Maryellen
 21 Martin, Kelly Slater, and Jean Wrynn.
 22 MR. LAMPEDECCHIO: Hello.
 23 Eric Lampedecchio. E-R-I-C, last name,
 24 L-A-M-P-E-D-E-C-C-H-I-O, Revere, Mass.

1 leukemia.
 2 Please don't repeat your past
 3 mistakes. Make the right decision tonight,
 4 and grant no further extensions. Thank you.
 5 MR. CATIZONE: Hello, my name is
 6 James Anthony Catizone, C-A-T-I-Z-O-N-E.
 7 And I just want to let you know
 8 that I am a Saugus resident, been here for
 9 fifteen years, and I've also worked at
 10 Wheelabrator for the last thirteen years.
 11 I want to say I support the DEP in
 12 their decision to grant the provisional
 13 permit. I know that Wheelabrator's
 14 operations are safe. I wouldn't work there
 15 if I didn't.
 16 My friends work there, have been
 17 there. I couldn't support something that
 18 would hurt them, myself, my family, my town.
 19 I'm a Saugus resident first. I work there,
 20 that's all.
 21 I also want to thank the DEP for
 22 giving us this opportunity to speak today and
 23 to hear our comments. Thank you.
 24 MR. FAIRBROTHER: Thank you.

1 I'd like to thank you guys for
 2 hosting this meeting, but in the same breath,
 3 I need to voice my displeasure with the DEP
 4 and their past actions for the last twenty-
 5 one years.
 6 I grew up on Hills Avenue, which
 7 is adjacent to the Pines River, and as a boy,
 8 I could see the Town of Saugus. As a man,
 9 all I see is a fifty foot high landfill. As
 10 a boy, I would play in that river every day,
 11 every hot summer day I could. As a man, I am
 12 horrified to know that I'm at a greater risk
 13 for both testicular and brain cancer.
 14 This group, you guys need to
 15 take action. Now is your chance. An
 16 additional ten years of extending this
 17 unlined carcinogenic landfill -- those
 18 carcinogens permeate through the landfill
 19 into the river, include the river, and
 20 cause illness to the nearby residents.
 21 The cancer rates down there are
 22 ridiculous. We just lost a nine-year-old
 23 boy to brain cancer, and there's a thirty-
 24 year-old woman on her second bout with

1 MS. MARTIN: Maryellen Martin,
 2 M-A-R-T-I-N. I'm a resident of Point of
 3 Pines in Revere, and I'm opposed to the
 4 expansion of Wheelabrator.
 5 MR. FAIRBROTHER: Thank you.
 6 MR. RILEY: Good evening. My name
 7 is Patrick Riley. I am a Sharon resident and
 8 I'm a high school physics teacher, and I'm a
 9 bird watcher.
 10 I think there's been an awful
 11 lot of alarmist testimony here this evening.
 12 I don't believe that this is the cause of all
 13 these cancers I've heard about. I don't
 14 believe it is horribly polluting our world.
 15 Wheelabrator didn't put the landfill there.
 16 It was considered wasteland years ago.
 17 I go up there and bird watch, and
 18 I've seen 178 species of birds there. There
 19 are owls up there, there are falcons up
 20 there. It's a fantastic and beautiful place.
 21 Waste disposal is a very
 22 complicated issue. Would it be better for
 23 the people of Saugus if their ash or their
 24 solid landfill gets shipped elsewhere, to

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1 someone else's town? This is not someone
 2 else's landfill; this is not someone else's
 3 trash; this is from local communities. This
 4 stuff is burned at such a high temperature,
 5 I believe it is, in fact, safe.
 6 It's a beautiful place up there.
 7 I don't think enough attention is being paid
 8 to the beautiful wildlife sanctuary that
 9 exists up there.
 10 If the arrangement with
 11 Wheelabrator falls apart, I believe all of
 12 the concerns about the environment are not a
 13 hundred percent genuine. I think there are
 14 people with their eyes on the property for
 15 other uses. I think this is quite a
 16 complicated question. I think people would
 17 like to see building up there; I think they'd
 18 like to see solar fields.
 19 Solar fields sound lovely, but in
 20 fact, other parks you may have seen, like
 21 John Paul, II Park in Dorchester or the
 22 Millennium Park in West Roxbury are not
 23 wildlife sanctuaries; they're mowed and
 24 sprayed like golf courses. There are no

1 The total amount would still be
 2 the same, so I have some concern about people
 3 interpreting various readings to mean
 4 nontoxic when we know that those materials
 5 are staying there in that ash; they don't
 6 just go away.
 7 I'd also like to point out that
 8 Wheelabrator is on an area of critical
 9 environmental concern, our salt marsh and
 10 estuary area, and I think anyone who does
 11 know about the environment knows that that
 12 is an area that attracts tons of wildlife.
 13 So, I think it's not quite correct
 14 to say that Wheelabrator has brought this
 15 wildlife there. I'm not saying they haven't
 16 done anything to provide some habitat, but
 17 that is an area that would naturally be a
 18 place where birds and other wildlife would
 19 congregate.
 20 And finally, in closing, I'd like
 21 to say that I think we'd all like to believe
 22 that there is equal justice under the law,
 23 however, lots of us have concerns that
 24 because the area surrounding Wheelabrator are

1 owls up there.
 2 This is a very special place, and
 3 I'd like to see the wildlife sanctuary aspect
 4 of it given some importance. Thank you.
 5 MR. FAIRBROTHER: I'll call some
 6 more names. It's Peter Manoogian, Loretta
 7 LaCentra, and it looks like Ricci LaCentra,
 8 and Sofia Owen. Thank you.
 9 MS. SLATER: Hi, my name is Kelly
 10 Slater, K-E-L-L-Y, S-L-A-T-E-R. I'm a
 11 resident of Saugus. I live at 75 Hurd
 12 Avenue.
 13 I would just like to make a few
 14 points. I do not know what the concentrations
 15 of various toxic substances are in the ash,
 16 but I do know from many years of studying
 17 ecology that dissolution is not an answer to
 18 pollution.
 19 So, if indeed there are heavy
 20 metals and other contaminants in there,
 21 just having them spread around in a lower
 22 concentration mixed with whatever ash there
 23 is, does not mean that there is less of those
 24 items in there.

1 somewhat lower income areas, that we may
 2 not be receiving that justice.
 3 And I would just like to ask that
 4 you do protect us, and I'm opposed to any
 5 further expansion of the ash of Wheelabrator.
 6 Thank you.
 7 MR. FAIRBROTHER: Thank you.
 8 MS. WRYNN: Hi, my name is Jean
 9 Wrynn, J-E-A-N, W-R-Y-N-N, and I live at 23
 10 Stream in Lynn.
 11 And at my age, I've been to many of
 12 these hearings. I try to get to every single
 13 one of them. And I've heard everything
 14 tonight that I've heard before, over and over
 15 again, and still, it doesn't seem to
 16 register.
 17 So, tonight, I'm going to talk
 18 about something that I've been thinking
 19 about a lot this past fall; it's been touched
 20 on tonight, but it's going to be my main
 21 concern.
 22 Earlier tonight, a gentleman said
 23 that the people who are against this permit
 24 are emotional about it and not scientific.

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1 Well, I disagree with that, but I'm going
 2 to state a couple of scientific things.
 3 It's a scientific fact that our
 4 sea levels are rising. It's a scientific
 5 fact that we are having more and severer
 6 storms. Now, we have not had a major
 7 hurricane in our area in many, many, many
 8 years. Now, I lived through, you know,
 9 Diane and Carol and Gloria, and all of them.
 10 But it's naive of us to think that
 11 this can't happen. And we saw, this past
 12 September -- August, September, October, what
 13 seemed like forever -- we saw the effects of
 14 these storms.
 15 Now, if we get a major hurricane,
 16 and as I said, the likelihood is probably
 17 greater than smaller, and it coincides with
 18 a tidal surge, with a high tide, and it hits
 19 and slams into this tonnage that is in an
 20 unlined landfill, we are probably going to
 21 see the kind of destruction we saw in Houston
 22 and Louisiana and Florida and Puerto Rico,
 23 and everybody else, and this area that's been
 24 mentioned over and over, the ACEC, could be

1 MR. FAIRBROTHER: Okay.
 2 MR. MANOOGIAN: Do you have the
 3 ability to say no, or is this a fait accompli?
 4 Is it possible at the end of this process you
 5 could reject this permit request?
 6 MR. FAIRBROTHER: We're to listen
 7 to comments. I understand that concern, and
 8 at the end of the comment period, we will
 9 review all of the comments and issue a final
 10 decision on the permit application.
 11 We're here to listen to comments
 12 only, and that's it.
 13 MR. MANOOGIAN: So, it's
 14 theoretically possible that you could say no?
 15 MR. WORRALL: We're here to listen
 16 to comments and that's it.
 17 AUDIENCE: Answer his question.
 18 Answer it. Do you have the authority ----
 19 MR. FAIRBROTHER: We're going to
 20 stay on form with our comments tonight.
 21 MR. MANOOGIAN: Well, it's sort
 22 of ----
 23 MR. FAIRBROTHER: Please, no
 24 interruptions.

1 inundated by all of this stuff.
 2 Now, we've heard people talk about
 3 how they love the birds. Well, nobody loves
 4 the birds more than I do. But do they love
 5 the little things they can't see in the
 6 marsh, the estuary, that is a nursery?
 7 Do they like the little crummy looking little
 8 ugly crab and minnows and all of those things
 9 that would be completely destroyed if this
 10 landfill were to collapse?
 11 So, I agree with everything that's
 12 been said tonight against this permitting,
 13 but I'm going to say that because of what's
 14 been happening with the climate change, we
 15 don't know what's in the future, and so, I'm
 16 asking you, please, to listen to these things
 17 tonight and not re-permit, like you have
 18 before. Thank you.
 19 MR. FAIRBROTHER: Thank you.
 20 MR. MANOOGIAN: My name is Peter
 21 Manoogian, M-A-N-O-O-G-I-A-N.
 22 Before the clock starts ticking on
 23 me tonight, may I just ask you a clarifying
 24 question?

