
Appendix I

Public Hearing Transcripts

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NAVY'S NORTHWEST TRAINING RANGE COMPLEX DRAFT EIS/OEIS

OPEN HOUSE and PUBLIC HEARING

January 27, 2009
5:00 p.m.

Oak Harbor School District Office
ASC Board Room
350 S. Oak Harbor Street
Oak Harbor, WA 98277

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A P P E A R A N C E S

Moderator:

Lewis Michaelson

Executive Officer:

Commander Matthew Miller

Project Manager:

Mr. John Mosher

Reported by: Leslie A. Andres, CCR 2489

North Sound Reporting

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BE IT REMEMBERED that on the 27th day of January 2009, beginning at the hour of 5:00 p.m. of said day, the following proceedings were had in the City of Oak Harbor, County of Island, State of Washington, the proceedings were taken before Leslie Andres, a Notary Public in and for the State of Washington.

WHEREUPON, the following proceedings were had and testimony given, to wit:

WHEREUPON, the following two speakers spoke one-on-one with the court reporter during the Open House period:

MS. MORRIS: My name is Linda Morris, M-o-r-r-i-s. In terms of the use of the depleted uranium and tungsten heavy metal, any other heavy metals and/or sonar devises, I and the public don't know what the current level of those, the usage of those substances and devises are. And there's a request for further use of or increased use of these sources, these substances. And I don't think that we have enough documentation as to the effects that they have on life in terms of serious medical problems, or

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1 what they do to marine mammals.

2 So I believe that we should not increase the usage
3 of any of these until we know more research, until we
4 have more information about what the effect is on
5 marine mammals and human life. That's one comment.

6 And the other comment is, this is a separate
7 issue, is there is the issue of proposed increased use
8 of training programs in marine sanctuaries. And I
9 believe that the important word here is sanctuaries,
10 and I don't believe a sanctuary is a place for any kind
11 of use of weapons and violence. And you know, the
12 sanctuary of thinking of it in terms of a church is a
13 place where people can go to be safe. And I believe
14 it's the same thing in a marine sanctuary, the marine
15 mammals and marine life needs to be safe, and this is
16 in contradiction to what the Navy wants to do.

17 Thank you.

18 MS. DEWINTER: My name is Wendy Campbell
19 DeWinter. I have a request. My request is that the
20 Navy, when they're going to put on a presentation, that
21 they actually notify us. In other words, the two
22 papers on the island that I have been told they used
23 for notification are not read. The circulation for
24 those two papers is three thousand something respective
25 for each end of the island. Sound Publishing owns both

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1 the papers. And the circulation is in the neighborhood
2 of three thousand something for each of those papers.

3 Now, the city of Oak Harbor has over seventy
4 thousand people by itself, and I'm not in the
5 population of the city of Oak Harbor, I'm north of Oak
6 Harbor, so the island population is a lot larger than
7 seventy thousand.

8 So I'm requesting that -- I understand that they
9 did some radio probably PSAs, and the radio station
10 that we have that's local is just in the process of
11 losing its license, it lost -- its owner died last
12 year, and the kids who have taken it over are trying to
13 run it into the ground, so nobody is listening to that
14 either. But there is the Marketplace newspaper out of
15 the south end of the island, and it is an amazing
16 paper, it goes to every mailbox on the island, and it
17 would be a great release for the Navy to put in a
18 display ad that could be seen by everyone. Maybe they
19 could put in a classified, you know, something.
20 So that's my request. That's my comment. Thank
21 you very much.

22 (Recess.)

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P R O C E E D I N G S

MR. MICHAELSON: Good evening, and thank you for coming tonight. My name is Lewis Michaelson, and I will be the moderator for tonight's hearing on the Navy's Northwest Training Range Complex, Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Overseas Environmental Impact Statement, or Draft EIS.

Here to receive your comments are Commander Matthew Miller, Executive Officer of Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, and Mr. John Mosher, the project manager from the Navy's Pacific Fleet. Mrs. Kimberly Kler, the project coordinator from Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Northwest -- there she is, she waved to everybody, good, thanks -- is also present and is the primary point of contact for sharing your written comments about this project. Let's go ahead and look at the agenda for tonight.

Hopefully you all had the opportunity to talk to the many knowledgeable experts and program officials who are staffing the exhibits during the open house.

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The primary purpose for this portion of the hearing is for the panel members to listen to your comments firsthand. They will not be answering questions during this phase of the proceedings. Comments and questions will be addressed in the Final EIS.

After I finish this introduction, Commander Miller will give a brief overview of the Navy's activities in the Northwest Training Range Complex.

Next Mr. John Mosher will brief you on the environmental impact analysis process and summarize the results reported in the Draft EIS. Mr. Mosher is the EIS project manager for the U.S. Navy.

The last item on the agenda, however, is really the most important. The public comment session is your opportunity to provide information and make statements for the record.

Your input ensures that the decision makers can benefit from your knowledge of the local area, and any environmental effects that you think may result from the proposed action or alternatives.

Keep in mind that the EIS process is intended to ensure that decision makers will be fully informed about the potential environmental impacts associated with the various alternatives before they decide on a course of action.

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1 Please also remember that comments on issues
2 unrelated to this EIS are beyond the scope of this
3 hearing.

4 To request an opportunity to make a verbal comment
5 during tonight's hearing, please fill out a verbal
6 comment sheet that looks like this, it's available at
7 the registration, and people are waving them right now
8 if you want to speak. And if you haven't filled one
9 out yet, just raise your hand and they will hand you
10 one and then you can hand it back to them. Thank you.

11 Every speaker, including public officials,
12 organizational spokespersons and private individuals
13 will have four minutes each to provide his or her
14 comment.

15 If you don't feel comfortable standing up here
16 tonight to make a statement, you have until February
17 11, 2009 to submit a written statement for
18 consideration in the Final EIS, or you can wait until
19 tonight's public comment session that we're doing right
20 now is over and you can provide your comments privately
21 to the court reporter seated to my left one-on-one.

22 Keep in mind that written comments are given the
23 same consideration as verbal comments offered here
24 tonight.

25 And now it's my pleasure to introduce Commander

1 Miller.

2 COMMANDER MILLER: Thank you, Lewis.

3 Welcome to the public hearings for the Northwest
4 Training Range Complex Draft Environmental Impact
5 Statement.

6 My name is Commander Matt Miller, and I am the
7 Executive Officer of Naval Air Station Whidbey Island.

8 I want to thank you on behalf of the United States
9 Navy for attending this evening. This is one of five
10 public hearings the Navy is holding in Washington,
11 Oregon and Northern California for the Northwest
12 Training Range Complex Draft EIS.

13 As Lewis mentioned, we hope that you've had a
14 chance to visit the poster stations this evening and
15 meet with the Navy project team members.

16 A little of my background, I've been wearing a
17 Navy uniform for over 26 years, 21 years as an active
18 duty naval officer. I've been the Executive Officer of
19 Whidbey for about a year.

20 Before that I was the operations officer.

21 Before that I spent two years on the Abraham
22 Lincoln at Naval Station Everett, assigned there.

23 And before that back at Whidbey as an instructor
24 at the electronic attack weapons school as a Prowler
25 Tactics Instructor.

1 My background, I'm a carrier aviator, about 2,000
2 hours flying jet aircraft, first in the Intruder as a
3 bombardier navigator and as electronic countermeasures
4 officer, now in the Prowler that still flies at
5 Whidbey.

6 Again, originally from Silver Spring, Maryland,
7 graduate of the University of Maryland, but I've been
8 in the northwest for almost ten years, and I'm not
9 leaving, so I like it here. I'm an east coast
10 resident, and now I'm here for good. So that's me.

11 And at the conclusion of this presentation, you
12 will have an opportunity to make oral comments
13 regarding the content of the environmental analysis.
14 Written comments, like Lewis said, will be accepted
15 tonight and throughout the comment period, which closes
16 on February 11, 2009.

17 The Northwest Range Training Complex is a military
18 training area that has been in use by the Navy since
19 World War II. It is comprised of two primary
20 components, the Offshore Area and the Inshore Area.

21 The mission of the Northwest Training Range
22 Complex is to serve as the principal backyard training
23 range for those units homeported in the Pacific
24 Northwest area, including surface ship, submarine,
25 aviation and Explosive Ordnance Disposal units located

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1 at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, Naval Station
2 Everett, Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, Naval Base
3 Kitsap-Bremerton, and Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor.

4 The Northwest Training Range Complex also supports
5 military units from outside the range complex area,
6 such as Naval Special Warfare units, and meets their
7 training requirements.

8 The Northwest Training Range Complex includes
9 ranges, training areas and air space that extend west
10 to 250 nautical miles beyond the coast of Washington,
11 Oregon and Northern California, and east of the
12 Washington/Idaho border.

13 The Offshore component of the Northwest Training
14 Range Complex encompasses 122,400 square nautical miles
15 of air, surface and subsurface ocean training areas.
16 The Inshore component includes about 875 acres of land
17 on Whidbey Island and Indian Island, with more than
18 12,000 square nautical miles of Special Use Airspace,
19 and surface and subsurface training areas within the
20 Puget Sound.

21 Military activities currently conducted in the
22 Northwest Training Range Complex can be divided into
23 primary mission areas as listed here. Some examples
24 you read off of there, anti-air warfare, mine warfare,
25 electronic combat, that's my area of expertise, strike

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1 warfare as well.
2 To accomplish the mission in the Pacific
3 Northwest, it is critical for the Navy to maintain and
4 operate the necessary facilities and to provide these
5 critical training areas to U.S. Navy commands so that
6 forces can train realistically.

7 Realistic training ensures U.S. Navy personnel
8 maintain the highest level of readiness and capability
9 and is the single greatest asset the military has in
10 preparing and protecting American servicemen and women
11 to defend the nation. There is no such thing as
12 "routine" training when it comes to practicing combat
13 skills.

14 To ensure Navy forces are fully ready prior to
15 deployments requires specialized ranges where military
16 personnel can learn through practical hands-on
17 experience, the technical skills necessary to
18 effectively plan and conduct operations. Continuing
19 technological advancements also require more complex
20 and varied testing and training scenarios to be able to
21 combat new threats.

22 The ranges, facilities and installations of the
23 Northwest Training Range Complex are unique, and
24 provide training opportunities essential for the safety
25 and readiness of military personnel and the success of

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1 the military mission.

2 Environmental stewardship is a priority goal of
3 the Navy during mission training activities.

4 The Navy is committed to protecting the physical
5 and natural environment and has established a
6 successful track record of environmental stewardship
7 while completing our mission.

8 To accomplish our environmental stewardship goals,
9 the Navy implements protective measures on land and at
10 sea to reduce potential effects to the terrestrial and
11 marine environment, and ensure public safety and
12 accessibility.

13 I will now turn the presentation over to John
14 Mosher from the U.S. Pacific Fleet, who will tell you
15 about the Navy's Proposed Action for the Northwest
16 Training Range Complex and give you an overview of the
17 Draft EIS and the environmental analysis process.

18 John.

19 MR. MOSHER: Thank you, Commander.
20 My name is John Mosher, and I'm the project
21 manager for the Northwest Training Range Complex
22 Environmental Impact Statement. I'm here tonight to
23 give you an overview of the findings contained within
24 the Draft EIS.

25 The Draft EIS was prepared by the U.S. Navy to

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1 comply with both the National Environmental Policy Act,
2 or NEPA, and Executive Order 12114, which requires
3 federal agencies to consider the environmental effects
4 of their activities that occur outside of U.S.
5 territorial waters. The Draft EIS represents
6 compliance with these environmental statues and is an
7 important part of the Navy's overall commitment to
8 environmental stewardship as it tests and trains.

9 The Navy is the lead agency for the EIS. The
10 National Marine Fishery Service is a cooperating agency
11 pursuant to federal regulations, in addition to their
12 role as a regulator. As a cooperating agency, they
13 provide early review of the Proposed Action,
14 alternatives and analysis methods. As a regulator,
15 they help to ensure that the EIS and the Proposed
16 Actions are in full compliance with appropriate
17 environmental laws and regulations.

18 This slide lists all of the actions that the Navy
19 is proposing to conduct that are analyzed in the Draft
20 EIS. Not all of the actions are included in each
21 alternative. Over the next three slides, I will
22 discuss which actions are included in each of the
23 alternatives.

24 The Proposed Action is needed to provide a
25 training environment consisting of ranges, training

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1 areas and range instrumentation, with the capacity and
2 capabilities to fully support required training tasks
3 for operational units in military schools. The
4 Proposed Action supports the overall Navy mission as
5 required by federal law.

6 Under the No Action Alternative, training and
7 testing activities would continue at current levels.
8 This alternative would not accommodate increased or new
9 training activities, and the range investments and
10 enhancements would not be implemented.

11 This alternative provides a baseline for assessing
12 the potential environmental effects of the other
13 alternatives.

14 Alternative 1 is a proposal designed to meet Navy
15 and Department of Defense current and near-term
16 training requirements.

17 This alternative includes an increase in training
18 activities currently conducted, and accommodates force
19 structure changes associated with the introduction of
20 new weapon systems, vessels and aircraft into the
21 Fleet. These include:

22 The EA-18G Growler Aircraft,
23 SSGN Guided Missile Submarine,
24 P-8A Multimission Maritime Aircraft and
25 Unmanned aerial systems.

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1 Alternative 2 is also designed to meet current and
2 near-term training requirements.

3 It includes all activities identified under
4 Alternative 1; plus an increase in the level of
5 training activities identified in level 1 -- in
6 Alternative 1.

7 The implementation of range enhancements,
8 including:

- 9 New air and sea surface targets,
- 10 The operation of air target services for
- 11 locally-based aircraft and vessels,
- 12 The development of an additional electronic
- 13 signal emitter,
- 14 The development of an underwater training
- 15 minefield, and
- 16 The use of a portable undersea tracking
- 17 range.

18
19 Alternative 2 is the Navy's preferred alternative
20 because it fully supports the type and frequency of
21 activities required to achieve complete fleet
22 readiness, and allows the Navy to carry out its mission
23 in the Northwest Training Range Complex.

24 In preparing the Draft EIS, the Navy evaluated the
25 potential effects of the alternatives to marine,

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1 terrestrial and the human environment.

2 We have taken a comprehensive approach in
3 assessing the potential effects to physical, biological
4 and socioeconomic resources.

5 We encourage you, if you haven't already, to
6 review the Draft EIS which presents the findings of the
7 Navy's environmental analysis for each of these
8 resource areas.

9 The Navy's use of active sonar and explosives puts
10 sound in the marine environment. While preparing the
11 EIS, Navy scientists qualitatively and quantitatively
12 analyzed the potential effects of sound in the water to
13 marine life, including marine mammals, sea turtles,
14 fish, seabirds and marine invertebrates.

15 The method for determining potential sound
16 exposure to a marine animal was jointly developed by
17 the Navy and the National Marine Fisheries Service, and
18 represents the best science currently available.

19 Marine mammal species have widely varying
20 sensitivities to sounds based on frequency. This is a
21 reflection of how different species have evolved to
22 cope with life in a marine environment, including
23 differences in size, prey, habitats, and the predators
24 they try to avoid.

25 Using the five general steps listed here, the Navy

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1 was able to calculate the number of potential marine
2 animal exposures to sound from active sonar and
3 explosives. Section 3.9 of the Draft EIS provides the
4 results of the computer model as it relates to the
5 potential annual exposures of marine animals.

6 Marine animal sensitivity was determined by
7 biologists from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric
8 Administration, and that information was entered into
9 the computer model. Marine animals can react
10 differently to sounds. For example, the harbor
11 porpoise found off the coast is very skittish.
12 Therefore, sounds that are lower in volume will cause
13 them to startle which sooner than other cetaceans.

14 While there is the possibility for non-lethal
15 impacts and altered behavior from the use of active
16 sonar and sound associated with explosives, no
17 mortality to marine mammals is anticipated. In
18 addition, the estimation of sounds exposures does not
19 consider the use of protective measures, such as sonar
20 safety zones, which would reduce the likelihood of
21 exposures at the highest sound levels.

22 No significant impacts to sea turtles, fish,
23 seabirds or marine invertebrates are anticipated from
24 the use of active sonar.

25 The use of explosives in Navy activities may

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1 result in injury or mortality to individual fish or
2 seabirds in the immediate area; however, these
3 activities would not result in significant harm to
4 overall bird or fish populations or habitat.

5 Given the relatively low number of explosive
6 detonations associated with the Proposed Action, no
7 significant impact to marine invertebrates are
8 anticipated. Also, the low occurrence of sea turtles
9 in the Range Complex makes the potential for
10 significant impacts to sea turtles unlikely.

11 Additionally, protective measures are used during
12 underwater detonations to reduce the potential effects
13 to the environment.

14 The Navy does not expect to harm marine mammal
15 populations, but it recognizes that there may be
16 potential effects to individual marine mammals.