1 MR. MANOOGIAN: And thank you for
 2 that. I think it's important not to have
 3 interruptions. It's not -- it's important
 4 not to have interruptions in our neighborhood
 5 when there steam that lets go, and it is them.
 6 It's not the GE.
 7 It's important to have no
 8 interruptions when your home shakes at night
 9 and in the daytime when the trash trucks go
 10 by, that they're supposed to be directed to
 11 go elsewhere. Yeah, we appreciate when
 12 there's no interruptions.
 13 You know, I hear so much about a
 14 health study. Isn't it amazing that Nat
 15 Beaton, who is from Shrewsbury, who took money
 16 from Wheelabrator for a golf outing, is able
 17 to get a health study like that for Saugus,
 18 saying that there's no appreciable cancer
 19 rating, but they didn't even look at Revere,
 20 and they didn't even look at the fellow that
 21 lives on Valley Street for most of his life
 22 and died of cancer you hear from.
 23 What health study does he show up
 24 on in all the people that moved away. What

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1 health study shows up the people that have
2 respiratory illness? Those aren't studied.
3 Consent order. Since when is a
4 consent order a permit. How many times have
5 you folks amended it, twelve, thirteen times?
6 A consent order is a permit, really? Where
7 else is that done?
8 You know, I appreciate all of you,
9 Mark, Eric, Susan, Richard, that you probably
10 have a highly degree of professionals,
11 idealistic going through the process of
12 getting to where you are. But, how can you
13 justify when you go into the lunch room in
14 Woburn there, and how do you look at each
15 other and say about what's going on in Saugus?
16 This is an abomination that's been
17 going on, not for forty years, but since 1962
18 when Martin DiMatteo was able to dump solid
19 waste into a marsh, a sea level marsh. And
20 in '73, this plant was built and they never
21 mentioned about the ash.
22 In '86, Thomas McLaughlin, who I
23 believe had your position, Eric, came to
24 Saugus and said the ash is not dumped, it's

1 stored for future use and future testing.
2 That's what DEP told us in '86.
3 We fought hard to get those
4 scrubbers on that plant and Ed Cooks, an
5 another one of your predecessors made sure
6 that in '96, that was going to shut down,
7 that's what the consent order said. But
8 somehow, not science, but politics got in
9 the way.
10 You don't have to look hard to
11 see the contributions to Karen Polito and
12 the other Shrewsbury people that have
13 influence over your agency, okay, as to
14 what's going on here.
15 So, why not allow it elsewhere.
16 If a consent order and a slurry wall, without
17 liner, without cover, is okay, well why did
18 you make Shrewsbury do it? Why can't we have
19 the same protection, equal protection under
20 the law afforded to us that every other people
21 are going to get?
22 So, I would suggest to you -- I
23 will conclude with this, that if you're going
24 to give them the 10 years -- they've written

1 the permit, not you. They wrote the schedule,
2 it's here, they submitted it, and you're going
3 to rubberstamp it because that's what Matt
4 Beaton and Karen Polito want. All right?
5 My final comment is, if you're
6 going to do this, let every other community
7 do it, too. No more liners, no more covers,
8 slurry walls. And Selectmen, Todd, you can
9 appeal this.
10 MR. FAIRBROTHER: That's your time.
11 We are at the time limit. Thank you. Could
12 you please hold your applause so we can get
13 through all of the commenters tonight.
14 Thank you.
15 MS. LACENTRA: Peter, you're a
16 tough act to follow. My name is Loretta
17 LaCentra, L-O-R-E-T-T-A, L-A-C-E-N-T-R-A.
18 I'd just like to say thank you for
19 allowing me to speak before you this evening.
20 As a resident of the Riverside of Revere,
21 I am adamantly against any further ash
22 disposal, based on the reasons outlined by
23 RoseLee Vincent and Debbie Panetta.
24 We currently put up with noise,

1 odor, and ash from the plant, and enough
2 is enough.
3 My husband has had two separate
4 cancers. His first one started at the age
5 of forty-two. He recently had another
6 diagnosis of a different type of cancer,
7 and he grew up in the Riverside. He's lived
8 there his entire life.
9 I would like to ask that, at the
10 minimum, if you're going to go ahead with
11 this, that we need to see some cancer studies,
12 not only of Saugus, but Revere and Lynn, as
13 well. We are just as impacted as the Saugus
14 residents.
15 The Wheelabrator plant does not
16 operate in a vacuum. We actually are downwind
17 of it because the west winds seem to be quite
18 prevalent, and we're east of the plant.
19 At this point, I think we should
20 be talking about closure and not expansion.
21 The word protection is in the name of your
22 organization, so please, please, please, do
23 your jobs and protect of us in Revere, Lynn,
24 Saugus, and any other communities that are

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1 impacted by this plant. Thank you.
2 MS. OWEN: Good evening. My name
3 is Sofia Owen. It's S-O-F-I-A, and the last
4 name is Owen. I'm an attorney and the
5 Massachusetts community organizer for Toxics
6 Action Center, and I'm here today to express
7 my opposition to Wheelabrator's application
8 for a permit modification.

9 At Toxics Action Center, we start
10 our work with the core belief that everyone
11 has a right to breathe clean air, drink clean
12 water, and live in a healthy community where
13 government operates responsibly and
14 democratically.

15 Our mission is to make these
16 rights a reality by organizing, side-by-side,
17 with community groups to tackle environmental
18 threats and develop and train new leaders to
19 strengthen the environmental and social
20 change movements.

21 We have been around since 1987,
22 and have helped over 800 communities prevent
23 and clean up pollution. We work proactively
24 to protect our health and environment

1 This threat is particularly
2 relevant to the Wheelabrator landfill, which
3 is unlined, as we've heard several times
4 tonight, making it all but certain that
5 pollutants from this landfill have or will
6 contaminate the drinking water of local
7 residents.

8 Second, we know that landfills
9 release potentially harmful gasses, and odors
10 often permeate neighborhoods. In South Hadley
11 and Harwich, we worked with residents whose
12 communities were filled with fumes so pungent
13 that they did not want to leave their homes.

14 It took years of organizing, but
15 community members in both towns worked with
16 their Boards of Health and eventually the
17 landfills in both locations were shut down.
18 Residents living near the Wheelabrator
19 facility should not have to wait any longer
20 to breathe cleaner air.

21 Finally, we know that incineration
22 does not eliminate waste, it simply
23 redistributes toxic chemicals into the air,
24 and produces ash to be landfilled. Not only

1 throughout the region, and from our work in
2 front-line communities, including supporting
3 groups fighting the continued use and
4 expansion of ash landfills and incinerators.

5 We know that we have every reason
6 to be concerned about the effects of these
7 facilities on public health and the
8 environment, and I'd like to share three of
9 these reasons with you tonight.

10 First, we know that all landfills
11 eventually leak, so claims that state of the
12 art technology will protect our ground water
13 and our communities by waste industry
14 representatives are never true.

15 We have worked closely with
16 residents whose drinking water has been
17 contaminated by landfills throughout our
18 region, most recently in Southbridge. We
19 know that more than 85 residential wells in
20 Charlton and Sturbridge, near the Southbridge
21 landfill, have tested positive for pollutants,
22 including dioxin, fluorobenzene, lead, and
23 arsenic, all of which are linked to negative
24 health consequences.

1 do the dioxins, heavy metals, and other toxins
2 in ash particles cause cancer, reproductive
3 problems, and learning disabilities, but they
4 also build up in the environment and magnify
5 in the food chain, posing serious
6 developmental and health threats to wildlife.

7 We know that Wheelabrator currently
8 buries 100,000 tons of ash each year, but
9 according to the company's own record, about
10 eighty percent of the materials being burned
11 are recyclable or compostable.

12 Instead of allowing Wheelabrator to
13 continue to dump ash into the landfill, the
14 DEP should be aggressively pursuing options
15 that will reduce waste, spur local green
16 economic innovation, and offer safe and good
17 paying jobs to area residents.

18 For all of these reasons, I ask you
19 to protect local residents' health and the
20 environment by denying Wheelabrator's
21 application for a permit modification.
22 Thank you.

23 MR. FAIRBROTHER: I'm going to call
24 a few more names now. Councilor John Powers,

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1 Gabriel Farhat, Terri Lehane, and Jeff Wilson,
2 please.
3 MR. LACENTRA: My name is R-I-C-C-I,
4 LaCentra, L-A-Capital C-E-N-T-R-A, lifelong
5 resident of the Riverside area, right across
6 from Wheelabrator.
7 I find it very ironic that the
8 plant was supposed to close in 1996, the
9 same year I was diagnosed with kidney cancer.
10 I am vehemently opposed to any
11 further expansion of this abomination. I've
12 seen many neighbors and friends in their
13 thirties and forties pass away.
14 And our Councilor at Large in
15 Revere, when he said, you know, he's concerned
16 about the cost of hauling out ash to
17 taxpayers, I'd rather pay more money for trash
18 than to see more people pass because of what
19 this abomination is causing. Thank you.
20 MR. POWERS: Good evening, and
21 thank you for this opportunity to appear here.
22 I think there is one thing we would all ----
23 MR. FAIRBROTHER: Could you please
24 state your name for the record, please?