17 To help guard against harming individual whales or
18 other marine mammals during training, the Navy has
19 developed protective measures, including:

20 Posting a minimum of three well-trained lookouts
21 24 hours a day.

22 Establishing a safety zone during training
23 exercises using mid-frequency active sonar.

24 Sonar is powered down if a marine mammal enters
25 the 1,000 yard safety zone, and the sonar is

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1 powered off if a marine mammal enters within two
2 hundred yards of a sonar dome.

3 The Navy also coordinates with the National Marine
4 Fisheries Service and reports marine mammals
5 sighted during major exercises.

6
7 The Navy implements these protective measures in
8 all of its range complexes, including the Northwest
9 Training Range Complex.

10 Over the past five years, the Navy has funded more
11 than 100 million dollars in marine mammal research.

12 A summary of the findings of the Draft EIS are
13 presented here, using language required by
14 environmental regulations.

15 For most of the resources analyzed in the Draft
16 EIS, we found no significant impacts. In your review
17 of the Draft EIS, four areas you may want to examine in
18 more detail for species that may be affected by the
19 Proposed Action are endangered species of listed fish,
20 sea turtles, marine mammals and bird species.

21 The Navy is in consultation with the National
22 Marine Fisheries Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
23 Service to ensure the effects to endangered or
24 threatened species are listed -- or threatened species
25 listed under the Marine Mammal Protection Act and the

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1 Endangered Species Act are minimized.

2 The Northwest Training Range Complex EIS also
3 analyzed the potential effects of training -- of Navy
4 training and testing activities on the human
5 environment. The resource areas and issues analyzed
6 include:

7 Cultural resources,

8 Traffic,

9 Socioeconomics,

10 Environmental justice and the protection of

11 children, and

12 Public safety.

13

14 Findings in the EIS show that no significant
15 impacts to the human environment are likely from the
16 implementation of the Proposed Action.

17 In addition, the Navy has initiated consultation
18 with federally recognized Native American tribes and
19 Nations in the Northwest Training Range Complex area.

20 The Navy is committed to protecting the physical
21 and natural environments both on land and at sea and is
22 actively engaged in numerous environmental protection
23 measures and stewardship programs. These measures are
24 integrated into mission training to minimize
25 environmental effects from training and testing

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1 activities.

2 In addition to complying with NEPA and Executive
3 Order 12114, the Navy also complies with other
4 applicable Federal and environmental laws, including
5 those listed here and all other applicable
6 environmental laws and regulations.

7 The Navy has completed the first three steps of
8 the NEPA process and we are now in the phase for
9 providing public review of the Draft EIS.

10 To review progress so far: The EIS was initiated
11 on July 31st, 2007 and the Navy held public scoping
12 meetings in Washington, Oregon and Northern California
13 in September of 2007.

14 Government agencies, organizations and the public
15 were encouraged to submit comments at the scoping
16 meetings, or to provide written comments throughout the
17 public comment period. The comments received were
18 considered in the preparation of the Draft EIS that
19 we've discussed tonight.

20 We are now in the public hearing and document
21 review step of the NEPA process. This phase is an
22 essential part of the NEPA process, because it allows
23 us -- allows the public to review the document and
24 comment on the Navy's analysis of environmental
25 effects. We encourage you to provide your input by

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1 February 11 so it can be considered for incorporation
2 in the development of the Final EIS. All comments
3 received will be considered.

4 The Navy's committed to keeping the community
5 informed throughout the continued development of the
6 Northwest Training Range Complex EIS. These public
7 hearings are just one of many opportunities to share
8 information about the EIS and, more importantly, to
9 encourage your feedback and comments.

10 Now I will turn back to Lewis Michaelson to
11 describe how to obtain more information and how to
12 comment on the Draft EIS.

13 MR. MICHAELSON: Thank you.

14 In addition to holding these public hearings, the
15 Navy has established a web site to make it easy for you
16 to find and comment on environmental documents. The
17 Draft EIS is posted to this web site. The web site
18 also has additional background information and links to
19 the fact sheets that are available here tonight.

20 An announcement I should have made earlier, we
21 would appreciate it if everyone turns off their cell
22 phones. I'll try to make it earlier in the evening
23 next time.

24 You may also review the Draft EIS and other
25 publicly available documents related to the Northwest

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1 Training Range Complex EIS by visiting the designated
2 information repositories. The addresses of those
3 physical repositories are provided in the comment fact
4 sheet that you received when you came in tonight.

5 Both the information repositories and the project
6 web site contain project documents, fact sheets and
7 background information for your review.

8 The Navy welcomes your review and input on the
9 analysis contained in the Draft EIS. And there are
10 several ways to provide those comments.

11 Obviously we're accepting oral comments immediately
12 after this presentation.

13 Written comments can be submitted by filling out a
14 comment form and either dropping it in the drop
15 box located at the registration table or mailing
16 it to the address provided here, which is also
17 listed on the fact sheets.

18 Comments may also be submitted electronically
19 prior to the project web site at
20 www.NWTRangeComplexEIS.com.

21 That's also in the fact sheet.

22 All comments should be received by February 11,
23 2009 to ensure that they are considered in the Final
24 EIS.

25 We will now begin the oral comment portion of the

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1 public hearing.

2 To get an accurate record of what you have to say,
3 please help me by respecting the following ground
4 rules.

5 First, please speak clearly into the microphone at
6 the lectern that's being set up for you right now,
7 starting with your name and any organization you
8 represent, if any.

9 Second, each person will be allotted four minutes
10 to speak. Depending upon the number of speakers and
11 the time remaining, I may be able to offer additional
12 time for you for speak after that.

13 If you've prepared a written statement you may
14 turn it into the registration table, or you may read it
15 outloud, as long as you can do so within the 4-minute
16 time limit.

17 Finally, please honor any request that I make for
18 you to stop speaking when you reach the 4-minute time
19 limit. In order to make that easy for you to know when
20 it's about time to wrap up and you can end in a
21 comfortable place, I will hold up this sign which
22 indicates that you have 30 seconds remaining. That's
23 why it's useful to occasionally look up from your notes
24 and look at me, so that you can keep track of that.
25 And then of course when we reach four minutes you will

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1 get the red sign that says "End." All right.
2 I'll also read ahead the several speakers, instead
3 of having to line up here you'll have an idea of where
4 you're coming up in the rotation and can be ready to go
5 when we get there.
6 So let me me read the first several names in order
7 in which you signed up.
8 Steve Erickson will be first, followed by Marianne
9 Edain, Netsah Zylinsky, Lorraine Bayes and Linda
10 Morris. Mr. Erickson.
11 MR. ERICKSON: I'm going to let Mary go
12 first.
13 MR. MICHAELSON: Okay.
14 MS. EDAIN: I hardly intended to go first.
15 My name is Marianne Edain, spelled E-d-a-i-n, and
16 I'm representing Whidbey Environmental Action Network.
17 My notes are in a jumble, so be it. I spent a
18 good deal of time this evening trying to -- sorry about
19 that, I'm short -- trying to get a definition out of
20 various ones of you of what constitutes the literal
21 zone. I haven't heard a definition.
22 Since it is the intent of this to move from deep
23 water into the literal zone, I believe it's rather
24 important to know what that constitutes, and I would
25 appreciate some discussion in your FEIS of what

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1 constitutes the literal zone, specific depths and
2 specific distances from high tide.
3 I heard from a number of people this evening "Oh,
4 don't worry about that, we're not planning to do that
5 right now."
6 One of the basic rules of law is that one must
7 construe every word of the document as if it meant
8 something, so when I read that a particular proposal is
9 going -- is being proposed, whether it is, there is the
10 propermatic (ph. Sp.) and then there is the specific.
11 When the program authorizes the specific, and the
12 program in this instance is the EIS, or the EIS is for
13 the program, then I have to assume that all of the
14 specifics which are listed in that program are intended
15 at some point, maybe not tomorrow morning, to be
16 carried out. So don't tell me that "We're not planning
17 that right now." I think that that was not a good
18 thing, and people should realize that.
19 I have not gone over the thousand plus pages of
20 the EIS, I'll get there, but I have noticed that used
21 expended materials are intended to be simply dumped.
22 They will fall to the benthic zone and theoretically be
23 covered with silt. That's not acceptable. That's
24 absolutely not appropriate.
25 Something that came up in the presentation is this

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1 portable tracking range. And one hopes it is defined
2 somewhere in the EIS, because I have not a clue what it
3 is you're talking about. So we would appreciate
4 clarification.

5 While we see that, you know, all kinds of
6 wonderful things are going to be done to avoid impacts
7 to marine mammals, we're not seeing how actual impacts
8 intended, unintended or otherwise, are going to be
9 tracked, and what's going to be done to avoid future
10 impacts once it's demonstrated that impacts are, in
11 fact, happening.

12 It's unclear to me, the maps that we're seeing
13 show range 237, but it also shows other ranges,
14 including one in the Selkirk Mountains. So we would
15 like to know what exactly are you planning in the
16 Selkirk Mountains, what are you doing there now and
17 what's changed?

18 The EIS admits, and it was admitted just now, that
19 there will in fact be impacts to ESA listed species.
20 While there may not be serious impacts, there's a
21 reason why they're ESA listed, and we ain't happy. No,
22 we don't want impacts to EAS listed species.

23 Oh boy, I got three more. Somebody here today
24 contacted the Makah Tribe. We were told that the
25 tribes were consulted. They were rather floored. They

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1 had not heard anything.

2 I think consultation needs to be a little more
3 vigorous. While you say you're abiding by all the
4 federal regulations, you're also asking for waivers.
5 That's not appropriate, you're either abiding by them
6 or you're not. Don't ask for waivers and then tell us
7 how you're abiding by them.

8 MR. MICHAELSON: Thank you. Mr. Erickson.

9 MR. ERICKSON: Steve Erickson, also speaking
10 for Whidbey Environmental Action Network.

11 First, I would point out that the web site where
12 the documents were to be available basically have been
13 dysfunctional, and the actual availability of the EIS,
14 DEIS, has been less than half of the allotted public
15 comment period.

16 Now, one purpose of NEPA, a primary purpose, is
17 informed decision making, and that includes allowing
18 the public the opportunity to also comment and review
19 the documents. Having the documents available for such
20 a relatively short time for proposal of this scope does
21 not really -- is not really consistent with that
22 purpose. The comment period really needs to be
23 extended, at least for the amount that was lost when
24 the documents were not available.

25 Second, regarding -- I just want to touch on our

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1 concerns regarding the training in Eastern Washington,
2 and the expansion, or the intensification of the
3 activities, I'll say.

4 Our particular concern regarding Selkirk Mountains
5 is that is the area with the last remaining occurrence
6 of the lower 48 states of Mountain Caribou, federally
7 listed an endangered species, and one of the rarest
8 mammals in North America. Currently there's no
9 critical habitat designated for Mountain Caribou,
10 although there is a lawsuit in progress that ultimately
11 is going to end up with designation critical habitat.
12 Now, when I inquired about this to one of the
13 representatives of the Navy here tonight, I was told
14 that a critical habitat is designated, the Navy would
15 simply ask for an exemption from the Endangered Species
16 Act from that critical habitat.

17 I point out that the area we're talking about here
18 is probably relatively small in the overall scheme of
19 the area that the Navy is currently using for
20 training. And even without critical habitat being
21 endangered for that rare mammal, you should avoid that
22 area, or raise your elevation, or you should certainly
23 be analyzing the impacts.

24 And this EIS, although most of the attention here
25 tonight is rightly focused on the marine impacts and

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1 the marine zones off the coast of Washington that that
2 area is also included. And there's really no analysis
3 in there at all of those areas. I mean there's just
4 some kind of boilerplate language. And that is
5 deficient in terms of what the purpose of performing an
6 environmental analysis is.

7 At that I'm going to leave it.

8 MR. MICHAELSON: Thank you. Next speaker is
9 Netsah Zylinsky.

10 MS. ZYLINSKY: I'm actually here tonight to
11 kind of represent the voice of the mammals and the
12 birds and the fish that can't speak, so it's my vote
13 and their vote that we go for the No Action
14 alternative, which means maintaining the existing
15 training levels. Obviously, they can't speak, and I do
16 need to speak in their behalf.

17 Also, I'm very concerned about the depleted
18 uranium mutations that sink to our sea floor. I want
19 it to be noted that uranium, whether depleted or not
20 depleted, has a half life of 250 thousand years. We
21 all know that. And we know that they will sit on the
22 ocean floor for that long. And what effect that has on
23 the environment we don't really know. None of us are
24 going to live that long. How many generations will
25 that affect?

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1 The other thing I would like to mention is that
2 basically we just really want to know if the
3 oversight -- if the committee that's going to watch
4 over this is actually a part of your -- your reporting,
5 your fish and wildlife meeting, are they actually going
6 to be with you side-by-side observing this, or are you
7 just reporting to them on the observations and the
8 scientific data that you're collecting? So that's a
9 question I have as well.

10 Thank you.

11 MR. MICHAELSON: Thank you. Lorraine Bayes.

12 MS. BAYES: Good evening. Thank you, and
13 thank you to everyone here who care about the earth.

14 I just want to play this drum as a reminder of
15 your own heart beating, and that the decisions that are
16 being made are really for the next seven generations
17 for us to remember, you know, the Earth Mother and all
18 her relations. And to that deep, deep heart wisdom
19 that we know in our bodies and we know in our spirits,
20 that we need to take care of our earth, and we need to
21 take care of the animals, and we need to care for the
22 next seven generations of people and care for all the
23 children and the generations yet to come.

24 This is a deeply spiritual decision that we're
25 making, and I would like to be a voice for that. And

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1 just to share a song.

2 I hear the voice of my grandmother calling me.

3 I hear the voice of my grandfather call.

4 They say "Wake up, wake up people, wake up, wake
5 up, listen listen, listen listen."

6 They say "Stand in your power, people, stand in
7 your power, listen listen."

8 They say "Teach and share wisdom, elder, teach and
9 share wisdom, listen listen, listen listen."

10 May the rivers all run wild. May the mountains go
11 unspoiled. May the air be clean. May the trees
12 grow tall. May there be love for every mother and
13 child. May there be love for every woman and man.
14 May there be love for every being in the wild.

15 Listen listen, listen listen, listen listen."

16 MR. MICHAELSON: Thank you. Let me read
17 ahead several more names. Linda Morris will be
18 followed by Paul Gillon, Gaylynn Beighton, John Hurd
19 and Kimmer Morris.

20 Linda Morris, please.

21 MS. MORRIS: Hello, I'm Linda Morris. Thank
22 you for welcoming public comments.

23 And I wish that I had the confidence that the Navy
24 will really, really truly take what it said in these
25 public comments, and take them under advisement, and

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1 that it might change the plan. So that is my hope.
2 I have a few comments and a couple of questions.
3 The EIS says that the Navy is planning to phase out
4 depleted uranium. And I would like more information on
5 that, when, a specific date.

6 The problem is that we don't know how much is
7 currently being used, and we don't know -- so part of
8 trying to assess the damage to marine life is that we
9 don't know how much is currently being used, we don't
10 have good research, long-term research, and we
11 don't know what the effect of other heavy metals like
12 tungsten will have long term on marine life.

13 Commander Miller, you talked about environmental
14 stewardship. It's a good word. But I believe that
15 this phrase is in direct conflict with the use of
16 sonar, Du, tungsten and other heavy metals.

17 I've done a lot of research, particularly on Du,
18 but also on sonar, and we don't know their long-term
19 effect on marine mammals and on the human race. And I
20 think that we're playing a very dangerous game. So I'm
21 not convinced that there will not be significant harm
22 done by the use of these materials and sonar.

23 I asked a question several years ago, a couple of
24 years ago, and the Navy had an open house over on the
25 peninsula, and several of us from here went to that

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1 open house.

2 And I asked a question of one of the men, of the
3 Navy men who was showing what they were planning to do,
4 and I had said to him "How much is enough? When will
5 it be enough?" And I asked the same question of
6 another gentleman here tonight.

7 Every time the Navy comes to the public they ask
8 for more land, more training opportunities. All of
9 this has an impact and an increasing impact on our --
10 the health of our oceans and our beaches.

11 And so I ask how much will be enough? And will
12 the Navy come asking for more and more and more in the
13 future? And what will be left of healthy beaches and
14 oceans for our children and our children's children?

15 I would like to, in conclusion, make a plea for
16 citizen oversight of what goes on in this area that is
17 being talked about tonight. It's a huge area,
18 including a marine sanctuary. Which to me the word
19 "sanctuary" means a place of safety, someplace where
20 you can go and feel that you will not be disturbed. So
21 that the Navy's activities in this marine sanctuary is
22 in direct contrast to what I consider to be the meaning
23 of the word "sanctuary."

24 But back to the citizen involvement, I would
25 really believe that you would have a lot less

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1 antagonism by the population around the Pacific
2 Northwest if the citizens felt like they would have had
3 a voice in the oversight of what goes on.