1 MR. POWERS: My name is John
2 Powers. I'm a City Councilor for the City of
3 Revere, and I represent the district that is
4 severely impacted by Wheelabrator.
5 I think the one thing that all of
6 us would agree on this evening is, we all
7 generate trash, and trash has to go somewhere.
8 How about taking that trash to a landfill
9 that's not a quarter of a mile from Riverside,
10 where over 300 residents reside? How about
11 taking it to a landfill that doesn't affect
12 the Town of Saugus?
13 I lost my wife and two children to
14 cancer. I live approximately a half a mile
15 from Wheelabrator. As a City Councilor, I get
16 calls during the evening, 1:00-2:00 in the
17 morning, "What's that noise over there?
18 What's going on over there?" And then you
19 find out that there was some type of a
20 malfunction, something didn't work right.
21 And then I get people that I ran
22 into this evening at another meeting, talking
23 about the soot on their furniture. They
24 live on Revere Beach Boulevard, which is

1 fairly close.
2 This shouldn't be about dollars
3 and what it costs for tipping fees for trash.
4 This should be about getting the trash out of
5 the area that it impacts the people that
6 reside there. Take it somewhere else.
7 They've been operating there since
8 1962. That's a long time ago. Actually, I
9 believe it's fifty-seven years ago. We don't
10 need that there. Give the people a break.
11 Make your voice heard like these people are
12 making their voice heard coming here this
13 evening. We don't want it anymore.
14 I go down to the Youth Center at
15 the Senior Center in Revere, and I see the --
16 we'll call them lobbyists for lack of a better
17 word -- from Wheelabrator, "We'll do this,
18 we'll do that, we'll do this." You can't
19 buy health.
20 When people get sick, go into the
21 Mass General some day and sit in a cancer ward
22 and see the people coming in there with lung
23 cancer. Talk to the children and the husbands
24 and the wives that are losing their mate or

1 their mother or their father because of
2 lung cancer. Thank you very much.
3 MR. FAIRBROTHER: Thank you.
4 MR. FARHAT: Good evening. My name
5 is Gabriel Farhat. I'm an engineer and a
6 business owner in Saugus. My name is spelled
7 G-A-B-R-I-E-L, F-A-R-H-A-T.
8 My job is not to judge or discover
9 whether they are environmentally friendly or
10 not, that's your job. And I see that you have
11 done your job; you have done your research,
12 the discoveries, and you have given
13 Wheelabrator a provisional approval, and I
14 feel comfortable with that.
15 I have worked with your agency in
16 the past as an engineer, and I know you are
17 very stringent, and I know that you look at
18 all the parts. So, that's your job now.
19 I have visited Wheelabrator. I
20 have looked at how they do things, I have
21 asked a lot of questions. Since I'm an
22 engineer, I'm very curious.
23 I've toured their bird sanctuary,
24 and I've seen all the birds. I've seen

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1 beautiful things, I've seen kids practicing
 2 and playing golf there. I have seen beautiful
 3 birds, I've seen nice landscape, I've seen
 4 the items that people have concern about
 5 being handled properly. Again, that's what
 6 I've seen.

7 As a business owner, I know that
 8 Wheelabrator is very supportive of the
 9 community. They are one of the largest,
 10 if not the largest, taxpayer for the Town of
 11 Saugus. We do need that, and we do need that.
 12 They employ a lot of people. They are a big
 13 company.

14 I've seen a lot of other big
 15 companies go out of business. We lost Eastern
 16 Tool, for example. Their product is being
 17 manufactured in China. Do we want to see
 18 another big company go out of town?
 19 Personally, I don't.

20 So, I realize that a lot of people
 21 are not happy with some things that
 22 Wheelabrator might be doing, or if they feel
 23 uncomfortable with that. I feel that you are
 24 there to be that protection for me and for my

1 disruptive. If you continue to be disruptive,
 2 then that's going to be taking away time from
 3 the rest of the people and are quiet, who have
 4 comments to make to us, and we'd like to hear
 5 what they have to say.

6 MR. FAIRBROTHER: Thank you.
 7 MS. LEHANE: My name is Terri
 8 Lehane, T-E-R-R-I, L-E-H-A-N-E.

9 My comments regarding Wheelabrator,
 10 located on Route 107, Saugus, Massachusetts.
 11 On November the 1st, 2017, the Massachusetts
 12 Department of Environmental Protection, the
 13 DEP, issued a provisional decision that would
 14 allow Wheelabrator Saugus to dispose an
 15 additional estimate 400,000 cubic yards of
 16 contaminated ash adjacent to the Rumney
 17 Marshes, a critical environmental concern, on
 18 Route 107, Saugus, Mass. This provisional
 19 decision should not be finalized or approved.

20 James Conway, Vice President of
 21 Environmental Health and Safety at
 22 Wheelabrator asserted that Mass DEP's
 23 provisional decision to grant a permit
 24 allowing the continued use of the ash monofill

1 family and for my loved ones. So, it's
 2 not my job to judge that part.

3 Before you throw me out, thank you,
 4 and I appreciate your decision. I'm
 5 supportive. Good night.

6 MR. FAIRBROTHER: Thank you.
 7 MALE VOICE: I have a question.
 8 Did he give his home address?
 9 MR. WORRALL: Excuse me, sir.
 10 Please remember to be respectful tonight.
 11 We're trying to do this ----

12 FEMALE VOICE: Everybody gave their
 13 address. Where does he live. That's being
 14 respectful. Where does he live?
 15 MR. FAIRBROTHER: We have that
 16 address.

17 FEMALE VOICE: Yes, but he didn't
 18 say it like everybody else.

19 MS. RUCH: Ma'am, we ask people to
 20 give their name and spell their name for the
 21 record. We did not ask for that.

22 FEMALE VOICE: But everyone has
 23 been giving that.
 24 MS. RUCH: And what you're doing is

1 by Wheelabrator represents the best
 2 environmental solution for the town, state,
 3 and region. This is a complete fallacy.

4 In truth, by the Mass DEP granting
 5 a permit to allow Wheelabrator to continue
 6 using the ash monofill, you are protecting a
 7 billion dollar company that continues doing
 8 havoc to people's health and lives in Saugus
 9 and surrounding communities, the Rumney Marsh
 10 land and the Atlantic Ocean waters adjacent
 11 to Wheelabrator.

12 You, as the Environmental
 13 Protection Agency, you are supposed to be
 14 protecting the environment, people's health,
 15 and their lives. The pollution situation at
 16 Wheelabrator affects people's health, the air
 17 we breathe, our land and ocean waters.

18 On November the 1st, Mass DEP also
 19 issued a final decision supporting
 20 Wheelabrator's application for a minor permit
 21 to establish an ash staging area within the
 22 active limits of the landfill, where ash can
 23 be stored before it is shipped offsite for
 24 further processing by disposal.

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1 This statement alone proves that
2 the Wheelabrator Saugus plant is inadequate to
3 handle toxic ash that is produced at this
4 facility. No ash should be allowed to be in a
5 staging area for any length of time. How
6 could the DEP allow Wheelabrator to keep a
7 staging area of toxic ash even one day, let
8 alone fifteen days.

9 This is toxic ash dust we are
10 talking about, that cannot be contained, even
11 if the ash is so-called covered while standing
12 outside the Wheelabrator's facility in the
13 windy air for fifteen days.

14 The Wheelabrator Saugus facility
15 now and has been obsolete for a very long
16 time. The facility should have been closed
17 twenty years ago or more, as it does not have
18 adequate processing equipment and enough
19 filters to properly incinerate the many tons
20 of trash from fourteen communities on a daily
21 basis without polluting the very air we
22 breathe, the land and Rumney Marsh surrounding
23 the plant, and the Atlantic Ocean, which is an
24 offshoot of the marshes. How can the DEP

1 communities, contaminating the air and the
2 health of people who live along the way.

3 MEFA has classified this ash in the
4 category as non-toxic, which allows
5 Wheelabrator to continue working its facility,
6 which is another complete fallacy. This ash
7 is toxic.

8 MR. FAIRBROTHER: I'm going to have
9 to hold you there. I'm sorry. We have more
10 people here.

11 MS. LEHANE: Okay, I'm just going
12 to have to say just one ending.

13 The Wheelabrator Saugus facility
14 should be torn down and sold for scrap metal.
15 A new modern facility should be built in a
16 completely different location, out of Saugus,
17 away from residential areas, and not a running
18 marsh that empties into ocean or lake waters.
19 Thank you.

20 MR. FAIRBROTHER: I'm going to call
21 a few more names. Norma Giraldi, Soheil
22 Zende, Bill Brown, and Debra Daigle.

23 MR. WILSON: Good evening, my
24 name is Jeff Wilson from Northeast Wetland

1 ignore these facts?

2 The people of Saugus and
3 surrounding communities should be breathing
4 fresh clean air, without contaminated toxic
5 air. The men who work in the Wheelabrator
6 Saugus facility should be working in a clean
7 environment, and they are not.

8 Wheelabrator Saugus has had many
9 violations, such as ash overfills, loud
10 noises and fires in the facility. Trucks are
11 continually driving through Hamilton Street,
12 Saugus, loaded with ash being trucked out of
13 Wheelabrator.

14 On May 5th, 2016, I was driving down
15 Hamilton Street.

16 MR. FAIRBROTHER: Excuse me, I just
17 want to remind you that you are approaching
18 the time limit and if you could just wrap up
19 your comments.

20 MS. LEHANE: Okay. And an extra
21 long open truck was filled with a mound of
22 ash, uncovered, driving up Hamilton Street.
23 Imagine the wind blowing this toxic ash all
24 over its route out of Saugus and other

1 Restoration, and I'm a co-manager at the
2 Bear Creek Wildlife Sanctuary.

3 I would like to thank the DEP for
4 the opportunity to be here tonight, and I
5 would also like to take this time to
6 appreciate the DEP's process and decision
7 making.

8 Since 2002, 178 migratory bird
9 species, three migratory dragonfly species,
10 and three migratory butterfly species have
11 been observed utilizing the Bear Creek
12 Wildlife Sanctuary.

13 Many of these species are
14 grassland dependent species that have been
15 attracted to the actively managed habitats
16 at the sanctuary.

17 In this region, quality grassland
18 habitats are extremely rare. The presence of
19 these species at the sanctuary is a testament
20 to the quality of the habitats that are
21 maintained at the wildlife sanctuary.

22 Thank you.

23 MR. FAIRBROTHER: Thank you.

24 Next, please.

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1 MS. GIRALDI: Hello, my name is
 2 Norma Giraldi, and I live on Ann Hatherton
 3 Street. N-O-R-M-A, G-I-R-A-L-D-I.
 4 I have worked at Wheelabrator for
 5 the last two years, and I want to say that I
 6 support the DEP and the decision to grant the
 7 provisional permit.
 8 I love our hometown, I live here,
 9 and I am part of this community. Like many of
 10 my neighbors, I care about Saugus, and I want
 11 our town to continue to move forward. I
 12 believe Wheelabrator has been an important
 13 part of making Saugus an even better place.
 14 At Wheelabrator, there is real
 15 commitment to being more than just a business,
 16 but being a partner and a good neighbor.
 17 I want to thank the DEP for giving
 18 us this opportunity today to share our
 19 comments on this process. Thank you.
 20 MR. FAIRBROTHER: Thank you.
 21 Next, please.
 22 MR. BROWN: My name is Bill Brown.
 23 I'm a Town Meeting member for the Town of
 24 Saugus. I guess you don't need me to spell

1 If you ask me, the last thing that
 2 I want to see is 40 or 50 trucks traveling
 3 through Saugus, or Revere, or Lynn, or
 4 anywhere else, carrying this ash out, and
 5 delivering it to somebody else's back yard,
 6 and dumping it in their back yard, and calling
 7 ourselves environmentalists, because as far as
 8 I can see, that's not environmentally friendly
 9 for the people who are receiving this.
 10 I just don't understand why we
 11 can't get together and get some of the
 12 colleges in this area, some of the smart
 13 people that run these colleges, and get them
 14 to sit down and come up with a solution to
 15 this problem.
 16 I am compelled to support the
 17 provisional decision that you made, and I
 18 just think that, you know, there's a better
 19 solution here. I know that recycling helps a
 20 little bit, but it doesn't do the whole job.
 21 I hope that you base your decision
 22 on fact, and not assumption, not supposition,
 23 and not emotion. Make sure that whatever you
 24 decide, you do it based on the facts. And

1 my name.
 2 Thank you tonight for coming here
 3 and giving us this opportunity. I look back
 4 -- I've been in town all my life, and that's
 5 69 years now.
 6 I look back, and prior to
 7 Wheelabrator, it was RESCO, and prior to
 8 RESCO, it was a wide open dump where dump
 9 trucks and trash trucks came in and dumped
 10 their load, bulldozers pushed it into a pile,
 11 seagull floated overhead, there was an
 12 incredible stench, and rats lived underneath.
 13 What we have now is the same
 14 problem that we had back then, and that is
 15 that each and every person in this auditorium
 16 and all across the communities of the North
 17 Shore produces about a bag of trash a week.
 18 That trash has to go somewhere, and right now,
 19 it's going to Wheelabrator.
 20 I would like to see some kind of an
 21 effort, some kind of an investment in finding
 22 a useful purpose for this ash, instead of
 23 fighting over it, instead of trying to ship
 24 it out.

1 thank you for your time.
 2 MR. FAIRBROTHER: I'd like to cue
 3 up a few more commenters, Casey Byrd,
 4 Kadineyse Paz, Joan LeBlanc, and John Polcari.
 5 MR. ZENDEH: Good evening. My name
 6 is Soheil Zende. That's spelled S-O-H-E-I-L,
 7 last name is Z-E-N-D-E-H.
 8 I've been doing nature walks at the
 9 landfill for about forty years, and started
 10 going to Saugus Rumney Marsh, they used to
 11 call it Saugus Marsh, forty years ago, and
 12 looking up into that huge hill that was the
 13 landfill, as well, and finding wildlife there.
 14 About twenty-five years ago, it
 15 began to be transformed into an actual
 16 wildlife sanctuary and landscaped. Before
 17 that, it was just a dump.
 18 The place always attracted a large
 19 variety of birds and insects. Now, it also
 20 attracts people who watch them. It also
 21 attracts school groups that use this facility
 22 for nature study and golf.
 23 So, I'm very encouraged by what
 24 it's turned into. I'm happy that we keep

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1 this a sanctuary going forward, otherwise
2 what, you want another shopping mall or
3 industrial plant? I don't get it.

4 So, I would like everyone here to
5 come on our walks every Sunday at 9:00.
6 Come and walk with us and enjoy the place.
7 Thank you very much.

8 MR. FAIRBROTHER: Thank you. Next?

9 MS. DAIGLE: Hi, thank you for
10 having us. My name is Debra Daigle. I'm a
11 resident at the Point of Pines. I've been
12 there for almost over three decades.

13 My house used to be white and
14 now it's black. The soot has increased
15 over the past decade by inches. I can't
16 keep my house clean.

17 Besides being a resident of the
18 Point of Pines, like you, I've serve the
19 state, the Commonwealth, for over three
20 decades. I worked with five governors,
21 I've worked through six state agencies, one
22 of the first ones being, I was one of the
23 first twelve people hired at the Mass Water
24 Resources Authority.

1 tell you that I've survived cancer, I've been
2 diagnosed with MS, which as we know is the
3 result of heavy metal toxic poisoning, and
4 most recently, I got a call last week that
5 there is spots all over my lungs that they
6 can't identify.

7 So, while everybody is happy with
8 the bird sanctuaries, I'm here to tell you
9 that there is some real serious problem with
10 people's health. I served as a Director half
11 of my career at the Executive Office of Health
12 & Human Services, and while I'm no scientist,
13 I'm old enough to remember when we were
14 allowed to burn trash in a barrel in our
15 backyard for leaves when I was a kid.

16 And that was done away with because
17 everybody knows that burning causes toxins.
18 And even back when I was a kid and we burned,
19 there weren't the chemicals that are in the
20 mattresses for flame retardant, there wasn't
21 BPA in the plastic, there wasn't any of those
22 things.

23 And here I am with two big recycle
24 bins going out every other week, I'm eating

1 Being in the Pines, we endured a
2 lot already. I was working for the Water
3 Authority when there were combined soil
4 overflows that dumped right out next to
5 the yacht club, human feces on our beach,
6 and years of being able to -- not being
7 able to take a walk or open your doors
8 because the stench was so bad. It was one
9 of the reasons why I was so committed to
10 being a civil servant.

11 I remember being overjoyed when the
12 Daltons came back into Boston Harbor, because
13 it finally meant that there was sea life that
14 was recouping from the disaster of all of the
15 years of dumping into the Boston Harbor.

16 I look so forward to being down
17 that beach, I always love the ocean, and I was
18 overjoyed to be able to finally walk and swim
19 in the Point of Pines.

20 What's happened over the last
21 decade has been atrocious. I vehemently
22 oppose the expansion. Not only that, I really
23 can appreciate everybody doing all their
24 wandering and watching birds, but I'm here to

1 all organic, I'm doing whatever I can do to
2 try to be healthy, and I'm getting sicker and
3 sicker. I don't swim in the beach anymore
4 because I don't trust the water.

5 I'm on the water, and I don't open
6 my windows because the soot on my house tells
7 me that whatever's on my screens in my house
8 is going to go directly into my lungs, and
9 it's scary. It's scary.

10 I just don't understand how we're
11 even here. The Department of Environmental
12 Protection, and we're not being protected.
13 You know what this feels like to me? This
14 feels like the residents of Woburn who came
15 forward over and over again to complain
16 about the water, or the people out in
17 California who were complaining about
18 everybody dying from leukemia.

19 MR. FAIRBROTHER: Please hold
20 the applause.

21 MS. DAIGLE: I know you want to
22 interrupt me because you don't like what
23 I'm saying.

24 MR. FAIRBROTHER: I wanted them

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1 to hear your comments. Thank you.
2 MS. DAIGLE: All right. But what
3 I want to tell you is, there is only so long
4 that you can play the game, and then make
5 believe the cancers aren't happening and the
6 people aren't dying, because all it's going to
7 take is one Erin Brockovich to find out what's
8 going on, and just like in California and in
9 Woburn, these companies all pay for golf
10 courses and educations and health spas, and
11 when companies start doing that, I have to
12 wonder why they're really paying, because
13 they're really caring about the community?
14 No, I worked for so many governors
15 and saw so much in my political life that I
16 know what's going on, and you can't fool all
17 of the people all of the time, not even some
18 of the time.
19 And since I'm just recently retired,
20 I've got plenty of time now to do all the
21 legwork it's going to take to get this all
22 taken care of.
23 MR. FAIRBROTHER: Thank you.
24 MS. DAIGLE: I just want to ask you

1 MS. RUCH: Please don't talk and
2 scream. A lot of you are talking. Talk one
3 at a time up at the microphone.
4 MS. DAIGLE: Okay, I'm on the mike.
5 Do you have the authority to stop this?
6 MS. RUCH: The whole purpose, as
7 described in all of the documents we've put
8 out is to take the comments.
9 We issued a provisional decision
10 so you could see what our understanding,
11 based on the application and our research,
12 where we think a decision lies.
13 The purpose of taking comments is
14 so we can understand everyone's concerns,
15 everyone's comments, what was provided to us
16 orally and in writing. We will consider them,
17 and as appropriate, make any changes to the
18 decision.
19 MS. DAIGLE: Okay. Well, unlike
20 South Pacific and Flint, Michigan, and Woburn,
21 we're not just talking about water; we're
22 talking about water, land, and air. We're
23 talking about all three things that let the
24 human breathe and live.