4 Right now we feel that -- at least I do, and I
5 know lots of people feel like we don't have the
6 information. The wool is being pulled over our eyes,
7 and we don't have a lot of confidence in what's going
8 on. Thank you.

9 MR. MICHAELSON: Thank you. Paul Gillon.

10 MR. GILLON: Did you say Paul Gillon?

11 MR. MICHAELSON: I did.

12 MR. GILLON: I'll try to make my comments
13 very brief.

14 But it isn't always the case that the bad guys sit
15 on one side of the table and the good guys sit on the
16 other side. We're all in this together.

17 And I can understand the need for training and
18 being prepared, but I think that we're missing the boat
19 in some of our developments. And the sonar buoy at one
20 time was a passive system. And then they added
21 explosives to it. It's kind of like driving a carpet
22 tack with a sledge hammer.

23 I think that we really need to put an emphasis on
24 seeing if we can get back to the passive system with
25 the sonar buoy. I can understand the concern over the

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1 Chinese diesel boats, but if we can get back to a
2 passive system we can -- we're better off, because once
3 you light up these high powered systems on submarines
4 and frigates you also alert the enemy that you're
5 there. And the same thing in setting off the
6 explosives.

7 And most of the diesel boats have to transit with
8 diesel, not with electric power, so their signature
9 should be more pronounced when they're under diesel
10 power than electric power. And that really should be
11 taken into consideration.

12 We had an incident in the '60s where the KGB
13 seized a Russian nuclear diesel -- not nuclear, a
14 Russian diesel submarine that had atomic missiles
15 onboard, and they accidentally blew themselves up. If
16 we had had a good acoustic system we could have
17 probably picked them up when they were 200 miles off
18 Honolulu.

19 So I'm just saying that I really feel that we all
20 need to take a look at passive, because it creates less
21 damage to animals, and it may be more -- if we could
22 hear the enemy coming and get on top of him without
23 telling him we're there then we'd be better off.

24 That's what I have to say. Thank you.

25 MR. MICHAELSON: Thank you. Gaylynn

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1 Beighton, please.

2 MS. BEIGHTON: Commander, thank you for
3 holding this hearing. I know these are really tough
4 evenings sometimes for you on the other side of the
5 desk, and I just appreciate so much the Navy having us
6 here and listening to us.

7 And I would just like to compliment you. I think
8 you try very hard to be good neighbors. And those in
9 the community who are with the Navy who I have met are
10 just the highest caliber people, and so I thank you,
11 you are an important part of our community.

12 MR. MICHAELSON: Could you state your name,
13 please?

14 MS. BEIGHTON: My name is Gaylynn Beighton,
15 and my address is 2507 West Beach Road, Oak Harbor.
16 And I'm sorry I didn't speak my name first.

17 My vote would be for a No Action alternative. And
18 that is because I have concerns about the reference in
19 the federal notice register to the incidental take of
20 endangered species. My fear relates, among other
21 animals, to the south resident orca. There are less
22 than 100 of these animals left in the world. We have
23 names for all of them here. We are -- we love our
24 orcas. We have an organization called the Orca
25 Network, and they have a map and they tell us every

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1 time they see one of these orcas, whether they're in
2 Puget Sound or whether they're down in San Francisco
3 and off the coast of California.

4 They are really on a slippery slope. They're
5 facing challenges on many issues with regards to lack
6 of food, pollution in the water. And they're just a
7 very, very grand animal, that if there's any way that
8 we can save them from extinction we want to do that.

9 So I'm very concerned about the reference to
10 incidental take, because in my mind losing one of those
11 animals is too many.

12 And then my second concern is the reference that I
13 read of materials that would be left in the environment
14 and not retrieved afterwards. And my thought on that
15 is, you know, the potential for large marine mammals to
16 get caught up in ropes, or you know, strangled to death
17 and that sort of thing.

18 And maybe that isn't even a concern, but that was
19 what came to my mind, was the potential for the marine
20 mammals to get caught up in anything that's left over
21 after the training exercises.

22 I think that's it. I just hope -- I hope we can
23 come to something that's the best for the most people.
24 Thank you for listening.

25 MR. MICHAELSON: Thank you. John Hurd.

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1 MR. HURD: My name is John Hurd, and I live
2 in Clinton.

3 And first I want to thank you for your service to
4 our country. And I want to thank you for the
5 opportunity to address the issues about the EIS, and
6 for making the documentation available.

7 The 1,068 page EIS was made available at the
8 library in this town. I live 45 minutes south of
9 here. When the web site was down for the days that it
10 was down I was advised "Well, you can drive up to Oak
11 Harbor." And I asked myself, well, if I look at the
12 map -- finally somebody sent me a copy of the map --
13 I'm thinking well, wait, Freeland is really close to
14 the part of the area that's involved. Why isn't there
15 an EIS at the Freeland library?

16 This is a print of the page "Cannot be displayed"
17 with my computer clock and date superimposed on the
18 21st of January at 9:37 a.m., web site still down. It
19 was down for 15 percent of the 38-day comment period.

20 And we're assuming that because there was an abort
21 issue and people making comments right up to that
22 period when it went down and then finally got put back
23 up and they figured out how to fix it, that that abort
24 issue existed from the get-go. And so what this
25 constitutes is 51 percent of the public comment period,

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1 no comment was available or possible to be done.

2 Consequently, I think it's appropriate that there
3 be an extension of 51 percent at least of that 38 day
4 period. So I would like to respectfully request that.

5 And the -- while recognizing the need for
6 readiness through training, the No Action alternative
7 is all that we can support due to the lack of
8 information available to assess the impact on numerous
9 endangered and declining marine species, especially
10 proposed with new proposed testings of new systems.

11 The Navy is so big that before any expansion of
12 programs could be considered the community would expect
13 from its large neighbor, the Navy, a comprehensive,
14 holistic, probematic (ph. Sp.) impact statement of
15 where we stand at the present time.

16 We have no information about the existing
17 conditions before we can consider expanding
18 conditions. So prior to supporting proposed changes,
19 the Navy needs to fund independent research on seasonal
20 presence of marine animals, fish, birds found in
21 training ranges, rather than rely upon outdated
22 surveys.

23 The Navy needs to supply public access to
24 non-classified, ambient, acoustic information in their
25 training ranges, to confirm compliance with operations,

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1 and to demonstrate the means to respond to maritime
2 incidents in all areas, including interactions between
3 ships and commercial vessels. We would rather not have
4 oil spills in a sanctuary.

5 And I would like to be told how much depleted
6 uranium exists on the ocean floor, and how much the
7 Navy intends to dump there, as they quote, phase out
8 the use of that material. And I would like to see a
9 scientific study on the impact of that material long
10 term on all marine species.

11 MR. MICHAELSON: Thank you, Mr. Hurd.

12 MR. HURD: Thank you.

13 MR. MICHAELSON: The next speakers in order
14 will be Kimmer Morris, Sarah Schmidt, I think this is
15 Al Williams, P.O. Box 863, Wendy Campbell DeWinter and
16 Howard Garrett. Kimmer Morris.

17 MS. MORRIS: Hello, I'm Kimmer Morris. Thank
18 you for having this hearing.

19 I'm a school teacher in Langley, and we just
20 created -- adopted a new mascot, which is the orca. I
21 am here for all marine species, to speak for them, and
22 I echo everything that has been brought up before.

23 But I'm kind of wondering how many of you have --
24 or how many of you have ever been snorkeling or scuba
25 diving? I'm assuming some of you have. Okay. So you

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1 know when you're looking out above the water, you don't
2 see very much sea life, but then when you're in the
3 water it is alive, right? You've seen that?

4 So I have the concern that if you're just looking
5 like this to see what's out there, how are you looking
6 underneath? Maybe that's in the EIS, maybe it's not.
7 I would like it to be.

8 And my next concern has to do with the depleted
9 uranium and tungsten and the research or what ways are
10 being planned to protect the levels, the cumulative
11 levels of that, both presently and in the long term.

12 And along those lines, I would like to pose a
13 question. How much depleted uranium do you want to eat
14 in your fish and in your children's fish and your
15 grandchildren's fish? How much? Do you have an amount
16 that is acceptable to you?

17 MR. MICHAELSON: Sarah Schmidt.

18 MS. SCHMIDT: Thank you. I'm Sarah Schmidt
19 from Coupeville, and I'm speaking as the president of
20 Whidbey Audobon Society.

21 And I recognize that I'm here and we operate on
22 behalf of protecting wildlife and wildlife habitat, and
23 you're here and you operate on behalf of the conviction
24 currently that we need military to defend our country.
25 So we're here looking at different priorities.

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1 We would vote for the No Action alternative. And
2 I want to recognize that, and applaud the Navy's
3 progress as an environmental steward, which I have
4 certainly seen over the course of my lifetime. But I
5 would pause that it's partly a response to pressure
6 from people like us that keep pushing to make -- try
7 and make our leaders increasingly aware of protecting
8 the environment.

9 We have concerns about some other things that have
10 been said tonight about chemicals that will be released
11 into the water and materials left in the environment,
12 the depleted uranium, heavy metals.

13 And another concern, as far as the protecting the
14 marine mammals, is that it's difficult to believe that
15 24-hour lookouts could reliably detect and protect ESA
16 listed species in the real life conditions at sea and
17 visibility.

18 I have some concerns that this EIS was developed
19 in consultation and review with National Marine
20 Fisheries Service at a time under administration in
21 Washington for the last eight years that has been no
22 friend to the environment or to sound science, and has
23 put a lot of pressure on agencies to back off from
24 their quality of work in that regard.

25 And we've just elected a new administration in

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1 Washington that we hope will provide that missing
2 leadership and work towards moving us towards being
3 better environmental stewards and also protecting our
4 crew with more diplomacy so that you won't have as much
5 work to do.

6 The EIS acknowledges that the proposed intensified
7 activities that were modeled may affect ESA listed
8 fish, turtles, birds and marine mammals, and that the
9 Navy would attempt to minimize those effects at a time
10 when the populations of marine mammals, seabirds and
11 ESA listed salmon are dwindling, and there are harbor
12 increased toxins.

13 We've got the Puget Sound Partnership trying to
14 help reverse the situation and bring Puget Sound back
15 to help.

16 There's no place for experimentation or continued
17 harm. And the best way to minimize harm is to omit the
18 actions altogether. Thank you.

19 MR. MICHAELSON: Al Williams.

20 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you. I'm Al Williams.
21 I live in Oak Harbor.

22 And we've had a lot of really good comments
23 tonight from -- heartfelt comments from people, and we
24 hope that you really take some serious note of them.

25 One of the best ones was from you, Commander

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1 Miller, when you said you intend to be here for good.

2 I would also like to notice that you talked about
3 having a lot of studies using the best science. And I
4 would like to question that, because I've noticed that
5 all of the displays here and all of the comments and
6 stuff have been studies by the Navy. Have you also
7 considered the input from University of Washington
8 Beachwatchers, other sources from the educational
9 community, and things of that nature, which I think
10 deserve to be given some high -- high credit in all of
11 this, as are the comments from so many people here?

12 I would like to mention about the severity of the
13 situation of our ecology. And I've talked to some of
14 you people tonight about this. And that is exemplified
15 by the situation with our salmon right now. We've
16 talked about the Orcas, we've talked about other
17 things, and I can't sing as well as you do, but I would
18 like to say that the salmon are just about gone.
19 They're so bad that our federal government now is
20 compensating the Indians for our lack of salmon.

21 California and Oregon this last year completely
22 banned -- according to the newspaper articles I've
23 read, completely banned salmon fishing this year
24 because there's so few.

25 We have some real concerns about our environment

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1 and where it's going. I'm 72 years old now, but that's
2 a short time in the course of history. But I can tell
3 you that when I was a kid we didn't even think that
4 these concerns were important. We thought that the
5 world was just forever. But it's not, and we're
6 finding that out rather quickly.

7 Another question is about some credibility. This
8 has been a little bit mentioned. I'm not going to
9 question the credibility of the people here before us,
10 the people who have done these studies, and the
11 sincerity and the intention and the integrity of you
12 people.

13 But I have some real concerns, and I think a lot
14 of us do, about the credibility of the people who make
15 many of the decisions farther up, and particularly in
16 the last eight years.

17 And if I may give an example of why I think that
18 this credibility issue is of concern; many of us feel
19 that we have been fibbed to, that we have been
20 deceived.

21 Now, my wife and I are truckers. We just recently
22 retired, but we did a lot of military work, and I was
23 proud to do it. I've hauled for Whidbey here, I've
24 hauled out of Keystone or Keyport, and I've been over
25 at Bangor, I've been all over the country and whatever,

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1 and I'm proud of that.

2 We have a question about how much military we
3 need. The question is is there ever enough to be
4 completely safe? And I think the answer is no. Okay.

5 I think we need to also look at alternatives.
6 Now, this is not your purvue, but I think some very
7 important purvues are negotiation and a five letter
8 word, "Peace."

9 MR. MICHAELSON: Wendy Campbell DeWinter,
10 please.

11 MS. DEWINTER: My name is Wendy Campbell
12 DeWinter, and I reside on Whidbey island.

13 And I would like to thank all of you for being
14 here, and all of the support staff for doing what
15 you've done this evening and making this a really
16 comprehensive and quite visual presentation. We really
17 appreciate it.

18 I'm here as a voice for my friend, Ben White. Ben
19 White is a -- Ben White, a political -- professional
20 political -- I mean excuse me, a professional wildlife
21 environmental activist, spent a significant amount of
22 time over a very short period of time in the waters off
23 of Hawaii when the Navy was testing the sonar. Ben
24 died three years ago from stomach cancer. And I have a
25 profound feeling that his time that he spent in the

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1 waters with the sonar had an effect and contributed to
2 his death.

3 When I lived on San Juan Island the orcas were in
4 my front yard. Prior to that particular property, I
5 had had deer and rabbits and other wildlife in my front
6 yard. It was not until I had the orcas in my front
7 yard that I realized the incredible connection that the
8 orcas have with the humans. Having -- and I've never
9 gotten to swim with the dolphins yet.

10 But having the orcas as part of my daily
11 activities was one of the most profound experiences
12 I've ever had. And I had no idea prior to being able
13 to be that close to them how sensitive they are, and
14 how much they really care and consider us human beings.

15 And on religious and spiritual grounds I request
16 that no action, no further extension of testing. I
17 live on the beach on Whidbey Island, and I have the P-8
18 and the fighter jets flying overhead. They're supposed
19 to be flying over the water. They do that sometimes,
20 and sometimes they're over my house, which is not too
21 many feet, off course, but it's off course enough that
22 they have no business flying over my house.

23 And what my vet and I can tell you about the
24 impact on the health and the dying and the death of my
25 domestic animals is significant.

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1 I just wonder when the Navy is going to start
2 considering the effect that it has, and some of the
3 other things that they do in our sanctuary have on both
4 the wildlife and us human beings.

5 I request that the the media notify us in advance,
6 much further in advance than they have, and that we
7 have access to the EISs. And if there's going to be
8 the Internet down in the future they need to
9 automatically do an extension. And I request an
10 extension of this EIS review since the media and the
11 Internet did not function properly. Thank you.

12 MR. MICHAELSON: Have anymore cards been
13 turned in? I'm down to my last one. Thank you.

14 The last speaker I have listed here is Howard
15 Garrett.

16 MR. GARRETT: Thank you. My name is Howard
17 Garrett, I live in Greenbank.

18 And I'm president of Orca Network, with about
19 4,500 subscribers to our list. And -- well, first, I
20 do want to say I appreciate your service. And I have
21 high regard for the Navy personnel. I've cooperated
22 with them, they've been very helpful with a lot of our
23 activities. And I want to basically read my comments,
24 but I want to give a few ad libs first.

25 And one is the statement that no mortalities to

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1 marine mammals is anticipated I find to not be
2 credible. Given the enormity of these exercises, the
3 number of vessels, the munitions used, the sonars, the
4 explosives, I can imagine the difficulty in detecting
5 marine mammals in the water. I can't imagine that
6 there won't be mortalities as there have been on many,
7 many instances around the world.

8 So I'll just read what I have. "An extension of
9 the comment period is needed on grounds that the web
10 site to submit comments was non-functional during more
11 than half the comment period."

12 As has been mentioned that the principal mechanism
13 for input was down for more than half of the period, so
14 it should be extended, we believe.

15 And due to the decline of numerous marine species
16 and the lack of information available to assess the
17 impact of the Navy's proposed expansion on these
18 species, especially with proposed testing of new
19 systems and inadequate marine mammal monitoring, a No
20 ction alternative is the preferred option.

21 Prior to supporting any expansion of training
22 activities the Navy needs to fund independent research
23 on the seasonal presence of marine birds, fish and
24 mammals within the training areas, rather than rely on
25 outdated surveys. And I want to underline what's been

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1 mentioned, that the southern resident orca population
2 is very fragile and tenuous, has been in decline in
3 recent years, listed as endangered since 2005, and
4 passes through that area all year long.

5 The Navy needs to provide public access to
6 non-classified ambient acoustic information in their
7 training ranges to confirm compliance with their
8 operations. We need to know what's going on
9 scientifically.

10 And the Navy needs to demonstrate a means to
11 respond to environmental consequences like oil spills
12 of a maritime incident in their operating areas.

13 We've been involved in observing and researching
14 many species of cetaceans since 1981. We are well
15 acquainted with the difficulty of recognizing brief
16 sightings or faint acoustic signals. In our judgment,
17 given the enormity and the complexity of the number of
18 ships, the basic situation of training exercises, we
19 find the mitigation measures in this EIS are not
20 sufficient to reliably detect the presence of cetaceans
21 in most instances.

22 The recognition is highly problematic, even for
23 experienced personnel. So the Navy should improve the
24 mitigation measures to include training of monitoring
25 personnel by experienced whale biologists to improve

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1 recognition.

2 And finally, on the threat issue that is the basic
3 justification and the mission to deter threats, the
4 long-term challenge is to dial down the need for these
5 training exercises altogether, which is a problem of
6 international relations and diplomacy.

7 Thank you so much.

8 MR. MICHAELSON: We do have some time left,
9 so I'm going to invite people up for a second.

10 But I just want to double check, is there anyone
11 yet who has not spoken who wanted to tonight before I
12 do that?

13 Yes, sir. I'll just have you fill out a card
14 afterwards. Give us your name. And you've got four
15 minutes. Thanks.

16 MR. WOLD: My name is Bob Wold, and I was
17 actually here before the Navy, or close to it.

18 And I've been around all of your areas that you're
19 proposing to effect, and I'm not too sure, what type of
20 uranium are you proposing to waste out there or dump
21 out there at this training system?

22 MR. MICHAELSON: We're not answering
23 questions at this point.

24 MR. WOLD: The problem that I see out here is
25 we're talking about the food chain. They like to talk

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1 about the whales. And they are beautiful, and I've
2 seen them all my life. But the whales are declining
3 because the food supply is declining. And you have
4 sharks and other animals that are sensitive to noise,
5 and our props take a toll on them, so do our sonars
6 that we use on our power boats.

7 And what I do is deliver boats up and down the
8 coast. And it's been a real effect. And I can't see
9 this endangered sound being affected anymore. And I
10 can't see the other areas being affected anymore.

11 What I would like to see is you go down and use
12 some of the places that you've already pretty much
13 destroyed with your weapons down in the south. I don't
14 know why you can't go down to where you dropped off the
15 last few bombs over there and use that area as a
16 testing area, instead of coming up here and using the
17 sound? I know it's a long distance to travel, but it
18 will give you an area. We've got Hanford and a couple
19 of other areas that we have designated as areas to
20 dispose of things. We should use those areas, instead
21 of trying to reinvent some new areas. We've got
22 fertilizers and nitrates and things like this in our
23 waters now that are causing a lot of problems, red
24 tides and some other things. These areas are affecting
25 us, and they're hitting the people like the plankton

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1 and the shark and the killer whales on a microscopic
2 level. And now you're asking to put more stuff into
3 it. I can't even flush my toilet out at sea. I have
4 to go 200 miles offshore to do any disposal of any
5 waste, and you're asking to come inshore and do some
6 more damage that you won't let the American public do.

7 The people -- and we just went through a banking
8 problem, a Wall Street problem, because our government
9 allowed these people to go ahead with stuff. And now
10 you're asking to go ahead with the Navy proposal to
11 expand its weapons testing in our waters. We have the
12 spot off West Beach. It's never been the same since I
13 was a kid. I don't fish around here anymore because
14 there's very few fish. I don't even own a fishing pole
15 up here anymore. Thanks.

16 MR. MICHAELSON: If one of the staff -- thank
17 you -- could get to him to fill out a card? Yes, have
18 you spoken?

19 MS. PIAZZON: My name is Toni Piazzon, 1031
20 Northeast Summit Loop in Coupeville.

21 I have done some fish seining for NOAH and the
22 Beachwatchers. That's my primary concern, is the
23 species that we're losing, such as the salmon, is the
24 critical thing here, and the orcas that depend on the
25 salmon.

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1 And so I don't see how we can even consider doing
2 more damage when the rest of the country is fighting to
3 do all the salmon recovery and gain back what we've
4 already messed up. So do more -- do no more harm.

5 I think as other people have said, extending the
6 comment period, dysfunctional web site, I'm sure a lot
7 of people just got frustrated and didn't bother. So
8 that should be extended. And support for No Action
9 alternative, just like I was saying, let's not do
10 anymore harm.

11 My concern with the pollution in the food chain
12 from the microscopic to the end user, the whales and
13 us, to be putting more metals -- we've had an ocean
14 pollution problem for a long time. And I think this
15 whole proposal is going against what we finally are
16 starting to come to grips with is how much we're
17 polluting our planet and changing the climate. And
18 we've got to think of different ways of doing things.

19 I mean I want to protect -- I respect all military
20 and thank them very much for what they do, but we have
21 to weigh that with -- you know, we can't mess up our
22 environment or we're all going to suffer.

23 And the other thing was I've been out to boats and
24 sea sailing, stuff like that, and it's very hard to be
25 a lookout, and really you can hardly see things, even

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1 like turtles. I've snorkels and done stuff like that,
2 and you know, you can't see those little noses coming
3 up. I mean is it breaking water or what? And the
4 amount of sea life is there, it's just too critical.

5 So like Howard was saying, we need expert marine
6 biologists that specialize in identifying the sound for
7 whales and other marine mammals.

8 And I have concerns of the thousand meters, that I
9 don't know if that's really a large enough zone to stay
10 out of when it comes to the sonar and the explosives
11 because of how much sound carries through water. And
12 my concern also is in the behavior, of how much we're
13 affecting their behavior, would it be to strandings or
14 altering their habitats, feeding habitats, migration
15 habitats, things like that. So thank you very much.

16 MS. MICHAELSON: Thank you.

17 I had another card turned in, Louise Mueller
18 Wright.

19 MS. WRIGHT: I don't need to come up there.

20 MR. MICHAELSON: Actually, you do need to,
21 just to make sure we get it on the record. I know
22 public speaking is a scary thing, so sorry to make you
23 come up here. I need to make sure I get a record of
24 it. State your name, please.

25 MS. WRIGHT: Louise Mueller Wright.

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1 MR. MICHAELSON: Get a little closer to the
2 mic, please.

3 MS. WRIGHT: Louise Mueller Wright. And I
4 live on Madrona Way.

5 And I look right out my window at Penco Park, so
6 I'm very connected with the water. But no one has
7 mentioned -- no one has mentioned about all the little
8 creatures that live on the sea floor and what happens
9 when all the garbage is dumped on top of them and they
10 are squished never to live again, happily again on the
11 bottom of the sea. And they are very important to the
12 ecological balance of the ocean. Thank you.

13 MR. MICHAELSON: Thank you. Che Gilliland.

14 MS. GILLILAND: I'm Che Gilliland. I'm also
15 a teacher, and I've been interested in marine biology
16 and marine science for so long. And I went online to
17 start looking at the EIS online and didn't get a lot
18 done.

19 But I found a few things, and my main concern is
20 over the marine life, but also the impacts chemistry
21 wise interactions with the actual ocean with the things
22 that are being put in it. And I talked to one
23 gentleman who said there was no depleted uranium, that
24 it was sea floor that was the explosives, but I still
25 think there's something, it doesn't just dissipate. So

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1 enough about that.

2 And anyhow, when I was on the computer I found a
3 couple of things, and there were just pages and pages
4 of information, but I was really interested in the
5 sonar. And the first thing is on a couple of the pages
6 they went through all the different marine life all the
7 way from the southernmost area all the way up to here,
8 and so some of the things that we have here in Puget
9 Sound in this area are obviously orcas, and it goes
10 through and kind of lists on three pages what animals
11 are rare in that area, blue whales, all the way up to
12 Steller sea lions, different animals that are found
13 here, but it didn't get into the very tiny ones on
14 this. But I agree with you on that.

15 But on your plans for No Action, which is what I'm
16 advocating for, Alternative 1 and Alternative 2, with
17 the sonar it went through some incidents that had
18 happened. And granted, there's only four or five
19 listed on here, but with whale strandings. And with
20 the sonar, and I'm not sure about the kilohertz,
21 there's different amounts and decibels. The timing and
22 location of the testing encompass the time and location
23 of whale strandings in Greece, and this is with a NATO
24 research vessel. In March 2000 in the Bahamas 17
25 marine mammals, Coutier (ph. sp.) beached whales and

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1 some other whales with the Department of Navy, I'm
2 guessing, use of mid-frequency activities, sonar Navy
3 ships were involved in tactical sonar exercises for
4 approximately 16 hours on March 15th while emitting
5 sonar pings approximately every 24 seconds. And so
6 there's -- and it goes on to different things.

7 Mid-frequency acts of sonar and strandings began
8 within hours of the onset of use of mid-frequency
9 sonar.

10 In Spain, in 2006, active sonar training against
11 the Spanish submarine, according to a pathologist, the
12 likely cause of this type of beach whale stranding
13 event may have been anthropogenic acoustic activities.

14 And so when I was going through, I noticed it says
15 number of passive and active sonar efforts in the
16 northwest training area, and under No Action for
17 anti-submarine warfare, tracking exercise portable
18 undersea tracking range, and it says the pinger MK-84
19 range pingers, sonar uplink, transmission NFA and HFA
20 sonar, right now there's zero hours of this, but under
21 Alternative 2, which is what you would like to have, it
22 goes up to 180 hours, 150 hours, and then 42 hours for
23 mine countermeasure exercises.

24 And so I'm just really concerned about the sonar,
25 and if there's these mass strandings that I don't know

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1 how -- how that can be prevented. So again, I'm just
2 here to advocate for No Action. Thank you.

3 MR. MICHAELSON: Thank you. Anyone else who
4 hasn't had a chance yet who would like to?

5 Well, I said about seven speakers ago that we were
6 going to have time for second helpings. And I already
7 had somebody turn in a card for second helpings.

8 So Mr. Hurd, I think you get a chance for four
9 more minutes. That may be about it.

10 MR. HURD: Thank you. I always like to go
11 back for seconds at the potluck.

12 I'll try to be brief. I just want to underscore a
13 couple of things I said, and mention a couple other
14 things.

15 MR. MICHAELSON: I'm sorry, could you state
16 your name?

17 MR. HURD: John Hurd.

18 I really want to say that in the process that's
19 envisioned here, I think it's important that we don't
20 shoot ourselves in the foot while we're attempting to
21 defend, we shoot ourselves in the foot by destroying
22 part of that which we're attempting to defend. You
23 know, there are no orcas on the surface of the moon.

24 As somebody pointed out recently, the earth is a
25 living organism, and it's possible to literally wipe

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1 out part of that life force and make it resemble the
2 surface of the moon in trying to defend the life that's
3 on this not moon-like surface.

4 Somebody just recently said something about orcas
5 being caught up in the remnant of activity, and I
6 instantly thought how about the remnant of radioactive
7 isotopes in the food chain for a long time, ending up
8 in what, humans, Eskimos, orcas. Radioactive isotopes
9 are thalidamied forever. We're talking, like somebody
10 else said, the seventh generation. So that's why it's
11 so important. I thought it was so important to
12 establish what the baseline of what the existing level
13 of depeleted uranium on the ocean floor, how many tons
14 or pounds have been lobbed out to date, what the
15 research effects on the biological systems to date are
16 in order to consider future an increased usage.

17 And I would like to point out that, since I'm the
18 first of second helpings, it is unanimous in this body
19 of citizenry, if I'm not mistaken from what I've heard,
20 I've listened to every speaker tonight, the No Action
21 alternative is what is being advocated for. I've heard
22 no person stand up and say -- I've heard no person
23 stand up and say, "You know, you guys are on the right
24 track in what you want to do with your proposed level 1
25 or 2, is a good idea."

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1 I wish I had my little graphic, it's a pen and you
2 can pull out this Venetian blind, and it shows the
3 level of expenditure for military on all the other
4 nations of the planet. And they have bar graphs that
5 are about this high, and you keep pulling the Venetian
6 blind out further and further and further, and here is
7 the U.S., and the U.S. is about this tall, and the rest
8 of the world combined is about this tall. How much is
9 enough?

10 And I think we've reached the point of diminished
11 returns, or is not necessarily in the interest of our
12 national defense, and not in the interest of that which
13 we're attempting to defend. Thank you.

14 MR. MICHAELSON: Thanks. Is this a new
15 speaker? Excuse me just a moment.

16 So I have two more cards. We'll take these
17 as the last. We can run a little bit past 8:30 before
18 they turn us out.

19 So second chance for Gaylynn Beighton and Wendy
20 Campbell DeWinter. Gaylynn, please.

21 MS. BEIGHTON: Thank you so much. I am
22 Gaylynn Beighton, Oak Harbor, Washington.

23 I was really befuddled and lost my train of
24 thought last time. But I would just like to pose a
25 question to all of us. All of us in this room, all of

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1 us together, we're all in this together. What's the
2 point to have state of the art training and weaponry
3 and have a depleted, polluted world left to protect? I
4 think we need to think about this.

5 I do think tonight maybe the Navy has gotten a bad
6 wrap. I think as people we also have contributed to
7 pollution and depletion of our planet. And I'm going
8 to propose that we come together as citizens of the
9 world for harmony, wholeness, abundance, and joy.

10 Thank you.

11 MR. MICHAELSON: Thank you. Wendy Campbell
12 DeWinter.

13 MS. DEWINTER: Well, evidently in life there
14 are no mistakes. Excuse me, my name is Wendy Campbell
15 DeWinter, and I reside on Whidbey Island.

16 As I left the podium I was handed a piece of paper
17 with an e-mail on it, and it refers to the 1998 Navy
18 action off of the big island of Hawaii when the LFAS,
19 low frequency active sonar, was being tested in regards
20 to the humpback whale sanctuary. And it refers to Ben
21 White. And it says that "The LFAS is known to cause
22 brain damage to humans and marine animals alike."

23 I've -- I've heard briefings on testing in regards
24 to the whales. And to me the effects are stunning.

25 I would like to talk about the notification, which

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1 I mentioned in my last visit up here to the podium, and
2 my request is that the Navy take out a display ad in
3 the Marketplace newspaper from the south end of this
4 island. The Marketplace goes to all the mail boxes on
5 the entire island, with the exception of the businesses
6 in town, unless those businesses are advertising in the
7 Marketplace, which many of them do.

8 And for less than two 248 dollars you can get a
9 decent sized quarter page ad. And by the way, my
10 disclaimer is I do not work for the Marketplace, nor
11 have I ever worked for the Marketplace. But having
12 been an advertising person, oftentimes in the print
13 media, I appreciate the impact that the Marketplace has
14 had on our community as far as notifying us of events
15 that are happening.

16 And I request that we be notified within a minimum
17 of three weeks before any kind of meeting or
18 presentation for which we would have some -- of which
19 we would have some interest.

20 And thank you again for being here.

21 MR. MICHAELSON: Thank you very much for a
22 lovely evening spent with all of you. We do appreciate
23 you being here. We do appreciate you taking part in
24 this process. This process doesn't work if you don't
25 do that. And we would have been much the sorrier if

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1 you hadn't come.
2 With that I would like to adjourn this meeting.
3 And maybe we'll see you at some of the future ones.
4 We've got four more meetings to go. Thank you.
5 (Hearing adjourned at 8:35 p.m.)
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3 STATE OF WASHINGTON)
4) ss
5 COUNTY OF SNOHOMISH)
6 I, LESLIE ANDRES, Certified Shorthand Reporter and
7 Notary Public duly and qualified in and for the State
8 of Washington, do hereby certify that the
9 aforementioned hearing was held before me at the time
10 and place set forth.
11 I further certify that the foregoing transcript is
12 a true and correct transcript of my original
13 stenographic notes.
14 I further certify that I am neither attorney or
15 counsel for, nor related to or employed by any of the
16 parties to the action in which this deposition is
17 taken; and furthermore, that I am not a relative or
18 employee of any attorney or counsel employed by the
19 parties hereto or financially interested in the action.
20 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand
21 and affixed my Notarial Seal this 26th day of
22 January 2009.
23
24 LESLIE ANDRES
25 NOTARY PUBLIC

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NAVY'S NORTHWEST TRAINING RANGE COMPLEX DRAFT EIS/OEIS

OPEN HOUSE and PUBLIC HEARING

January 28, 2009
5:00 p.m.

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A P P E A R A N C E S

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Mr. John Mosher

Reported by: Leslie A. Andres, CCR 2489

North Sound Reporting

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LIST OF SPEAKERS

NAME PAGE

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BE IT REMEMBERED that on the 28th day of
January 2009, beginning at the hour of 5:00 p.m. of
said day, at the Pacific Beach Fire Hall in the City of
Pacific Beach, County of Grays Harbor, State of
Washington, the proceedings were taken before Leslie
Andres, a Notary Public in and for the State of
Washington.