1 to answer the question someone asked before.
2 Do you have the authority, you as a party
3 here, do you have the authority to stop this,
4 or does it go up higher up the ladder?
5 MR. FAIRBROTHER: We're reviewing
6 the comments received tonight, we've reviewed
7 the application that was submitted by
8 Wheelabrator Saugus. We will make a final
9 decision once all these comments have been
10 considered.
11 MS. DAIGLE: Okay, but who is
12 making that final decision? Is it one
13 person or all of you?
14 MS. RUCH: We're not here to
15 answer questions.
16 MALE VOICE: It's a simple question.
17 MS. RUCH: We are here for the
18 purpose of taking comments, not for answering
19 questions.
20 MS. DAIGLE: I understand that and I
21 respect that, and I've been very respectful of
22 you. I just ask you show me the same respect
23 by answering that one question.
24 Do you have the authority?

1 And there is no way -- forget not
2 even having a liner, sitting on the water,
3 there is no way that these toxins aren't
4 leaching into our water and into our air.
5 And I hope that while these people
6 are strolling around twenty years from now
7 looking at birds and owls, I want to hear them
8 in twenty years come back and tell me they're
9 cancer free.
10 MR. FAIRBROTHER: Thank you for
11 those comments.
12 MR. POLCARI: I'm John Polcari,
13 P-O-L-C-A-R-I, Revere. My affiliation, I am
14 an officer of the Point of Pines Beach
15 Association. We own and manage thirty acres
16 of dunes and beach right at the mouth of the
17 Pines River, just beyond the yacht club.
18 As an organization, we oppose the
19 expansion. Personally, I can't do any better
20 than Representative Vincent in terms of the
21 reasoning, but as a practical engineer, I want
22 to know why what twisted logic can we allow
23 the expansion of something that would never
24 have been allowed to be built today.

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1 And that's where I'm going to
2 leave it. Thank you.
3 MS. BYRD: Hi, my name is Casey
4 Byrd. Last name, B-Y-R-D, first name,
5 C-A-S-E-Y. I am from Appalachia. I am here
6 in the Massachusetts area as a student, for
7 sustainability at the University of
8 Massachusetts in Boston. I am also on the
9 Youth Advisory Board with Clean Water Action.
10 I am here to invite you into the
11 green industry and the green world. It's a
12 world where we really think about our future,
13 not only your future, but my future, my
14 children's future.
15 And a lot of what I'm hearing today
16 from, you know, the people here, remind me of
17 Appalachia; cancer, soot. Ind my community,
18 if you stay there for three days, your mucus
19 turns black. It's a real thing.
20 And I really would love for you guys
21 to reframe this question of how, instead of
22 how can we expand, or how can we get approval
23 from the community for this, how can we safely
24 and swiftly close this up and create a

1 communities of color? Where is the state's
2 commitment to better protect these
3 overburdened neighborhoods. Where is the
4 proper ground water monitoring to analyze
5 local impacts on this unlined landfill?
6 Two, environmental health threat.
7 The ash is laced with toxic chemicals
8 contained in the trash that is incinerated
9 at the facility, including the most hazardous
10 bioaccumulative emphasis of chemicals, such
11 as dioxin, lead, and mercury.
12 The International Agency for
13 Research on Cancer has classified dioxin as
14 a known human carcinogen, with no known safe
15 dose of exposure. Mercury and lead are proven
16 neurotoxins. Additional ash containing these
17 substances has no place in a densely settled
18 area such as this one.
19 Three, commitment to Massachusetts'
20 zero waste plan. At the very least, before
21 expansion of this landfill is even considered,
22 there should be a concerted effort to enforce
23 the state's waste bans and focus on increasing
24 compulsory reuse and recycling.

1 green economy. Thank you.
2 MR. FAIRBROTHER: I'll call a few
3 more names here. James DeMiles, Kevin
4 O'Malley, Steven Horlick, and Jan McWilliams.
5 MS. PAZ: Hi, my name is Kadineyse
6 Paz, and I'm the environmental health and
7 justice organizer from Clean Water Action.
8 I am here on behalf of Clean Water Action's
9 great 1,000 plus Massachusetts members.
10 We urge the Department of
11 Environmental Protection to reconsider their
12 provisional decision allowing the ash landfill
13 to expand. We ask you to say no to further
14 burdening of Saugus and neighboring towns.
15 Key reasons for our opposition
16 include, one, violation of environmental
17 justice. The ash landfill is located within
18 one mile of previous environmental justice
19 communities of Saugus, and it's impacted EJ
20 communities in Revere and Lynn.
21 Where is the consideration of the
22 additional burden that this facility's
23 expansion would place on these formerly
24 designated low income communities and

1 According to Wheelabrator's own
2 records, approximately 80 percent of the
3 materials they incinerate are recyclable and
4 compostable, which is something you've heard
5 already. Those proven solid waste management
6 tools would zero out this landfill's need for
7 expansion.
8 In conclusion, we strongly oppose
9 this provisional decision that would amplify
10 the unjust burden already placed upon Saugus
11 and the around communities. We ask the
12 Department to reconsider their decision and
13 say no to this proposed expansion. Thank you
14 for the opportunity to speak tonight.
15 MS. LEBLANC: My name is Joan
16 LeBlanc and I'm here on behalf of the Saugus
17 River Watershed Council.
18 I have given up on any of my
19 comments, so I'm just going to speak to you
20 frankly.
21 We are a nonprofit organization
22 and our mission is protecting the natural
23 resources in the watershed. The geographic
24 area of the watershed includes all of Saugus,

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1 significant portions of Lynn and Revere,
 2 as well as eight other communities.
 3 We have been working with partners
 4 at the local level, the state level, the
 5 federal level, on many issues that are aimed
 6 at protecting and restoring the Rumney Marsh's
 7 ACEC. You've heard quite a bit about that --
 8 the importance of that.
 9 The concern I have standing before
 10 you tonight is this. You have issued your
 11 provisional decision, you have said that,
 12 based on what you have looked at, you think
 13 that this is the way to go.
 14 We don't think this is the way to
 15 go, and so, I'd like to just spend my three
 16 minutes trying to give you some information,
 17 and we will send something in writing, as
 18 well, but trying to give you some information
 19 that will help you to shift from thinking this
 20 is a great idea to understanding that it isn't
 21 a great idea.
 22 In fact, it could be very damaging
 23 to the community, to the environment, to the
 24 neighborhoods, to the beaches, and to

1 upstream, with minimal impacts from sea level
 2 rise and rainwater, the park service partied
 3 with us and worked proactively to develop a
 4 plan to try and shore that thing up, to make
 5 sure that that arsenic is not resuspended into
 6 the environment.
 7 If anyone suggested to you, hey,
 8 that's a nice capped arsenic landfill, how
 9 about we rip that thing open and put some
 10 more contaminants in there on the banks of
 11 the Saugus River. I believe you would laugh.
 12 I believe you would think that this was the
 13 most crazy idea you ever heard.
 14 However, further downstream, we
 15 have identified the ash landfill in Saugus
 16 as the number one risk to climate change,
 17 to the community, to the beaches, and to
 18 public health.
 19 Here, we are talking -- we're not
 20 talking about the bureaucratic way it sounds
 21 in that provisional decision; we are talking
 22 about the capped portion of the landfill,
 23 the part of the landfill that is right on
 24 the banks of the river, right adjacent to

1 people's health.
 2 So, first, I'd like to talk a little
 3 bit about climate change. We have worked on
 4 fish restoration, we have worked on wetlands
 5 restoration, etc. One of our big priorities
 6 over the past eight years has been climate
 7 adaptation and understanding risks to people
 8 in the watershed, and related to sea level
 9 rise, storm surge, and increasing rainfall.
 10 We have partnered with the park
 11 service and done a climate adaption plan of
 12 the Saugus Iron Works, we have been on the
 13 working committee for the City of Lynn in
 14 putting together their risk assessment related
 15 to coastal resiliency. So, I want to share
 16 with you a couple things related to that.
 17 Way upstream in the Saugus Iron
 18 Works, you have what I would call a mini
 19 landfill. There is a historic dumping of
 20 arsenic related to the iron production.
 21 The reason I bring this up is, I think it's
 22 a good comparison.
 23 Here, that's closed; okay, it's
 24 capped, but that's not enough. Even way

1 the marsh. We're talking about ripping that
 2 cap open and putting more contamination in
 3 there.
 4 And we know a lot more things today
 5 than we did ten years ago, so I understand
 6 you might be thinking, hey, we approved this
 7 before, so we have to approve it again. No.
 8 We never have to make the same mistakes twice,
 9 especially when we have information today that
 10 we didn't have in the past.
 11 We know that sea level rise is
 12 increasing, we know that the risks to the
 13 environment are greater because you have a
 14 combination of potentially damaging storms
 15 that we've seen wreaking havoc all over the
 16 country.
 17 MS. FAIRBROTHER: We are up against
 18 the time limit, if I could hold you there.
 19 MS. LEBLANC: Thank you. If I could
 20 just finish up with just one more minute,
 21 please? Not a full minute, but just a couple
 22 additional comments. Thank you.
 23 So, this is very important, and that
 24 site is basically a risk waiting to happen.

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1 The ACEC regulations that are in place today
2 have all sorts of requirements for why we
3 need to hold this site to the highest standard
4 possible.

5 Ripping open that landfill and
6 bringing in a half a million tons of
7 contamination to this site is not holding it
8 to any standard. We have no monitoring of
9 ground water, no monitoring of surface water,
10 no monitoring of sediments adjacent to that
11 facility. There is no information that
12 gives us any level of comfort that this is
13 a good idea.

14 And I need to make one final point,
15 the bird sanctuary. Those plantings were
16 required as environmental mitigation, the
17 purpose of which is to mitigate the
18 environmental damage related to bringing
19 contaminants and disposing of them at that
20 site. The capping of this landfill that's
21 in place, the grassy cover now that this
22 permit would rip up is part of that habitat.

23 So, if anyone here does care about
24 the birds, they would not support ripping open

1 the acid scrubbers.

2 What is before you is, if you look
3 at demographics, in the general areas of pre
4 acid scrubbers and the health and cause and
5 effect, the acid scrubbers, the numbers come
6 down possibly a tad bit.