WHEREUPON, the following proceedings
were had and testimony given, to wit:

P R O C E E D I N G S

MR. MICHAELSON: Good evening, everyone.
We're certainly glad to see you here tonight.

My name is Lewis Michaelson, and I will be the
moderator for tonight's hearing on the Navy's Northwest
Training Range Complex Draft Environmental Impact
Statement, Overseas Environmental Impact Statement, or
Draft EIS, as we will all refer to it as.

Here to receive your comments, if you care to make
them, are Commander Miller, Executive Officer of Naval
Air Station Whidbey Island, and Mr. John Mosher, the

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1 project manager for the Navy's Pacific Fleet,
2 Mrs. Kimberly Kler, waving right there, is the project
3 coordinator from Naval Facilities Engineering Command
4 Northwest. She's also here and will be the primary
5 point of contact for sharing any written comments that
6 you want to make about this project.

7 Let's look at the agenda for tonight. Hopefully
8 you all had the opportunity to talk to the many
9 knowledgeable experts and program officials who were
10 staffing the exhibits during the open house. That's
11 why we waited until 7:30 to start this. We wanted to
12 give you a chance to do that, and it looks like
13 everyone got a chance to take advantage of that.

14 The primary purpose for this portion of the
15 hearing is for the panel members here to listen to your
16 comments firsthand. They will not be answering
17 questions during this phase of the proceedings. Any
18 comments and questions will be addressed in the Final
19 EIS when it is issued.

20 So after I finish this introduction Commander
21 Miller will give a brief overview of the Navy's
22 activities in the Northwest Training Range Complex.
23 Next Mr. John Mosher will brief you on the
24 environmental impact analysis process, and summarize
25 the results reported in the Draft EIS. Mr. Mosher is

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1 the EIS project manager for the U.S. Navy.

2 The last item on the agenda, however, is the most
3 important. The public comment session is your
4 opportunity to provide information and make statements
5 for the record. Your input ensures that decision
6 makers can benefit from your knowledge of the local
7 area, and any environmental effects you think may
8 result from the proposed action or its alternatives.
9 Keep in mind that the EIS process is intended to ensure
10 that decision makers will be fully informed about the
11 potential environmental impacts associated with the
12 various alternatives before they decide on a course of
13 action.

14 Please also remember that comments on issues
15 unrelated to the EIS are beyond the scope of this
16 hearing.

17 To request an opportunity to make a verbal comment
18 we ask you to please fill out a verbal comment card,
19 such as Allison at the table there is holding up. If
20 you fill that out and turn it in to her or any other
21 staff person, we will call on people in the order in
22 which they sign up. Every speaker, including public
23 officials, organizations and individuals will have four
24 minutes each to provide your comment.

25 If you don't feel comfortable standing up here

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1 tonight to make a statement you have until February 11,
2 2009 to submit a written statement for consideration in
3 the Final EIS, or after we finish this portion of it,
4 if you want to you can make comments privately
5 one-on-one with the court reporter.

6 Keep in mind that written comments are given the
7 same consideration as verbal comments offered here
8 tonight. So it is now my pleasure to introduce
9 Commander Miller.

10 COMMANDER MILLER: Thank you, Lewis. Welcome
11 to the public hearings for the Northwest Training Range
12 Complex Draft Environmental Statement.

13 My name is Commander Matt Miller, and I'm the
14 Executive Officer, Naval Air Station Whidbey Island.

15 I want to thank you on behalf of the United States
16 Navy for attending this evening. This is one of five
17 public hearings the Navy is holding in Washington,
18 Oregon, Northern California, and for the Northwest
19 Training Range Complex Draft EIS.

20 As Lewis mentioned, we hope you had the
21 opportunity to visit the poster stations this evening
22 and meet with the Navy project team members.

23 Some background, personal background about me,
24 I've been an active duty commissioned officer for over
25 21 years. I'm originally from Silver Spring, Maryland,

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1 outside of Washington D.C., graduated from the
2 University of Maryland. My Navy career is I'm a
3 carrier aviator, started out flying Intruders as a
4 bombardier navigator, and subsequently trained in the
5 Growler EA-6B as an electronics countermeasure officer,
6 and I have a little over 2,000 hours flying tactical
7 jets for the Navy.

8 Before this tour I've been the Executive Officer
9 for a year at Whidbey Island, before that I was the
10 operations officer, and before that I was stationed on
11 the U.S.S. Abraham Lincoln out at Naval Station Everett
12 for two years. And prior to that an instructor, as an
13 electronic attack weapons school instructor. And I've
14 been on the west coast for about ten years, and I don't
15 plan on leaving. So I live in Anacortes, Washington,
16 so I like it out here and I'm going to stay. So that's
17 me.

18 As Lewis stated before, you will have the
19 opportunity to make oral comments regarding the
20 contents of the environmental analysis. Written
21 comments will be accepted tonight and throughout the
22 public comment period which closes on 11 February
23 2009.

24 The Northwest Training Range Complex is a military
25 training area that has been in use by the Navy since

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1 World War II. It is comprised of two primary
2 components; the Offshore area and the Inshore area.
3 The mission of the Northwest Training Range
4 Complex is to serve as the principal backyard training
5 range for those units homeported in the Pacific
6 Northwest area, including surface ship, submarine,
7 aviation, and Explosive Ordnance Disposal units located
8 at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, Naval Station
9 Everett, Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, Naval Base
10 Kitsap-Bremerton, and Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor.
11 The Northwest Training Range Complex also supports
12 military units from outside the range complex area,
13 such as Naval Special Warfare units supporting their
14 training requirements.
15 The Northwest Training Range Complex includes
16 ranges, training areas and air space that extend west
17 to 250 nautical miles beyond the coast of Washington,
18 Oregon, Northern California, and extend east to the
19 Washington/Idaho border.
20 The Offshore component of the Northwest Training
21 Range Complex encompasses 122,400 square miles of air,
22 surface, subsurface ocean training areas. The Inshore
23 component includes about 875 acres of land on Whidbey
24 Island and Indian Island, with more than 12,000 square
25 nautical miles of Special Use Air space and

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1 subsurface -- surface and subsurface training areas
2 within the Puget Sound.
3 Military activities currently conducted in the
4 Northwest Range Training Complex can be divided into
5 the primary mission areas listed here.
6 To accomplish its mission in the Pacific
7 Northwest, it is critical for the Navy to maintain and
8 operate the necessary facilities and to provide these
9 critical training areas to U.S. Navy commands so that
10 forces can train realistically.
11 Realistic training ensures the U.S. Navy personnel
12 maintain the highest level of readiness and capability
13 and is the single greatest asset the military has in
14 preparing and protecting American service men and women
15 to defend the nation. There's no such thing as
16 "routine" training when it comes to practicing combat
17 skills.
18 To ensure Navy forces are fully ready to provide
19 the deployment -- fully ready prior to deployment
20 requires specialized ranges where military personnel
21 can learn, through practical hands-on experience, the
22 technical skills necessary to effectively plan and
23 conduct operations. Continuing technological
24 advancements also require more complex and varied
25 testing and training scenarios to be able to combat new

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1 threats.

2 The ranges, facilities and installations of the
3 Northwest Training Range Complex are unique and provide
4 training opportunities essential for the safety and
5 readiness of military personnel and the success of the
6 military mission.

7 Environmental stewardship is a priority goal of
8 the Navy during mission training activities.

9 The Navy is committed to protecting the physical
10 and natural environment and has established a
11 successful track record of environmental stewardship
12 while completing our mission.

13 To accomplish our environmental stewardship goals,
14 the Navy implements protective measures on land and at
15 sea to reduce potential effects to terrestrial and
16 marine environment, and ensure public safety and
17 accessibility.

18 I will now turn the presentation over to John
19 Mosher from the U.S. Pacific Fleet to tell you about
20 the Navy's Proposed Action in the Northwest Training
21 Range Complex and give you an overview of the Draft EIS
22 and the environmental analysis process.

23 MR. MOSHER: Thank you, Commander. My name
24 is John Mosher, I'm here as the project manager for the
25 Northwest Training Range EIS, representing the U.S.

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1 Pacific Fleet.

2 I'm here tonight to give you an overview of the
3 findings contained in the Draft EIS. The Draft EIS was
4 prepared by the Navy to comply with both the National
5 Environmental Policy Act, or NEPA, and Executive Order
6 12114, which requires federal agencies to consider the
7 environmental effects for their activities that occur
8 outside of U.S. territorial waters. The Draft EIS
9 represents compliance with these environmental statutes
10 and is an important part of the Navy's overall
11 commitment to environmental stewardship as it tests and
12 trains.

13 The Navy is the lead agency for the EIS, but the
14 National Marine Fisheries Service is a cooperating
15 agency pursuant to other federal regulations, in
16 addition to their role as a regulator. The National
17 Marines Fishery Service is a cooperating agency. In
18 this role they provide early review of the Proposed
19 Action, alternatives and analysis methods. As a
20 regulator, they help to ensure that the EIS and the
21 Proposed Action are in full compliance with the
22 appropriate environmental laws and regulations.

23 The slide lists all of the actions that the Navy
24 is proposing to conduct and analyze under the Draft
25 EIS. All of the actions are included in -- excuse me,

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1 not all of the actions are included in each of the
2 alternative. Over the next three slides, I'll discuss
3 which actions are included in each alternative.

4 The Proposed Action is needed to provide a
5 training environment consisting of ranges, training
6 areas and range instrumentation, with the capability
7 and capacity to fully support required training tasks
8 for operational units in military schools. The
9 Proposed Action supports the overall Navy mission as
10 required by federal law.

11 Under the No Action Alternative, training and
12 testing activities would continue at the current
13 levels. This alternative would not accomodate
14 increased or new training activities, and range
15 investments and enhancements would not be implemented.

16 This alternative provides a baseline for assessing
17 the potential environmental effects of the other
18 alternatives.

19 Alternative 1 is a proposal designed to meet Navy
20 and Department of Defense current and near-term
21 training requirements.

22 This alternative includes an increase in training
23 activities currently conducted, and accommodates force
24 structure changes associated with the introduction of
25 new weapon systems, vessels and aircraft. These

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1 include:

2 The EA-18G Growler Aircraft,
3 SSGN Guided Missile Submarine,
4 The P8-A Mulimission Maritime Aircraft
5 and Unmanned Aerial Systems.
6

7 Alternative 2 is also designed to meet current and
8 near-term training requirements.

9 It includes all the activities identified under
10 Alternative 1, plus an increase in the level of
11 training activities identified in Level 1. In
12 addition, Alternative 2 provides for the implementation
13 of range enhancements, including:

14 New air and sea surface targets,
15 The operation of air target services for
16 locally-based aircraft and vessels,
17 The development of an additional
18 electronic signal emitter,
19 The development of underwater training
20 minefield, and
21 The use of a portable undersea tracking
22 range.
23

24 Alternative 2 is the Navy's preferred alternative
25 because it fully supports the type and frequency of

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1 activities required to achieve complete Fleet readiness
2 and allows the Navy to carry out its mission in the
3 range complex.

4 In preparing the Draft EIS the Navy evaluated the
5 potential effects of the alternatives to the marine,
6 terrestrial and human environments.

7 We have taken a comprehensive approach in
8 assessing the potential effects to the physical,
9 biological and socioeconomic resources.

10 We encourage you, if you haven't already, to
11 review the Draft EIS which presents the findings of the
12 Navy's environmental analysis for each of these
13 resource areas.

14 The Navy's use of active sonar and explosives puts
15 sound in the marine environment. While preparing the
16 EIS, Navy scientists analyzed the potential effects of
17 sound in the water to marine life, including marine
18 mammals, sea turtles, fish, seabirds and marine
19 invertebrates.

20 The method for determining potential sound
21 exposures to marine animals was jointly developed by
22 the Navy and the National Marine Fisheries Service, and
23 represents the best science currently available.

24 Marine animal species have a widely varying
25 sensitivity to sound based on frequencies. This is a

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1 reflection of how different species have evolved to
2 cope with life in a marine environment, including
3 differences in size, prey, habitats, and the predators
4 they try to avoid.

5 Using the five general steps listed here, the Navy
6 was able to calculate the number of potential marine
7 animal exposures to sound from active sonar and
8 explosives. Section 3.9 of the Draft EIS provides the
9 results of the computer model as it relates to
10 potential annual exposures to marine animals.

11 Marine mammal sensitivity was determined by
12 biologists from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric
13 Administration, and that information was entered into
14 the computer model. Marine animals can react to
15 different sounds in different ways. For example, the
16 harbor porpoise found off the coast is very skittish.
17 And therefore, sounds at lower volumes will cause them
18 to startle much sooner than other cetaceans.

19 While there is the possibility for non-lethal
20 impacts and altered behavior from the use of active
21 sonar and explosives, no mortality of marine mammals
22 is anticipated. In addition, the estimation of sound
23 exposures does not consider the use of protective
24 measures, such as sonar safety zones, which would
25 reduce the likelihood of exposures at the the highest

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1 sound levels.
2 No significant impact to sea turtles, fish,
3 seabirds or marine invertebrates are anticipated from
4 the use of active sonar.

5 The use of explosives in Navy activities may
6 result in injury or mortality to individual fish or
7 seabirds in the immediate area, however, these
8 activities would not result in significant harm to
9 overall bird or fish populations or habitat.

10 Given the relatively low number of explosive
11 detonations associated with the Proposed Action, no
12 significant impacts to marine invertebrates are
13 anticipated. Also, the low occurrence of sea turtles
14 in the Range Complex makes the potential for similar
15 impact to sea turtles unlikely.

16 The Navy does not expect to harm marine mammal
17 populations, but it recognizes that there may be
18 potential effects to individual marine mammals.

19 To guard against harming individual whales and
20 other marine mammals during training, the Navy has
21 developed protective measures, including:

- 22 Posting a minimum of three well-trained
- 23 lookouts 24 hours per day.
- 24 Conducting aerial sweeps of training areas
- 25 during air operations,

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1 Establishing sonar safety zones during
2 training exercises using mid-frequency
3 sonar. In these events the sonar is powered
4 down if a marine mammal enters within 1,000
5 yards of the safety zone, and is powered off
6 if the marine mammal enters within 200 yards
7 of the sonar dome.
8 The Navy also coordinates with the National
9 Marine Fisheries Service and reports marine
10 mammal sightings during major exercises.

11
12 And over the past five years, the Navy has funded
13 more than 100 million dollars in marine mammal
14 research.

15 A summary of the findings of the Draft EIS are
16 presented here, using language required by
17 environmental regulations.

18 Most of the resources analyzing the Draft EIS, we
19 found no significant impacts. For your review of the
20 Draft EIS, the four areas you may want to examine in
21 more detail for species that may be affected by the
22 Proposed Action are endangered species of fish, sea
23 turtles, marine mammals and bird species.

24 The Navy in consultation with the National Marine
25 Fisheries Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife

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1 Service -- I'm sorry, the Navy is in consultation with
2 the National Marine Fisheries Service and the U.S. Fish
3 and Wildlife Service to ensure the effects to
4 endangered species or threatened species listed under
5 the Endangered Species Act are minimized.

6 The Northwest Training Range Complex EIS also
7 analyzed the potential effects of the Navy's training
8 on the human environment. The resource areas and
9 issues analyzed include:

10 Cultural resources,
11 Traffic,
12 Socioeconomics,
13 Environmental justice and the protection of
14 children, and
15 Public safety.

16
17 The findings of the EIS show that no significant
18 impacts to the human environment are likely from the
19 implementation of the Proposed Action.

20 In addition, the Navy has initiated consultations
21 with federally recognized Native American Tribes in the
22 Northwest Training Range area.

23 In addition to complying with NEPA, the Navy also
24 complies with all Federal environmental laws, including
25 those listed here and all other applicable

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1 environmental laws and regulations.

2 The Navy has completed the first three steps of
3 the NEPA process. We are now in the phase providing
4 for public review of the Draft EIS.

5 To review the progress so far:

6 The EIS was initiated on July 31, 2007, and the
7 Navy held public scoping meetings in Washington,
8 Oregon and Northern California in September of 2007.

9 Government agencies, organizations and the public
10 were encouraged to submit comments at the scoping
11 meetings or to provide written comments through the
12 public comment period. The comments received were
13 considered in the preparation of the Draft EIS that
14 we've discussed tonight.

15 We're now in the public hearing and documentation
16 review step of the NEPA process. This phase is an
17 essential part of the NEPA process because it allows
18 for public review of the documents and comments on the
19 Navy's analysis of environmental effects. We encourage
20 you to provide your input by February 11th so it can
21 be considered for incorporation during the development of
22 the Final EIS. All comments received will be
23 considered.