7 You have a unique opportunity for --
8 I'm not going to say the next generation, but
9 let's use like the generation that's not even
10 here yet. They have a fighting chance to
11 potentially go through life in this town
12 without a cancer. You can actually make that
13 happen right now. How cool would that be?
14 That's what I want to put upon you, sir, or
15 this board. Thank you.

16 MR. FAIRBROTHER: Thank you.

17 MR. HORLICK: Steven Horlick,
18 H-O-R-L-I-C-K, Town Meeting member,
19 Precinct 8, and a Saugus resident about
20 twenty-five years.

21 I just want to go back about
22 twenty-five years ago when we used to be
23 able to put up so many different things in
24 the trash, and then the DEP said, "We're

1 the bird habitat to bring in more
2 contamination. Thank you.

3 MR. FAIRBROTHER: Thank you.

4 MR. DEMILES: Good evening. My
5 name is Jim DeMiles, D-E-M-I-L-E-S. I reside
6 at 12 Pevwell Drive in Saugus.

7 And the first, I'd like to start off
8 by thanking all of the previous speakers for
9 their passion, their point on. And when you
10 stop and you think about it, I've been in this
11 community with my wife for thirty-three years,
12 and for thirty-three years, it's been the same
13 thing, and it's been the same passion.

14 With the RESCO third burner
15 expansion, my wife and I got involved, and
16 with one of the local groups, SAVE, we did a
17 health survey in Precinct 10. I believe we
18 did about 800 households.

19 The numbers were staggering, and
20 when you went back in time to their parents,
21 which was pre acid scrubbers, and the health
22 effects it had on their parents, so it was a
23 little easier on them, because -- people in
24 my generation, because we lived mostly with

1 here to protect you. You can no longer put
2 this, this, this, out in the trash, because
3 we want to keep that out of the environment,
4 so now you can't send that to a landfill or
5 to an incinerator, or anyplace else."

6 And during the past twenty years,
7 my trash has got smaller and smaller and
8 smaller from things I can no longer throw out.

9 During that twenty years, you have
10 given these people here at RESCO a pass, that
11 there have been extension after extension
12 after extension to still dump this
13 contaminated ash in a landfill where you force
14 me and every resident in Massachusetts to put
15 out less because you say you're protecting the
16 environment by not allowing me to put things
17 out in my trash.

18 The stuff that I would have put out
19 over the last twenty years is paled compared
20 to all of the extra ash they've been allowed
21 to dump in that landfill for the past twenty
22 years.

23 There's been a lot of good people
24 here, Lynn, Revere, Saugus -- Saugus with a

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1 watershed, SAVE, all these people and hundreds
2 of volunteers every year fight to keep that
3 Saugus River and the estuary around there
4 clean. The volunteers clean it up, and they
5 always constantly fight to make sure that that
6 -- the water comes back and the marine life
7 comes back.

8 Now, if everybody is so concerned
9 about renewable energy, then why don't you
10 just shut it down and tell them to put up a
11 solar farm, that that would give you, I think,
12 better renewable energy than having a plant
13 that burns ash and dumps it down here.

14 We have one up at the Saugus
15 landfill, we put one up there. It's getting
16 tens of thousands of dollars back to the town
17 every year in solar energy, it's renewable,
18 and it's saving everybody money, and it causes
19 no harm to the environment that we can see,
20 because it's solar.

21 Also, too, everybody is worried
22 about trash being trucked out. I would r
23 ather have the trash being trucked out than
24 have more of it being put there, because

1 with the town, which is Advocate Industries,
2 and you people have been involved in Advocate
3 Industries, the issues we've had up there.

4 Now, we decided after twenty years
5 of fighting with the town, we're going to work
6 with the town, we're going to fill in the
7 whole area up there, the pit, and we're going
8 to come up with a solution that's going to
9 benefit the residents of Saugus.

10 We're not going to do anymore
11 environmental damage by mining rock up there
12 anymore, and we're going to make it a place
13 that everybody can remember. This is what we
14 did as a good neighbor to the Town of Saugus.
15 Thank you.

16 MR. FAIRBROTHER: Thank you.
17 I'm going to call a couple more names here.
18 Katie LaJoie and John Tuthill, please.

19 MS. MCWILLIAMS: My name is Jan
20 Sculla McWilliams, M-C-W-I-L-L-I-A-M-S. I've
21 lived in Revere for over forty years. I'm an
22 educator, I've raised three children in this
23 city, and I'm standing here absolutely shocked
24 that the same issue is still going on. You

1 eventually, like it's been said, we get
2 these major storms coming up now.

3 You've seen the devastation just
4 three hurricanes did in Florida, the Virgin
5 Islands, Puerto Rico, and Texas. I mean,
6 who would think that there would be hundreds
7 and billions of dollars damage just from
8 these three storms, and they're going to be
9 rebuilding for the next five to seven years.

10 All we need is one storm, not a
11 Category 5, but something smaller, to make a
12 direct hit anywhere near that area and it
13 will probably rip the top of that landfill
14 right off because it's the highest point.
15 Everything there is flat in comparison to
16 that landfill.

17 So, I'd just ask you to make sure
18 that you don't allow anymore of this to be
19 dumped. Please close this down and let's set
20 up a plan to end up finally capping this off
21 and finding another use for it, like I said,
22 a solar farm.

23 We have another neighboring town
24 who decided after twenty years of fighting

1 know, I feel like I'm in some kind of a
2 nightmare, and I can't get out.

3 These people that have all testified
4 before me, they have done such a wonderful
5 job, and I have really nothing to add
6 statistically to what they had to say.
7 I'm very proud to be part of this active
8 community.

9 But what I do want to ask you to
10 do is what others have asked you to do,
11 protect us. The cancer rate is horrible in
12 this community, and we have been fighting
13 this, we have been talking about this, we have
14 been trying to do something with this forever.

15 I was a community activist, I did a
16 lot of work in Roxbury, and now I'm going to
17 say the same thing that Debra Daigle said.
18 She's retired, I'm retired, and now I feel
19 it's time to do something for the community
20 that I've lived in.

21 I'm asking you to please change
22 your decision and close this facility, and
23 together, we can all come up with some kind
24 of way to make our towns a better place to be.

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1 But I'm also extremely angry and frustrated,
 2 and I do feel that if this does not happen,
 3 it is time for a lot of us in these
 4 communities to get together, and it might be
 5 time to, you know, start thinking about a
 6 documentary, because this is just going too
 7 far. Thank you very much.

8 MR. FAIRBROTHER: Thank you. A
 9 couple more names to queue up. Jim Connolly.

10 MS. LAJOIE: Hello, my name is
 11 Katie LaJoie. I'm actually from New
 12 Hampshire. I'm a nurse, and I have a lot of
 13 experience with Wheelabrator. They had a
 14 facility in Claremont, New Hampshire, and it
 15 is now closed. There was a lot of work done
 16 by citizens like this for about twenty years.

17 And with all due respect, I think
 18 the people who are supporting incineration
 19 don't really understand how it works. And
 20 this ash landfill does have a lot of toxic
 21 pollutants in it, so for people who think
 22 it's nontoxic, that's just not true.

23 I urge the citizens to ask for a
 24 transition plan to work with you on the

1 New Hampshire and dealt with issues involving
 2 environmental services in New Hampshire, and
 3 other waste distribution.

4 I also would like to reiterate what
 5 my colleague, Katie LaJoie has said, that it
 6 really is stunning to hear some of the things
 7 that have come out here this evening.

8 I'm tremendously impressed by the
 9 citizens of these communities impacted, and
 10 I'm frankly dismayed of what I've heard this
 11 evening about the conduct of the Department
 12 of Environmental Protection over two decades.

13 This really is simply unacceptable,
 14 and I would strongly urge you to revisit this
 15 decision to issue a provisional permit, and to
 16 move in the direction of transition to a safer
 17 and more fair system of managing our
 18 resources. Thank you.

19 MR. FAIRBROTHER: Thank you.

20 MR. CONNOLLY: Jim Connolly with
 21 Wheelabrator Technologies.

22 Thank you to the DEP for coming
 23 tonight, thank you to the public who have come
 24 out to comment, and especially thanks to our

1 transition plan that closes the incinerator
 2 and replaces it with conservation, maximum
 3 recycling and composting. This way, there
 4 would be no more burning, no more ash will
 5 be dumped, and people could still have their
 6 bird sanctuary, and the ash could be removed,
 7 tested, and there could be some remediation
 8 there.

9 I am really shocked what I've been
 10 hearing about that's been going on here.
 11 It's unbelievable. So, I hope that you'll
 12 do the right thing and say no to Wheelabrator.
 13 Thanks.

14 MR. FAIRBROTHER: Thank you. Next?

15 MR. TUTHILL: Good evening. My name
 16 is John Tuthill, also from New Hampshire.

17 I've served many, many years as a
 18 representative of a solid waste district in
 19 New Hampshire, a district that was involved
 20 with Wheelabrator from the mid 80's to the
 21 beginning of the 21st century, a long and
 22 difficult time for about thirty towns in the
 23 upper valley of the Connecticut River.

24 Also served in the legislature in

1 supporters who have spoken tonight and to the
 2 1,200 or so who have given us cards or letters
 3 that we'll be submitting to the DEP.

4 I'd like to just take a minute to
 5 clear up a few misconceptions that were put
 6 out by a number of speakers.

7 First and foremost, the ash is
 8 nontoxic.

9 MALE VOICE: You're lying.

10 MR. CONNOLLY: It's a material that
 11 is -- the definition of what is a toxin ----

12 MR. FAIRBROTHER: Please remember
 13 the rules tonight, to be respectful when a
 14 commenter is talking.

15 MR. CONNOLLY: The definition of
 16 what is a toxic or hazardous waste is made by
 17 the EPA, and they've prescribed specific tests
 18 to determine if waste is, in fact, toxic or
 19 hazardous. Toxic or hazardous waste would not
 20 be allowed by permit into this landfill.