24 The Navy is committed to keeping the community
25 informed throughout the continued development of the

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1 Northwest Training Range Complex EIS. These public
2 hearings are just one of many public opportunities to
3 share information about the EIS and, more importantly,
4 to encourage your feedback and comments.

5 I'll now turn back over to Lewis Michaelson to
6 describe how to obtain more information and how to
7 comment on the EIS.

8 MR. MICHAELSON: Thank you, John. In
9 addition to holding these public hearings, the Navy has
10 established a web site that you should know about to
11 make it easier for you to find and comment on the
12 environmental documents. The Draft EIS, for example,
13 is posted on that web site. It also has additional
14 background information and links to the fact sheets
15 that are available here tonight.

16 You may also review the Draft EIS and other public
17 available documents related to the Northwest Training
18 Range Complex EIS by visiting the designated
19 information repositories. The addresses of the
20 repositories are provided in the fact sheets that you
21 received tonight.

22 Both the information repositories and the project
23 web site contain project documents, fact sheets and
24 background information for you to review.

25 The Navy welcomes your review and input on the

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1 analysis contained in the Draft EIS. And there are
2 several ways for you to submit comments. We are
3 accepting oral comments here tonight immediately after
4 this presentation.

5 Written comments can be submitted by filling out a
6 comment sheet, and either dropping it in the drop box
7 located at the registration table, or you can mail it
8 to the address provided on the fact sheets.

9 Comments may also be submitted electronically via
10 the project web site at www.NWTRangeComplexEIS.com.
11 That's available in the fact sheets, you don't have to
12 to write that down.

13 All comments should be received by February 11,
14 2009 in order to ensure that they are considered in the
15 Final EIS.

16 It's now the time where we would begin the oral
17 comment portion of the public hearing. Do we have any
18 sign up sheets yet? Okay. Is there anybody who has
19 been inspired by this presentation to want to offer up
20 an oral comment? Oh yes, sorry, I should have warned
21 about but about the lights being turned back on. Is
22 there anybody here that's been moved to provide oral
23 comment?

24 If not, we will be adjourned. We're here until
25 8:30. We can answer more questions if you have them,

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1 so please feel free to go back to the poster stations.
2 Thank you very much.
3 (Hearing adjourned at 8:05 p.m.)
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1
2 STATE OF WASHINGTON)
3) ss
4 COUNTY OF SNOHOMISH)
5 I, LESLIE ANDRES, Certified Shorthand Reporter and
6 Notary Public duly and qualified in and for the State
7 of Washington do hereby certify that the aforementioned
8 hearing was held before me at the time and place set
9 forth.
10 I further certify that the foregoing transcript is
11 a true and correct transcript of my original
12 stenographic notes.
13 I further certify that I am neither attorney or
14 counsel for, nor related to or employed by any of the
15 parties to the action in which this deposition is
16 taken; and furthermore, that I am not a relative or
17 employee of any attorney or counsel employed by the
18 parties hereto or financially interested in the action.
19 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand
20 and affixed my Notarial Seal this 6th day of
21 February 2009.
22
23
24
25

LESLIE ANDRES
NOTARY PUBLIC

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NAVY'S NORTHWEST TRAINING RANGE COMPLEX DRAFT EIS/OEIS

OPEN HOUSE and PUBLIC HEARING

January 29, 2009
5:00 p.m.

Grays Harbor College Cafeteria
1602 Edward P. Smith Drive
Aberdeen, WA 98520

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A P P E A R A N C E S

Moderator:

Lewis Michaelson

Executive Officer:

Commander Matthew Miller

Project Manager:

Mr. John Mosher

Reported by: Leslie A. Andres, CCR 2489

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Harold Brumstad	27

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BE IT REMEMBERED that on the 29th day of
January 2009, beginning at the hour of 5:00 p.m. of
said day, at the Grays Harbor College Cafeteria in the
City of Aberdeen, County of Grays Harbor, State of
Washington, the following proceedings were taken before
Leslie Andres, a Notary Public in and for the State of
Washington.

WHEREUPON, the following proceedings
were had and testimony given, to wit:

P R O C E E D I N G S

MR. MICHAELSON: Good evening, and thank you
for coming tonight. My name is Lewis Michaelson, and
I'll be the moderator for tonight's hearing on the
Navy's Northwest Training Range Complex Draft
Environmental Impact Statement, Overseas Environmental
Impact Statement, or Draft EIS as we will refer to it
as.

If I can ask you now, if you have not already, to
please turn off your cell phones, at least turn the
sound off, so people are not interrupted when they're

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1 speaking, I would greatly appreciate it.
2 Tonight here to receive your comments are
3 Commander Matthew Miller, Executive Officer of the
4 Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, and Mr. John Mosher,
5 the project manager from the Navy's Pacific Fleet.
6 Mrs. Kimberly Kler, she's waving her hand right now,
7 she's also with us. She's the primary point of contact
8 for sharing your written comments about the project.

9 So let's look at the agenda tonight. Hopefully
10 you all had the opportunity to talk to the many
11 knowledgeable experts and program officials who are
12 staffing the exhibits during the open house portion.
13 The primary purpose for this portion of the hearing is
14 for the panel members to be able to listen to your
15 comments firsthand. They will not be answering
16 questions during this phase. Comments and questions
17 will be addressed in the Final EIS.

18 After I finish this introduction Commander Miller
19 will give a brief overview of the Navy's activities in
20 the Northwest Training Range Complex.

21 Next Mr. John Mosher will brief you on the
22 environmental impact analysis process and summarize the
23 results reported from the Draft EIS.

24 The last item on the agenda, however, is really
25 the most important. The public comment section is your

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1 opportunity to provide information and make statements
2 for the record.

3 Your input ensures that the decision makers can
4 benefit from your knowledge of the local area and any
5 environmental effects you think may result from the
6 Proposed Action and alternatives.

7 Keep in mind that the EIS process is intended to
8 ensure that decision makers will be fully informed
9 about the potential environmental impacts associated
10 with the various alternatives before they decide on a
11 course of action.

12 Please remember also that comments on issues
13 unrelated to this EIS are beyond the scope of this
14 hearing.

15 To request an opportunity to make a verbal comment
16 during tonight's hearing, please fill out a verbal
17 comment card available at the registration table or you
18 can get one from Kimberly standing right there, if you
19 would like to speak and haven't already filled one
20 out.

21 Every speaker, including public officials,
22 organizations, spokespersons and private individuals
23 will have four minutes each to provide his or her
24 comment.

25 If you don't feel comfortable standing up here

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1 tonight to make a statement you have until February 11,
2 2009 to submit a written statement for consideration in
3 the Final EIS. Or after we finish taking public
4 comments here you can provide your comments privately
5 orally one-on-one with the court reporter, if you would
6 like to.

7 Keep in mind, however, that written comments are
8 given the same consideration as verbal comments offered
9 here tonight.

10 So now it is my pleasure to introduce Commander
11 Miller.

12 COMMANDER MILLER: Thank you, Lewis.

13 Welcome to the public hearings for the Northwest
14 Training Range Complex Draft Environmental Impact
15 Statement.

16 As Lewis said, my name is Commander Matt Miller,
17 and I'm the Executive Officer of Naval Air Station
18 Whidbey Island.

19 I want to thank you on behalf of the United States
20 Navy for attending this evening. This is one of five
21 public hearings the Navy is holding in Washington,
22 Oregon and Northern California for the Northwest
23 Training Range Complex Draft EIS.

24 As Lewis mentioned, we hope you had the chance to
25 visit the poster stations this evening and meet with

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1 the Navy project team members.

2 A little bit of background for me, I've been a
3 commissioned officer in the Navy for over 21 years.
4 I'm originally from Silver Spring, Maryland. I
5 graduated from the University of Maryland. I've been
6 the Executive Officer for about a year at NAS Whidbey
7 Island. Before that I was the operations officer.
8 Prior to that I was on the USS Abraham Lincoln
9 stationed in Naval Station Everett. And before that
10 back at Whidbey as an instructor at the electronic
11 attack weapons school. I've been lucky to be in the
12 northwest for almost ten years. It's sometimes a
13 challenge to do on active duty, but I'm originally from
14 the east coast, but now I'm a northwest transplant, and
15 I don't plan on going back.

16 I am a carrier aviator, flew the Intruder, and
17 also the EA-6B electronic countermeasures officer.
18 I've got over 2,000 hours flying on carrier aircraft.

19 As Lewis stated before, you will have an
20 opportunity to make oral comments regarding the content
21 of the environmental analysis. Written comments will
22 be accepted tonight and throughout the public comment
23 period, which closes on February 11, 2009.

24 The Northwest Training Range Complex is a military
25 training area that has been in use by the Navy since

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1 World War II. It is comprised of two primary
2 components; the Offshore area and the Inshore area.

3 The mission of the Northwest Training Range
4 Complex is to serve as principal backyard training
5 range for those units homeported in the Pacific
6 Northwest area, including surface ship, submarine,
7 aviation and Explosive Ordnance Disposal units located
8 at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, Naval Station
9 Everett, Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, Naval Base
10 Kitsap-Bremerton and Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor.

11 The range complex also supports military units
12 from outside the the range complex areas, such as naval
13 special warfare units. The range complex includes
14 ranges, training areas and airspace that extend west to
15 250 nautical miles beyond the coast of Washington,
16 Oregon and Northern California, and east of the
17 Washington/Idaho border.

18 The Offshore component of the range encompasses
19 122,400 square nautical miles of air, surface and
20 subsurface ocean training areas. The Inshore component
21 includes about 875 acres of land on Whidbey Island and
22 Indian Island, more than 12,000 square nautical miles
23 of Special Use Airspace, and surface and subsurface
24 training areas within the Puget Sound.

25 Military activities currently conducted in the

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1 Northwest Training Range Complex can be divided into
2 primary mission areas listed here.

3 To accomplish its mission in the Pacific
4 Northwest, it is critical for the Navy to maintain and
5 operate the necessary facilities and to provide those
6 critical training areas to U.S. Navy commands so that
7 forces can train realistically.

8 Realistic training ensures U.S. Navy personnel
9 maintains the highest level of readiness and capability
10 and is the single greatest asset the military has in
11 preparing and protecting American service men and women
12 to defend the nation. There is no such thing as
13 routine training when it comes to practicing combat
14 skills.

15 To ensure Navy forces are fully ready prior to
16 deployments requires specialized ranges where military
17 personnel can learn, through hands-on experience, the
18 technical skills necessary to effectively plan and
19 conduct operations. Continuing technological advances
20 also require more complex and varied testing and
21 training scenarios to be able to combat new threats.

22 The ranges, facilities and installation of the
23 Northwest Training Range Complex are unique and provide
24 training opportunities essential for the safety and
25 readiness of military personnel and the success of the

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1 military mission.

2 Environmental stewardship is a priority goal of
3 the Navy during mission training activities.

4 The Navy is committed to protecting the physical
5 and natural environment and has established a
6 successful track record of environmental stewardship
7 while completing our mission.

8 To accomplish our environmental stewardship goals,
9 the Navy implements protective measures on land and at
10 sea to review potential effects to the terrestrial and
11 maritime and marine environment, and ensure public
12 safety and accessibility.

13 I will now turn the presentation over to John
14 Mosher from the U.S. Pacific Fleet, who will tell you
15 about the Navy's Proposed Action for the Northwest
16 Training Range Complex and give you an overview of the
17 Draft EIS and the environmental analysis process.

18 MR. MOSHER: Thank you, Commander.

19 My name is John Mosher, I'm the project manager
20 for the Northwest Training Range Complex EIS. I'm here
21 tonight to give you an overview of the findings of the
22 Draft EIS.

23 The EIS was prepared by the U.S. Navy to comply
24 with both the National Environmental Policy Act - or
25 NEPA - as well as Executive Order 12114, which requires

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1 federal agencies to consider the environmental effects
2 of their activities that occur outside of the
3 territorial waters of the United States. The Draft EIS
4 represents compliance with these environmental statutes
5 and is an important part of the Navy's overall
6 commitment to environmental stewardship as it tests and
7 trains.

8 The Navy is the lead agency for the EIS. The
9 National Marine Fisheries Service is a cooperating
10 agency, in addition to their role as a regulator. As a
11 cooperating agency, they provide early review of the
12 Proposed Action, alternatives and analysis methods. As
13 a regulator, they help ensure that the EIS and the
14 Proposed Action are in full compliance with the
15 environmental laws and regulations.

16 This slide lists the actions the Navy is proposing
17 to conduct that are analyzed in the Draft EIS. Not all
18 of the actions are included in each alternative. Over
19 the next three slides, I will discuss which actions are
20 included in each alternative.

21 The Proposed Action is needed to provide a
22 training environment consisting of ranges, training
23 areas and range instrumentation, with the capacity for
24 full support -- to fully support required training
25 tasks for operational units and military schools. The

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1 proposed action supports the overall Navy mission as
2 required by federal law.

3 Under the No Action alternative, training and
4 testing activities would continue at current levels.
5 This alternative would not accommodate increased or new
6 training activities, and range investments and
7 enhancements would not be implemented.

8 The No Action alternative provides a baseline for
9 assessing the potential environmental effects of the
10 other alternatives.

11 Alternative 1 is a proposal designed to meet the
12 Navy and Department of Defense current and near-term
13 training requirements.

14 This alternative includes an increase in training
15 activities currently conducted, and accommodates four
16 structure changes associated with the introduction of
17 new weapon systems, vessels and aircraft. These
18 include:

19 The EA-18G Growler Aircraft,
20 The SSGN Guided Missile Submarine,
21 The P8-A Multimission Maritime Aircraft and
22 Unmanned aerial systems.

23
24 Alternative 2 is also designed to meet current and
25 near-term training requirements as well.

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1 It includes all activities identified under
2 Alternative 1; plus an increase in the level of
3 training activities identified in Level 1.

4 In addition, Alternative 2 provides for the
5 implementation of range enhancements, including:

6 New air and sea surface targets,
7 the operation of air target surfaces for
8 locally-based aircraft and vessels,
9 The development of an additional electronic
10 signal emitter,
11 The development of an underwater training
12 minefield, and
13 The use of portable undersea tracking range.

14
15 Alternative 2 is the Navy's preferred alternative
16 because it fully supports the type and frequency of
17 activities required to achieve complete Fleet readiness
18 and to carry out its mission in the range complex.

19 In preparing the Draft EIS, the Navy evaluated the
20 potential effects of the alternatives to the marine,
21 terrestrial and human environment.

22 We have taken a comprehensive approach in
23 assessing the potential effects to physical, biological
24 and socioeconomic resources.

25 We encourage you, if you have not already, to

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1 review the Draft EIS which presents the Navy's findings
2 and environmental analysis for each of these resource
3 areas.

4 The Navy's use of active sonar and explosives puts
5 sound into the marine environment. While preparing the
6 Draft EIS, Navy scientists analyzed the potential
7 effects of sound in the water to marine life, including
8 marine mammals, sea turtles, fish, seabirds and marine
9 invertebrates.

10 The method for determining potential sound
11 exposures to marine animals was jointly developed by
12 the Navy and the National Marine Fishery Service, and
13 represents the best science currently available.

14 Marine mammal species have widely varying
15 sensitivities to sound based on frequency. This is a
16 reflection of how different species have evolved to
17 cope with life in the marine environment, differences
18 in size, prey, habitats, and the predators they try to
19 avoid are all reflected in how these species have
20 evolved.

21 Using the five general steps listed here, the Navy
22 was able to calculate the number of potential marine
23 animal exposures to sound from active sonar and
24 explosives. Section 3.9 of the Draft EIS provides the
25 results of the computer model as it relates to the

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1 potential annual exposures to marine animals.

2 Marine mammal sensitivity was determined by
3 biologists from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric
4 Administration, and that information was entered into
5 the computer model. Marine animals can react
6 differently to different sounds. For example, the
7 harbor porpoise found off the coast is very skittish.
8 Therefore, sounds lower in volume will cause them to
9 startle more frequently or sooner than in other
10 cetaceans.

11 While there is the possibility for non-lethal
12 impacts and altered behavior from the use of active
13 sonar and explosives, no mortality to marine animals
14 is anticipated. In addition, the estimation of sound
15 exposures does not consider the use of protective
16 measures, such as sonar safety zones, which would
17 reduce the likelihood of exposures at the highest sound
18 levels.

19 No significant impact to sea turtles, fish,
20 seabirds or marine invertebrates are anticipated from
21 active sonar use.

22 The use of explosives in Navy activities may
23 result in injury or mortality to individual fish or
24 seabirds in the immediate area of the training.
25 However, these activities would not result in

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1 significant harm to overall bird or fish populations or
2 habitat.

3 Given the relatively low number of explosive
4 detonations associated with the proposed action, no
5 significant impacts to marine invertebrates are
6 anticipated. Also, the low occurrence of sea turtles
7 in the range complex area makes the potential for
8 significant impact to turtles unlikely.

9 The Navy does not expect harm -- does not expect
10 to harm marine mammal populations, but it recognizes
11 that there may be potential effects to individual
12 marine mammals.

13 To help guard against harming individual whales or
14 other marine mammals during training, the Navy has
15 developed protective measures, including:

16 Posting of a minimum of three well-trained
17 lookouts for 24 hours a day,
18 Conducting aerial sweeps of training areas
19 used during air operations,
20 Establishing a safety zone during training
21 exercises using mid-frequency sonar. Sonar
22 is powered down if a marine mammal enters
23 within the 1,000 yard safety zone, and sonar
24 is powered off if a marine mammal enters
25 within 200 yards of the sonar dome.

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1
2 The Navy also coordinates with the National Marine
3 Fisheries Service to report marine mammals sighted
4 during major exercises.

5 Over the past five years the Navy has funded
6 more than 100 million dollars in the research of marine
7 mammals.

8 A summary of findings of the Draft EIS are
9 presented here, using language required by
10 environmental regulations.

11 For most of the resources analyzed in the Draft
12 EIS, we found no significant impacts. For your review
13 of the Draft EIS, the four areas you may want to
14 examine in more detail for species that may be affected
15 by the Proposed Action include endangered species of
16 fish, sea turtles, marine mammals and bird species.

17 The Navy is in consultation with the National
18 Marine Fisheries Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
19 Service to ensure the effects to endangered or
20 threatened species listed under the Endangered Species
21 Act are minimized.

22 The Range Complex EIS also analyzes the potential
23 effects of Navy training on the human environment. The
24 resource areas and issues analyzed include:

25 Cultural resources,

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1 Traffic,
2 Socioeconomics,
3 Environmental justice and the protection of
4 children, and
5 Public safety.
6

7 The findings in the EIS show that no
8 significant impacts to the human environment are likely
9 from implementation of the Proposed Action.

10 In addition, the Navy has initiated consultations
11 with federally recognized Native American Tribes in the
12 Northwest Training Range Complex area.

13 In addition to complying with NEPA, the Navy
14 also complies with other applicable federal
15 environmental laws, including those listed here and
16 other applicable laws and regulations.

17 The Navy has completed the first three steps of
18 the NEPA process, and we're in the phase now providing
19 for public review of the Draft EIS.

20 To review our progress so far, the EIS was
21 initiated on July 31, 2007, and the Navy held public
22 scoping meetings in Washington, Oregon and Northern
23 California in September 2007.

24 Government agencies, organizations and the public
25 were encouraged to submit comments at the scoping

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1 meetings or to provide written comments throughout the
2 public comment period. The comments received were
3 considered in the preparation of the Draft EIS that
4 we've discussed here tonight.

5 We are now in the public hearing and
6 documentation -- and document review step of the NEPA
7 process. This phase is an essential part of the NEPA
8 process, because it allows the public to review the
9 document and comment on the Navy's analysis of the
10 environmental effects. We encourage you to provide
11 your input by February 11th so it can be considered in
12 the incorporation during the development of the Final
13 EIS. All comments received will be considered.

14 The Navy is committed to keeping the community
15 informed throughout the continued development of the
16 Northwest Training Range Complex EIS.

17 These public hearings are just one of many
18 opportunities to share information about the EIS, and
19 more importantly, to encourage your feedback and
20 comments.

21 I'll now turn back to Lewis Michaelson to describe
22 how to obtain more information and how to comment on
23 the Draft EIS.

24 MR. MICHAELSON: Thanks. In addition to
25 holding these public hearings, the Navy has established

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1 a web site to make it easy for you to find and comment
2 on environmental documents. The Draft EIS is posted to
3 the web site. The web site also has additional
4 background information and links to the fact sheets
5 that are available here tonight.

6 You may also review the Draft EIS and other
7 publicly available documents related to the Northwest
8 Training Range Complex EIS by visiting the designated
9 information repositories. The addresses
10 of the repositories are provided in the fact sheet.

11 The Navy welcomes your review and input on the
12 analysis contained in the Draft EIS and there's several
13 ways for you to submit comments.

14 First, obviously, we're accepting oral comments
15 tonight immediately after this presentation. Written
16 comments can be submitted by filling out a comment
17 form, and either dropping it in the drop box located at
18 the registration table or mailing it to the address,
19 which is listed on the fact sheets. Comments may also
20 be submitted electronically via the web site at
21 www.NWTRangeComplexEIS.com. If you don't already have
22 that e-mail address, it's also contained in the fact
23 sheets.

24 Please keep in mind that the comments should be
25 received by February 11, 2009 in order to ensure that

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1 they are considered in the Final EIS.

2 So we're ready to begin the oral comment portion
3 of the public hearing. To ensure that we get an
4 accurate record of what you have to say, please help me
5 by respecting the following ground rules.

6 First, please speak clearly and slowly into the
7 microphone at the lectern starting with your name and
8 any organization you represent, if that applies.

9 Second, as I mentioned, each of you will be
10 allowed four minutes to speak. Depending upon the
11 number of speakers, we may have time for second
12 helpings, and I think we will definitely have that
13 tonight.

14 Third, if you've prepared a written statement, you
15 may turn it in at the registration table or you may
16 read it outloud if you can do so within the four-minute
17 time limit.

18 Fourth and finally, please honor any request that
19 I make for you to stop speaking when you reach the
20 four-minute time limit. In order to make that easy for
21 you to know when that time is for you to comfortably
22 wrap up your comments, when you have 30 seconds left of
23 your four minutes I will hold up this card, and when
24 you've reached four minutes I will hold up this one so
25 that you will know when your four minutes is done.

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1 We're now ready to begin taking oral comments. I
2 have three comment cards that have been handed to me.
3 I'll go ahead and read the names so you will know in
4 the order in which you'll be coming up. Franz
5 Schneider, Ann Schneider and Harold Brumstad. Mr.
6 Schneider, you're first. All I need you to do is
7 give your name. Thank you.

8 MR. SCHNEIDER: In a sense I'm totally
9 overwhelmed by the presentation on the part of the Navy
10 that fed us the summaries of thousands of words in a
11 few minutes. And it's absolutely impossible to make
12 rational sense out of it. One feels one is in the
13 Kafkaesque situation where anything that one brings up
14 will be commented on, prescribed or interpreted,
15 avoided, et cetera.

16 My question is -- and it is not clear from any of
17 the material I saw tonight -- that the area we are
18 talking about is supposed to be enlarged, isn't it? Or
19 is it the old areas? And what are the dimensions of
20 the area?

21 The thing that intrigues me most is the kind of
22 combat threat all this is supposed to counteract. Whom
23 are we erecting this system against? Silent running
24 submarines from Iran or North Korea? It's almost like
25 Dr. Strangelove. When Oppenheimer left office, the man

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1 who created the first atom bomb, we had 300 atom bombs,
2 now we have 70,000. What are we doing with all of
3 this? And who is going to pay for this?

4 I would like to use an analogy using some of your
5 own language. You said that this is safe and that your
6 models are relatively perfect and backed up by the
7 latest science, yet, if you were to say that this
8 medication is safe when it led to injury or mortality,
9 it was only an exception, and it is statistically
10 insignificant. And I think that's what you're doing
11 with your sonar.

12 You say the whales that have been beached are
13 merely a matter of a few occurrences that happen now
14 and then, yet it's exactly the exceptions that give us
15 pause, because the exceptions usually goofs the rule.

16 Another point that I would like to look at some
17 enlightenment on, why did four supreme court justices
18 rule against this project? And absolutely nothing has
19 been said about that.

20 As a matter of fact, this is an argument pro, and
21 there are no arguments con. And I would like to see
22 some arguments con. Are there non-scientific
23 organizations that have commented on this program? And
24 where are their comments?

25 I don't want to get in trouble with my wife, I

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1 better shut up and leave you with this thought; it's
2 not a dirty lymeric, but it's a lymeric; "When humans
3 who like to be free degrade our earth and the sea all
4 the navies on earth won't be of much worth, for our
5 world will be dead. Don't you see?"

6 On the other hand, I have the highest respect for
7 our soldiers.

8 MR. MICHAELSON: Thank you. Thank you very
9 much. Ann Schneider.

10 MRS. SCHNEIDER: I'm sorry for you, but I'm
11 not a speaker.

12 MR. MICHAELSON: I have to make sure that
13 you're speaking into the microphone. Would you mind
14 starting over? I'm sorry, Mrs. Schneider.

15 MRS. SCHNEIDER: I'm not a speaker, and I am
16 sorry for you having to listen to this jumble. I
17 haven't any background information, so what I am about
18 to say is what I learned from when I walked in the door
19 here.

20 And from this EIS, quote, you want to increase the
21 number of training activities and to accommodate force
22 structure changes. This gives me just a chill of
23 fright. That's an open-ended assignment. What is the
24 civilian oversight structure that will go into the
25 future with you with this endeavor? I didn't see any

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1 balances of power.

2 On page one you have an operating, quote, area
3 over the Olympic Host National Marine Sanctuary. This
4 does not seem at all right to me. It also is a
5 restricted area. Restricted to the Navy only?

6 Page three, sonar, quote, could lead to unquote,
7 harm for, quote, marine animals. You don't know. You
8 know potential affects of explosions on marine life.
9 You are quote, evaluating, closed quote, and in a
10 different spot you are quote, modeling. Where are your
11 findings? Where are the conclusions from those
12 findings? I didn't see them in the room.

13 Four, on page four of this book, what are sonar
14 safety zones? I couldn't see a definition. That
15 reduce quote, explosions at the highest sound levels,
16 closed quote. It's so general it's meaningless to me.

17 Page six, quote, protective measures, closed
18 quote, open quote, would provide a high level of
19 protection for birds.

20 Page seven, what are your protective measures?
21 Quote, developing a science, closed quote. Open quote,
22 resource policy. Thank you. This is not good enough.

23 On page ten after generalized statements you
24 conclude always with, "No significant impacts," but no
25 proof. Only for commercial fishing do you say there is

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1 potential for economic impact. Commercial fishing here
2 can bear no more negative impacts.

3 I'm against this EIS because it's incomplete for
4 me.

5 MR. MICHAELSON: Thank you. Next speaker is
6 Harold Brumstad.

7 MR. BRUMSTAD: My name is Harold Brumstad,
8 I'm just here representing myself.

9 I'm pretty impressed by the precautions that the
10 Navy takes. I was a participant in many of these
11 exercises and training exercises that you're proposing
12 to do 45 years ago. And it's a lot different now than
13 what precautions you're taking and what's being done to
14 protect the environment which has become an important
15 consideration for everything we do anymore, and it's
16 important to all of our citizens.

17 I'm not too sure I've often thought many times the
18 impacts of military operations, and the way the battles
19 that went on, and the South Pacific, the ships that
20 were sinking, that were sunk in the Atlantic and the
21 Pacific, and I've never heard of the -- any real
22 impacts. That's not saying that that's a good thing,
23 but you look at Pearl Harbor itself, it's a pretty good
24 ecosystem at the time. And I don't know how long it
25 took to heal.

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1 But what I'm saying is that I'm familiar enough
2 with the threats that unfortunately still exist in this
3 world and of the training that goes on to face that
4 threat. And I thank the Navy for what they're doing
5 throughout the world at this time, and their
6 precautions and the work that goes into ensuring that
7 these protections are made. It's important to all
8 citizens, and our environment is very important.

9 And I would just like to close saying that I
10 highly support, proud to support the Navy in this
11 effort to increase their training and be able to
12 operate the high tech equipment that exists at this
13 time. And I would support Alternative 2.

14 MR. MICHAELSON: Thank you.

15 Has anyone turned in another card in the
16 meantime? Is there anyone else who's been inspired by
17 our first three speakers that they would like to speak
18 at this time?

19 If not, is there anyone who already came up once
20 who would like to come up for another chance, another
21 four minutes? Anything you didn't get a chance to
22 say? Kind of hard to top the lymeric.

23 Then we will adjourn. We'll be here until 8:30,
24 and you're welcome to go back to the stations and ask
25 additional questions. Perhaps get an answer on whether

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28

1 there's an expansion or not, that question that you
2 have. You should be able to get that at the poster
3 station. Thank you. We're adjourned.

4 (Hearing adjourned at 7:40 p.m.)
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1
2 STATE OF WASHINGTON)
3) ss
4 COUNTY OF SNOHOMISH)
5 I, LESLIE ANDRES, Certified Shorthand Reporter and
6 Notary Public duly and qualified in and for the State
7 of Washington do hereby certify that the aforementioned
8 hearing was held before me at the time and place set
9 forth.

10 I further certify that the foregoing transcript is
11 a true and correct transcript of my original
12 stenographic notes.

13 I further certify that I am neither attorney or
14 counsel for, nor related to or employed by any of the
15 parties to the action in which this deposition is
16 taken; and furthermore, that I am not a relative or
17 employee of any attorney or counsel employed by the
18 parties hereto or financially interested in the action.

19 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand
20 and affixed my Notarial Seal this 6th day of
21 February 2009.
22

23 LESLIE ANDRES
24 NOTARY PUBLIC
25

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NORTHWEST TRAINING RANGE COMPLEX
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT/
OVERSEAS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

PUBLIC HEARING

AND

PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

Volume I --- Pages 1 - 44

DATE: January 30, 2009

TIME: 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

LOCATION: Hatfield Marine Science Center
Visitor Center
2030 SE Marine Science Drive
Newport, Oregon 97365

MODERATOR: Lewis Michaelson

REPORTED BY:
ANNE M. DUFFEY
OREGON CSR NO. 07-0405

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1 NEWPORT, OREGON, FRIDAY, JANUARY 30, 2009, 7:05 P.M.

2
3 MR. MICHAELSON: Good evening and thank you for
4 coming tonight. My name is Lewis Michaelson and I will be
5 the moderator for tonight's hearing on the Navy's Northwest
6 Training Range Complex Draft Environmental Impact
7 Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement or Draft
8 EIS as we will refer to it as.

9 Here to receive your comments tonight are
10 Commander Matthew Miller, Executive Officer of Naval Air
11 Station Whidbey Island, and Mr. John Mosher, the Project
12 Manager for the CIS and the Navy's Pacific Fleet. Also with
13 us is Mrs. Kimberly Kler waving to you in the back, the
14 Project Coordinator for the Naval Facilities Engineering
15 Command Northwest who is the primary point of contact for
16 sharing your written comments about the project.

17 Let's look at the agenda for tonight.
18 Hopefully, you all had the opportunity to talk to the many
19 knowledgeable experts and program officials who were
20 staffing the exhibits during the open house. The primary
21 purpose for this portion of the hearing is for the panel
22 members here to listen to your comments firsthand. They
23 will not be answering questions during this phase of the
24 proceedings. Comments and questions will be addressed in
25 the Final EIS.

1 After I finish this introduction, Commander
2 Miller will give a brief overview of the Navy's activities
3 in the Northwest Training Range Complex. Next Mr. John
4 Mosher will brief you on the Environmental Impact Analysis
5 process and summarize the results reported in the Draft EIS.
6 The last item on the agenda, however, is the most important.
7 The public comment session is your opportunity to provide
8 information and make statements for the record. Your input
9 ensures that the decision makers can benefit from your
10 knowledge of the local area and any environmental effects
11 that you think may result from the Proposed Action and
12 alternatives.

13 Keep in mind that the EIS process is intended
14 to ensure that decision makers will be fully informed about
15 the potential environmental impact associated with the
16 various alternatives before they decide on a course of
17 action. Also, remember that comments issued -- comments on
18 issues unrelated to this EIS are beyond the scope of this
19 hearing.

20 To request an opportunity to make a verbal
21 comment during tonight's hearing, please fill out a verbal
22 comment request card such as this. We've got more down
23 here, up there, and down here anywhere so if you haven't yet
24 and you would like to, just ask them for one and fill it
25 out. Every speaker including public officials,

1 organizational spokesperson and private individuals will
 2 have four minutes each to provide his or her comment. If
 3 you don't feel comfortable standing up here tonight to make
 4 a statement, you have until February 11th, 2009, to submit a
 5 written statement for consideration in the Final EIS or
 6 after this session, you can make private comments to the
 7 court reporter one-on-one. Keep in mind, the written
 8 comments are given the same consideration as the verbal
 9 comments offered here tonight.

10 Now it is my pleasure to introduce Commander
 11 Miller.

12 COMMANDER MILLER: Thank you, Lewis. Welcome
 13 to the public hearings for the Northwest Training Range
 14 Complex Draft Environmental Impact Statement. My name's
 15 Commander Matt Miller and I'm the Executive Officer of the
 16 Naval Air Station Whidbey Island. I want to thank you on
 17 behalf of the United States Navy for attending this evening.

18 This is one of five published hearings -- this
 19 is one of five public hearings the Navy is holding in
 20 Washington, Oregon, Northern California for the Northwest
 21 Training Range Complex Draft EIS. As Lewis mentioned, we
 22 hope you had the opp- -- the chance to visit the poster
 23 stations this evening and meet with Navy project team
 24 members.