21 The ash from our facility and all
 22 other waste energy facilities are regularly
 23 tested and found to be nontoxic.

24 The misconception that there is no

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1 ground water protection system. We submitted
2 some supplementary information with the
3 application describing the performance of this
4 system. While it's not the traditional
5 plastic liner, it is a clay soil barrier wall,
6 with a leaching collection system, that serves
7 the same function and meets the same technical
8 standards for protecting ground water, as is
9 the more typical plastic liner.
10 As far as the lack of monitoring,
11 the storm water monitoring is described in the
12 supplemental information to the application
13 submitted in July. Information on the
14 leaching that's monitored is part of our
15 industrial discharge permit to the sewer, and
16 that's also described in the information that
17 was submitted, I believe, back in July.
18 The ACEC is very important. We
19 recognize the values of that, and we feel that
20 we've been a major contributor to the success
21 of that ACEC. The values of the ACEC are to
22 preserve the environment, remediate past
23 problems, and restore habitats. We've done
24 all of that.

1 Land we own outside of the boundary
2 of the landfill is preserved as salt marsh.
3 The installation of that ground water
4 protection system was the largest remediation
5 project, \$17 million dollars, back in 1991 to
6 complete that. And the habitat restoration
7 with our nature trail is, so far, the most
8 successful habitat restoration project in
9 Rumney Marsh's ACEC. We're very proud of
10 those accomplishments.
11 Regarding flood impacts, all of
12 the environmental protection systems of the
13 existing landfill are well out of the flood
14 plan, and with the wildlife sanctuary
15 development, we have created a living
16 shoreline which serves to further protect
17 against any coastal storm impact.
18 And then just one other thing,
19 people talked about extension, extension,
20 extension. Since 1991, with the original
21 permit and the authorization to operate,
22 and the current ground water protection
23 system and configuration was issued, the
24 landfill, in 1996, went through a MEFA

1 process with extensive public comment,
2 was granted a permit to continue to operate
3 until those configurations were met.
4 And then again, in 2008, there was
5 an additional permit modification. Those are
6 the extensions, and they are associated with
7 the permit.
8 So, with that, again, I just want to
9 thank the DEP for taking the time to come out
10 and hear the public comment. Thanks for the
11 people who came tonight to share their views.
12 MR. FAIRBROTHER: Thank you.
13 MR. SERINO: Good evening. My name
14 is Michael Serino, S-E-R-I-N-O. I'm a
15 lifelong Saugus resident, a Town Meeting
16 member from Precinct 10, current Chairman of
17 the Board of Assessors, former Chairman of the
18 Board of Selectmen, and Chairman of the
19 Conservation Commission.
20 I stand before you tonight in
21 opposition to the Massachusetts Department of
22 Environmental Protection's decision to allow
23 Wheelabrator, RESCO, to dump an additional
24 400,000 cubic yards of toxic ash along the

1 Saugus River and into the state's designated
2 ACEC area, an area of critical environmental
3 concern.
4 The Wheelabrator toxic ash
5 landfill is an unlined landfill. Considering
6 today's updated environmental standards, the
7 landfill would not be allowed to operate in
8 Massachusetts. The Wheelabrator incinerator
9 produced carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, and
10 nitrous oxide, which results in innocuous
11 toxic ash being dumped in the unlined
12 landfill.
13 The expansion of the Wheelabrator
14 landfill is not in the best interest in
15 regards to the protection of our environment.
16 Some forty years ago, when
17 Wheelabrator, RESCO, began operating, nobody
18 had any idea of the potential health risks in
19 the state, however, some forty years later, we
20 do know this. According to the Massachusetts
21 Cancer Registry, Saugus has elevated cancer
22 rates compared to the statewide average.
23 Latest data from the Massachusetts
24 Cancer Registry shows that Saugus has elevated

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1 cancer rates in 15 out of 23 cancer type
2 studies.
3 The expansion of the Wheelabrator
4 landfill is not in the best interest in
5 regards to the protection of the health of
6 our residents. I honestly believe any further
7 discussion of the Wheelabrator landfill should
8 focus on quality environmental development
9 of that site, which would provide jobs and
10 new revenue opportunities for Massachusetts
11 and Saugus.
12 In conclusion, like my cousin,
13 Pam Harris, who is a member of the Board of
14 Health in Saugus, who recently died from brain
15 cancer, who had been dealing with this issue
16 for many years, we need your help.
17 I ask, when is enough, enough? The
18 Town of Saugus has done more than it's fair
19 share in regards to the disposal of solid
20 waste in Massachusetts. The expansion of the
21 Wheelabrator toxic ash landfill is not the
22 answer to quality economic growth, the
23 protection of our environment, and the health
24 of our residents. Thank you.

1 MR. FAIRBROTHER: Is there anyone
2 here now who did not previously indicate the
3 desire to present comment tonight. If you
4 wish, you can do so now.
5 Is there anyone else?
6 MS. LESTER: My name is Mary Lester,
7 M-A-R-Y, L-E-S-T-E-R. I am the Chair of the
8 Lynn Conservation and Saugus River Watershed.
9 I live directly across from RESCO,
10 and see the smoke tower, white dust all over
11 the windows every day. When I was thirty-
12 seven, I was diagnosed with Stage IV breast
13 cancer. I'm looking for a way to get my son
14 out of this area.
15 None of you would move to where
16 I am and live there. You can help us.
17 You need to help us. It's not fair. Every
18 other person on our street has cancer.
19 Please help us. Thank you.
20 MS. DEMILES: Hi, my name is Lena
21 DeMiles, I live at 12 Pevwell Drive. I'm on
22 the Saugus Board of Health, but I'm not here
23 as a Saugus Board of Health member.
24 I'm here as a townie. For thirty-

1 three years, we've lived in the neighborhood
2 with RESCO and Wheelabrator. Unfortunately,
3 like some of the other folks, I'm nine months
4 out of cancer. I've had surgery, chemo,
5 radiation.
6 It's got to stop. The study that
7 my husband spoke about, I went door-to-door.
8 Nineteen communities. Every house in the
9 neighborhood has some type of cancer. Every
10 house in the neighborhood, some people have
11 two to three family members.
12 One of the gentlemen before me,
13 Pam Serino, she had glioblastoma. That's a
14 terrible way to die.
15 And I'm a registered nurse; I don't
16 know if I said that. So, I've dedicated
17 forty-three years of my life to help, and to
18 be now one of the people that's got to have
19 that type of care, that's pretty sad.
20 You guys have to stop this. When
21 we see the smoke coming out, we get woken up
22 in the middle of the night, lots of noise,
23 lots of smoke. You know, there's piles along
24 107. We've had people go up there and check it

1 out. We don't know what's flying down.
2 We have no idea.
3 We keep talking about these health
4 studies. Everyone talks a good talk, but
5 when it comes to action, having action, I
6 don't see it. I haven't seen it in the last
7 twenty years. What I've seen is a lot of good
8 people die. I saw my son's friend, twenty-
9 eight years old, die last year of leukemia.
10 Where does it end?
11 So, you guys do have the power;
12 you have the power to make this go away.
13 We know we have to take care of the trash,
14 but we also have to take care of the people,
15 because I tell you, I know what my cancer
16 bills were, and that's a lot of money.
17 I know what each chemo treatment
18 costs, because I'm not only on the end of
19 taking care of people, I'm on the end now
20 of being one of the patients, and it's got
21 to stop.
22 You need to stop this expansion.
23 It's got to go away. Forty years, no way.
24 Our poor kids in this town -- you know,

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1 they talk about the children, they talk
2 about these grounds as if it's a public park.
3 Well, this public park, they have children
4 running all over it. What are these kids
5 going to do thirty years from now? What
6 kind of cancers are they going to have?
7 We talk and talk and talk. And I
8 talk about it at some other meetings. I am
9 passionate about this. I've given this the
10 last twenty years at different levels, and
11 sometimes I have to walk away just to keep
12 my head straight.
13 But the problem is, no one is making
14 it go away, because it's about the greed, but
15 it takes more greed to take care of people.
16 So, you do have the power to stop the
17 expansion, please.
18 MR. FAIRBROTHER: Thank you.
19 MR. TRUNFIO: My name is Paul
20 Trunfio, spelled T-R-U-N-F-I-O. I'm a
21 resident of Saugus.
22 We've had a lot to say to you about
23 health issues, and I'd like to continue that
24 effect on health issues, especially cancer.

1 I'm a cancer survivor, and I have
2 had numerous doctors that treat me, asking all
3 of them what is the cause of cancer. And they
4 answer me, all of them, these are doctors of
5 oncology, that they don't know the answer.
6 It's either -- but I get the same answer all
7 the time; it is either environmental or it's
8 genetic. That's how they answer me.
9 In addition to myself, my wife is a
10 survivor of cancer also, and I've confronted
11 her numerous number of doctors also of
12 oncology, asking the same question, and the
13 answer is the same.
14 So, we hear an awful lot about
15 cancer; I think it's probably the second or
16 third most frequent cause of death behind
17 heart attacks. And with all of the
18 improvements they've made in treatment,
19 we still do not know the cause of it.
20 So, I'm here just to simply say
21 that we've heard a lot of sad stories about
22 people that have had cancer and died from
23 cancer, but yet, we don't know if the
24 relationship comes from living in Saugus,

1 being close to Wheelabrator.
2 I don't know how you commit that
3 relationship that it's the cause from living
4 in Saugus, because you hear it all over
5 Massachusetts, all over the country, really,
6 and it's becoming more and more prevalent.
7 So, I am here to just simply say
8 that I support your decision on what you
9 come across and finally make a decision on
10 Wheelabrator, and I just want to say that they
11 are a benefit to the town, in that regard,
12 that they do -- and all the towns that they
13 support them also, that it's a necessary thing
14 to have, and I just support your decision in
15 whatever you decide. Thank you.
16 MR. FAIRBROTHER: Thank you.
17 Do we have anymore? One more?
18 MR. MCWILLIAMS: Larry McWilliams,
19 M-C-Williams, 666 Revere Beach Boulevard.
20 I've been living there for forty-four years.
21 When we moved there in '73, they had
22 had a vinyl siding on it, it was white, but it
23 wasn't very white. About ten years into that,
24 we decided to get better -- the vinyl had come

1 out, so we did vinyl.
2 But even for the last twenty years,
3 I've been having to wash the vinyl -- white
4 vinyl siding at least three times a year with
5 a hose, a power hose.
6 And I thought, to tell you the
7 truth, that this was from the airplanes
8 landing at Logan Airport, with you know, the
9 jet fuel exhaust coming down. But I realize
10 tonight, after listening to this testimony,
11 that it definitely couldn't have been that
12 because we have, you know, prevailing winds
13 that are offshore, west to east, and the jet
14 fuel would have been much more out to sea than
15 anywhere near my house.
16 And I just, from the testimony
17 tonight about the dirtiness of the houses and
18 on the windowsills -- two days ago, I Windexed
19 my car windows, and overnight, we got a little
20 bit of rain, so I went out the next morning
21 and there was water on the windshield.
22 And I put the windshield wipers
23 on, and it was like swishing brown water back
24 and forth. And I said to myself, that's

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1 definitely not jet fuel. And I realize
2 tonight what it was. I had no idea about
3 this.
4 So, I hope you're going to
5 reconsider your application. Thank you.
6 MR. FAIRBROTHER: Thank you. Is
7 that everyone here tonight who wishes to
8 provide comment?
9 MR. PANETTA: Hello, Mark Panetta,
10 1 Bellevue Street in Saugus.
11 I wasn't going to speak this
12 evening because there's been so many wonderful
13 speakers here, and I don't intend to be one
14 of them. But I will tell you, hearing the
15 testimony this evening, when I hear money,
16 health, profit, death, and you've got to
17 decide?
18 This is not something that's that
19 complicated to look at. Whether it's cancer;
20 we know that RESCO Wheelabrator, it's not
21 healthy. We know that already.
22 This application, there's so much
23 talk about the birds and how important they
24 are. This application is the eviction notice

1 to those birds. This application doesn't
2 improve anything.
3 Before you can talk about expansion,
4 shouldn't you talk about the end? How are you
5 going to end this? How are you going to let
6 this become the termination of this at some
7 point, because at some point, it does have to
8 end, whether they want it to or not.
9 As a business, they're never going
10 to just decide to just close it. That is
11 incumbent upon us as a community to decide
12 enough, and incumbent upon you as the agents
13 that protects us to say, even if you expand
14 it, we want to know when will this end,
15 because this is not ----
16 The application, this approval of
17 this permit does not lead to any sort of
18 resolution of the matter, and no matter what
19 side you're on, shouldn't you at least agree
20 that at some point, this has to end.
21 I urge you to reject this
22 application and let this process begin to end.
23 Thank you.
24 MR. FAIRBROTHER: Thank you.

1 So, in closing, I'd like to thank
2 all present in attendance tonight. If you
3 have not filled out an attendance slip, please
4 do so before you leave tonight, to insure that
5 you will receive any future communications
6 sent to the interested persons list.
7 The comments submitted at this
8 hearing will be considered by the Department
9 before taking further action on the
10 provisional decision of the partial valley
11 fill project.
12 The public comment period to the
13 provisional decision closes at 5:00 p.m.
14 January 12th, 2018. Comments may be
15 submitted to the Department by e-mail, to
16 WheelabratorSaugus.massdep@state.ma.us, or by
17 mail to the Mass DEP Solid Waste Section,
18 Northeast Regional Office, 205B Lowell Street
19 in Wilmington, Massachusetts, 01887.
20 Following the close of the public
21 comment period, the Department will summarize
22 and respond to the oral and written comments
23 submitted during the public comment process.
24 Notice of the final permit decision

<p>\$</p> <p>\$15.00 [1] 17:9 \$17 [1] 122:5 \$300 [1] 17:11</p> <hr/> <p>0</p> <p>01887 [1] 136:19</p> <hr/> <p>1</p> <p>1 [3] 36:9 133:10 138:5 1,000 [1] 102:9 1,040,000 [1] 42:14 1,200 [1] 120:2 1:00-2:00 [1] 78:16 10 [4] 23:13 70:24 110:17 123:16 100 [2] 3:17 6:19 100,000 [1] 76:8 101 [1] 3:18 102 [1] 3:19 104 [1] 3:20 107 [3] 83:10,18 127:24 110 [1] 3:21 111 [1] 3:22 115 [1] 3:23 117 [1] 3:24 118 [1] 3:25 119 [1] 3:26 12 [2] 110:6 126:21 123 [1] 4:3 126 [2] 4:4,5 129 [1] 4:6 12th [4] 8:22 10:20 56:10 136:14 130,000 [1] 54:18 131 [1] 4:7 133 [1] 4:8 137 [1] 138:5 140,000 [1] 13:16 15 [1] 125:1 178 [2] 60:18 88:8 18th [1] 138:9 19 [1] 6:24 19.033 [1] 7:6 1962 [2] 69:17 79:8 1987 [1] 73:21 1988 [1] 41:5 1991 [2] 122:5,20</p>	<p>1996 [5] 14:5 19:20 30:10 77:8 122:24 1a [1] 30:1 1st [4] 6:12 8:21 83:11 84: 18</p> <hr/> <p>2</p> <p>2002 [1] 88:8 2008 [1] 123:4 2013 [1] 45:1 2015 [1] 33:14 2016 [4] 8:1 19:17 57:4 86: 14 2017 [10] 5:5 6:12 7:15 8:5, 20,21 14:11 83:11 137:7 138:10 2018 [3] 8:22 10:20 136:14 2023 [1] 138:13 205b [1] 136:18 21st [1] 118:21 221 [1] 32:21 23 [2] 64:9 125:1 24 [1] 43:21 27,000 [1] 23:1 28 [1] 138:13</p> <hr/> <p>3</p> <p>300 [1] 78:10 30th [4] 5:5 8:19 29:23 137: 7 310 [2] 6:24 7:6</p> <hr/> <p>4</p> <p>40 [1] 91:2 400,000 [2] 83:15 123:24</p> <hr/> <p>5</p> <p>5 [1] 114:11 5,200,000 [1] 41:20 5:00 [2] 8:22 136:13 50 [1] 91:2 500,000 [3] 12:11,24 21:7 5th [3] 7:15 8:8 86:14</p> <hr/> <p>6</p> <p>6:50 [1] 5:4 62 [1] 3:3 64 [1] 3:4 66 [1] 3:5</p>	<p>666 [1] 131:19 69 [1] 90:5</p> <hr/> <p>7</p> <p>71 [1] 3:6 73 [3] 3:7 69:20 131:21 75 [1] 62:11 77 [2] 3:8,9</p> <hr/> <p>8</p> <p>8 [1] 111:19 80 [2] 3:10 104:2 800 [2] 73:22 110:18 80's [1] 118:20 83 [1] 3:11 85 [1] 74:19 86 [2] 69:22 70:2 87 [1] 3:12 89 [2] 3:13,14</p> <hr/> <p>9</p> <p>9:00 [1] 93:5 9:20 [2] 137:7,9 92 [1] 3:15 93 [1] 3:16 96 [1] 70:6</p> <hr/> <p>A</p> <p>ability [2] 67:3 138:7 able [10] 31:2 39:18,21 41: 15 68:16 69:18 94:6,7,18 111:23 abomination [3] 69:16 77: 11,19 about [85] 12:4 14:13,17, 21 22:15 30:22 34:15 42:7 44:7,9 48:21 49:7 51:22 56: 20,22 57:4 60:13 61:12 63: 2,11 64:18,19,24 66:2 68: 13 69:15,21 72:20 74:6 76: 9 77:16 78:8,10,23 79:2,4 81:4 85:10 89:10 90:17 92: 9,14 96:16,17 97:13 99:21, 22,23 101:12 105:7 106:3 107:9,20,22 108:1 109:23 110:10,18 111:19,21 113:9, 22 116:13 117:5,16 118:10, 22 119:11 122:19 127:7 128:3 129:1,2,8,9,14,22</p>	<p>130:14,21 131:23 132:17 133:2,23 134:3,4 absolutely [1] 115:23 abut [1] 44:4 abutting [2] 23:15,15 accept [2] 8:23 21:7 acceptable [1] 41:16 accepting [2] 7:19 14:5 access [1] 46:19 accident [2] 34:24 35:15 accompli [1] 67:3 accomplishments [1] 122:10 according [3] 76:9 104:1 124:20 accountable [1] 25:9 accurate [1] 138:5 acdc [1] 54:17 acec [10] 20:6 37:5 65:24 105:7 109:1 121:18,21,21 122:9 124:2 acid [4] 110:21 111:1,4,5 acre [1] 21:4 acres [1] 100:15 across [6] 32:23 46:7 77:5 90:16 126:9 131:9 act [1] 71:16 action [10] 36:10,13 58:15 73:6,9 101:9 102:7 128:5,5 136:9 actions [1] 58:4 action's [1] 102:8 active [4] 37:1,3 84:22 116: 7 actively [2] 12:8 88:15 activist [1] 116:15 activity [1] 30:13 actual [1] 92:15 actually [6] 52:7 54:4 72: 16 79:8 111:12 117:11 adamantly [1] 71:21 adaptation [1] 106:7 adaption [1] 106:11 add [1] 116:5 added [1] 12:12 adding [1] 14:13 addition [2] 20:18 130:9 additional [17] 6:16 10:17</p>
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HEARING OF WHEELABRATOR/SAUGUS

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