25 A little bit about my background. I've been

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1 wearing a Navy uniform for about 26 years. I've been a
 2 commissioned officer for about 21 years. I'm originally
 3 from Silver Spring, Maryland, outside of Washington D.C. I
 4 graduated from the University of Maryland. I've been the
 5 Executive Officer for a year. Before that I was the
 6 Operations Officer, Whidbey Island. My recent tours in the
 7 area: I was on the USS Abraham Lincoln stationed at Everett
 8 Naval Station; I was an instructor at the Electronic Attack
 9 Weapons School Whidbey Island. So I've been in the area --
 10 I've been lucky to be in the area of the Northwest for the
 11 last ten years and I'm not going back to the East Coast. So
 12 I like it out here in the Northwest.

13 As Lewis stated before, you'll have an
 14 opportunity to make oral comments regarding the content of
 15 the environmental analysis. Written comments will be
 16 accepted tonight and throughout the public comment period
 17 which closes on February 11th, 2009.

18 The Northwest Training Range Complex is a
 19 military training area that has been in use by the Navy
 20 since World War II. It is comprised of two primary
 21 components; the off-shore area and the in-shore area. The
 22 mission of the Northwest Training Range Complex is to serve
 23 as the principal backyard training range for those units
 24 homeported in the Pacific Northwest area including surface
 25 ship, submarine, aviation and Explosive Ordnance Disposal

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1 units located at the Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, Naval
2 Station Everett, Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, Naval Base
3 KitsapBremerton and Naval Base KitsapBangor. The Range
4 Complex also supports military units from outside the Range
5 Complex area such as Naval Special Warfare units.

6 The range complex includes ranges, training
7 areas and airspace that extend west to 250 nautical miles
8 beyond the coasts of Washington, Oregon and Northern
9 California and east to the Washington/Idaho border. The
10 off-shore component of the Range Complex encompasses 122,400
11 square nautical miles of air, surface and subsurface ocean
12 training areas. The in-shore component includes about 875
13 acres of land on Whidbey Island and Indian Island, more than
14 12,000 square nautical miles of special reserve space and
15 surface and subsurface training area within the Puget Sound.

16 Military activities currently conducted in the
17 Northwest Training Range Complex is going to be divided into
18 the primary mission areas listed here. To accomplish -- to
19 accomplish its mission in the Pacific Northwest, it is
20 critical for the Navy to maintain and operate the necessary
21 facilities to provide these critical training areas to U.S.
22 Navy commands so the force can train realistically.

23 Realistic training ensures U.S. Navy personnel
24 maintain the highest level of readiness and capability and
25 is the single greatest asset the military has in preparing

1 and protecting American servicemen and women to defend the
2 nation. There is no such thing as routine training when it
3 comes to practicing combat skills. To ensure Navy forces
4 are fully ready prior to deployments requires specialized
5 ranges for military personnel to learn from practical,
6 hands-on experience the technical skills necessary to
7 effectively plan and conduct operations. Continuing
8 technological advancements also require more complex and
9 varying testing and training scenarios to be able to combat
10 new threats. The ranges, facilities and installations of
11 the Northwest Training Range Complex are unique and provide
12 training opportunities essential to the safety and readiness
13 of military personnel and the success of the military
14 mission.

15 Environmental stewardship is a priority goal of
16 the Navy during the mission training activities. The Navy
17 is committed to protecting the physical and natural
18 environment and has established a successful track record of
19 environmental stewardship while completing our mission. To
20 accomplish our environmental stewardship goals, the Navy
21 implements protective measures on land and at sea to reduce
22 potential effects to terrestrial and the marine environment
23 and ensure public safety and accessibility.

24 I will now turn the presentation over to John
25 Mosher from the U.S. Pacific Fleet who will tell you about

1 the Navy's Proposed Action for the Northwest Training Range
2 Complex and give you an overview of the Draft EIS and the
3 environmental analysis process.

4 MR. MOSHER: Thank you, Commander. My name is
5 John Mosher. I'm the Project Manager for the Northwest
6 Training Range Complex EIS. I am here tonight to give you
7 an overview of the findings in the Draft EIS.

8 The Draft EIS was prepared by the U.S. Navy to
9 comply with both the National Environmental Policy Act or
10 NEPA and Executive Order 12114 which requires federal
11 agencies to consider the environmental effects of their
12 activities that occur outside of U.S. territorial waters.

13 The Draft EIS represents compliance with these
14 environmental statutes and is an important part of the
15 Navy's overall commitment to environmental stewardship as it
16 tests and trains. The Navy is the lead agency for the EIS.
17 The National Marine Fisheries Service is a cooperating
18 agency in addition to their roles as regulator. As a
19 cooperating agency, they provide early review of the
20 Proposed Action, alternatives and analysis methods. As a
21 regulator, they help ensure the EIS and Proposed Action are
22 in full compliance with environmental laws and regulations.

23 This slide lists the actions that the Navy's
24 proposing to conduct that are analyzed in the Draft EIS.
25 Not all of the actions are included in each alternative.

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1 Over the next three slides, I will discuss which actions are
2 included in which alternative. The Proposed Action is
3 needed to provide a training environment consisting of
4 ranges, training areas and range instrumentation with the
5 capacity to fully support the required training tasks for
6 operational units and military schools. The Proposed Action
7 supports the overall mission of the Navy as required by
8 federal law.

9 Under the No Action Alternative, training and
10 testing activities would continue at current levels. This
11 alternative would not accommodate an increase for new
12 training activities and range enhancements and investments
13 would not be implemented. The No Action Alternative
14 provides a baseline for assessing potential environmental
15 effects for the other alternatives.

16 Alternative 1 is a proposal designed to meet
17 Navy and Department of Defense near-term training
18 requirements. This alternative includes an increase in
19 training activities currently conducted and accommodates
20 force structure changes associated with the introduction of
21 new weapons systems, vessels and aircraft. These include
22 the EA-18G Growler Aircraft, the SSGN Guided Missile
23 Submarine, the P-8A Multimission Maritime Aircraft and
24 Unmanned Aerial Systems.

25 Alternative 2 is also designed to meet current

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1 and near-term training requirements. It includes all the
2 activities identified under Alternative 1 plus an increase
3 in the level of training activities identified in
4 Alternative 1.

5 In addition, Alternative 2 provides for
6 implementation of range enhancements including new air and
7 sea surface targets; the operation of air target surfaces --
8 services for locally-based aircraft and vessels; the
9 development of an additional electronic signal emitter; the
10 development of an underwater training minefield and use of a
11 portable undersea tracking range.

12 Alternative 2 is the Navy's preferred
13 alternative because it fully supports the type and frequency
14 of activities required to achieve complete Fleet readiness
15 and allow the Navy to carry out its mission in the Range
16 Complex.

17 In preparing the Draft EIS, the Navy evaluated
18 the potential effects of the alternatives to the marine,
19 terrestrial and human environment. We have taken a
20 comprehensive approach in assessing the potential effects to
21 physiological, biological and socioeconomic resources. We
22 encourage you, if you haven't already, to review the Draft
23 EIS which presents the findings of the Navy's environmental
24 analysis for each of these resource areas.

25 The Navy's use of active sonar and explosives

1 puts sound into the marine environment. While preparing the
2 Draft EIS, Navy scientists analyzed the potential effects of
3 sound in the water to marine life including marine mammals,
4 sea turtles, fish -- we lost the mike.

5 (Interruption in proceedings.)

6 While preparing the Draft EIS, Navy scientists
7 analyzed the potential effects of sound in the water to
8 marine life including marine mammals, sea turtles, fish,
9 seabirds and marine invertebrates. The method for
10 determining potential sound exposures to marine mammals was
11 jointly developed by the Navy and the National Marine
12 Fisheries Service and represents the best science currently
13 available.

14 Marine mammal species have widely varying
15 sensitivities to sounds based on frequency. This is a
16 reflection of how different species have evolved to cope
17 with life in a marine environment, including differences in
18 size, prey, habitat and the predators to try to avoid.

19 Using the five general steps listed here, the
20 Navy was able to calculate the number of potential marine
21 animal exposures to sound from active sonar and explosives.
22 Section 3.9 of the Draft EIS provides the results of the
23 computer model as it relates to the potential annual
24 exposures to marine animals. Marine mammal sensitivity was
25 determined by biologists from the National Oceanic and

1 Atmospheric Administration and that information was entered
 2 into the computer model. Marine animals can react
 3 differently to sounds. For example, a harbor porpoise found
 4 off the coast is very skittish. Therefore, sound at a lower
 5 volume will cause them to startle much sooner than other
 6 cetaceans.

7 While there is a possibility for non-lethal
 8 impacts and altered behavior from the use of active sonar
 9 and explosives, no mortality to marine animals is
 10 anticipated. In addition, the estimation of sound exposures
 11 does not consider the use of protective measures such as
 12 sonar safety zones which would reduce the likelihood of
 13 exposures to sound at the highest levels. No significant
 14 impacts of sea turtles, fish, seabirds or marine
 15 invertebrates are anticipated from the use of active sonar.

16 The use of explosives in Navy activities may
 17 result in injury or mortality to individual fish or seabirds
 18 in the immediate area of the training. However, these
 19 activities would not result in significant harm for overall
 20 bird or fish populations or habitat. Given the relatively
 21 low number of explosive detonations associated with the
 22 Proposed Action, no significant impacts to marine
 23 invertebrates are anticipated. Also, the low occurrence of
 24 sea turtles in the Range Complex area makes the potential
 25 for significant impacts to sea turtles unlikely.

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1 The Navy does not expect to harm marine mammal
 2 populations but it does recognize that there may be
 3 potential effects to individual marine mammals. To help
 4 guard against harm to individual whales or other marine
 5 mammals during training, the Navy has developed protective
 6 measures including posting a minimum of three well-trained
 7 lookouts 24 hours a day; conducting aerial sweeps of the
 8 training areas during air operations; establishing a safety
 9 zone during training exercises and using mid-frequency
 10 active sonar. During this training, sonar is powered down
 11 if a marine mammal enters the 1,000-yard safety zone and
 12 sonar is powered off if the marine mammal enters within
 13 200 yards of the sonar dome. The Navy also coordinates with
 14 the National Marine Fisheries Service and reports marine
 15 mammals sighted during major exercises.

16 Over the past five years, the Navy has funded
 17 more than 100 million dollars in marine mammal research. A
 18 summary of the findings of the Draft EIS are presented here
 19 using language required by environmental regulations. For
 20 most of the resources analyzed in the Draft EIS, we found no
 21 significant impacts.

22 In your review of the Draft EIS, the four areas
 23 you may want to examine in more detail for species that may
 24 be affected by the Proposed Action include endangered
 25 species of fish, sea turtles, marine mammals and bird

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1 species. The Navy is in consultation with the National
 2 Marine Fisheries Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
 3 Service to ensure the effects to endangered or threatened
 4 species listed under the Endangered Species Act are
 5 minimized.

6 The Navy Range Complex EIS also analyzed the
 7 potential effects of Navy training on the human environment.
 8 This resource area -- the resource areas and issues analyzed
 9 would include cultural resources, traffic, socioeconomics,
 10 environmental justice and the protection of children and
 11 public safety. The findings in the EIS show that no
 12 significant impacts to the human environment are likely from
 13 the implementation of the Proposed Action.

14 In addition, the Navy has initiated
 15 consultations with federally recognized Native American
 16 tribes in the Northwest Training Range Complex area. In
 17 addition to complying with NEPA, the Navy also complies with
 18 other applicable federal and environmental laws including
 19 those listed here and all other applicable laws and
 20 regulations.

21 The Navy has completed the first three steps of
 22 the NEPA process and we're now in the phase for providing
 23 public review of the Draft EIS. To review the progress so
 24 far, the Navy initiated the EIS in July of -- July 31st of
 25 2007. The Navy held -- excuse me. The Navy initiated -- on

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1 July 31st, 2007, the Navy held public scoping meetings in
 2 Washington, Oregon and Northern California. Government
 3 agencies, organizations and the public were encouraged to
 4 submit comments at the scoping meetings or to provide
 5 written comments throughout the public comment period. The
 6 comments received were considered in the preparation of the
 7 Draft EIS that we have discussed here tonight.

8 We are now in the public hearing and document
 9 review step of the NEPA process. This phase is an essential
 10 part of the NEPA process because it allows the public to
 11 review this document and comment on the Navy's analysis of
 12 its environmental effects. We encourage you to provide your
 13 input by February 11th so it can be considered for
 14 appropriation in the development of the Final EIS. All
 15 comments received will be considered.

16 The Navy is committed to keeping the community
 17 informed throughout the continuing development of the
 18 Northwest Training Range Complex EIS. These public hearings
 19 are just one of many opportunities to share information
 20 about the EIS and more importantly, to encourage your
 21 feedback and comments.

22 I'll now turn back to Lewis Michaelson to
 23 describe how to obtain more information and how to comment
 24 on the Draft EIS.

25 MR. MICHAELSON: Thank you, John. In addition

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1 to holding these public hearings, the Navy has established a
 2 website to make it easy for you to find and comment on the
 3 environmental documents. The Draft EIS, for example, is
 4 posted to that website. It also has additional background
 5 information and links to the fact sheets that are available
 6 here tonight.

7 You may also review the Draft EIS and other
 8 publically available documents related to the Northwest
 9 Training Range Complex EIS by visiting the designated
 10 information repositories. The addresses of the repositories
 11 are provided in the fact sheets you received tonight. Both
 12 the information repositories and their project website
 13 contain documents, fact sheets and background information
 14 for your review.

15 The Navy welcomes your review and input on the
 16 analysis contained in the Draft EIS and there are several
 17 ways for you to submit comments. First of all, we're
 18 accepting oral comments tonight immediately after this
 19 presentation. Written comments can be submitted by filling
 20 out a comment form and either dropping it in the box at the
 21 registration table or mailing it to the address provided
 22 here which is also listed on the fact sheet. Comments may
 23 also be submitted electronically via the project website at
 24 www.NWTRangeComplexEIS. That website address is also in the
 25 handout you received.

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1 A reminder, again, all comments must be
 2 received by February 11th, 2009, in order to ensure
 3 consideration in the Final EIS.

4 We're now ready to begin our comment portion.
 5 To ensure that we get an accurate record for our court
 6 reporter so that we have a written record of these
 7 proceedings, please help me respect the following ground
 8 rules:

9 First, I'm going to ask you to come up to this
 10 podium or lectern here and speak clearly and slowly into the
 11 microphone starting with your name and the organization you
 12 represent that applies.

13 Second reminder, each person will be allotted
 14 four minutes to speak. Depending upon the number of
 15 speakers and the time remaining, we may be able to have
 16 additional time for you to speak after this.

17 Third, if you've prepared a written statement,
 18 you may turn it in at the registration table or you may read
 19 it out loud if you can do so within the four-minute time
 20 limit.

21 Finally, please honor any requests that I make
 22 for you to stop speaking when you've reached the four-minute
 23 time limit. In order to make it easy for you to know when
 24 that's going to come up so that you can comfortably end your
 25 comment, I will hold up this card indicating you have 30

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1 seconds remaining and then finally, when you've reached four
2 minutes, I will hold up this card.

3 We appreciate your cooperation in paying
4 attention to these rules. I'm going to read ahead the first
5 speakers so that you'll have an idea of when your time to
6 come up will be. So my first speaker will be Terry Obteshka
7 followed by a Jim Carlson, then David Jincks, Terry Thompson
8 and Marie Gargano.

9 By the way, they're numbered four and then it
10 skips to six so if we can make sure I'm not missing Number
11 5, that would be great. I think it may just have been a
12 mis-numbering.

13 So Terry Obteshka, if you will start us off.
14 Again, just begin with your name and your organization.
15 Thank you very much.

16 MR. OBTESHKA: Yes. My name's Terry Obteshka.
17 I'm a private citizen. I haven't had a chance to read the
18 EIS so I have more questions than answers, but I do have
19 concerns. One of my concerns is you go ahead with this
20 project and if environmental -- adverse environmental
21 impacts do occur that there's going to be provisions that
22 you'll cease or desist.

23 Another -- and, of course, Newport, we have --
24 the off-shore fisheries is very important. Of course, the
25 whales and the sonar and especially the explosive devices,

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1 impulsive sounds can cause instant and permanent damage to
2 humans and any other creatures on the earth.

3 We have an off-shore salmon fishery which is,
4 you know, a threatened species. We have a tuna fishery.
5 You know, for some reason, you scatter the bait fish of the
6 tuna and they take off, there could be adverse impacts
7 economically on the local economy. And, of course, I would
8 hope that, you know, if these operations do cause negative
9 impacts in the fisheries, there would be some kind of a
10 takings provision where the fishing industry would be
11 compensated for their losses.

12 And in -- Oregon's done a lot of work on
13 mapping the ocean, discussions on marine reserves and
14 off-shore energy, buoys, maybe aquaculture in the future.
15 This is just another impact, another use of the ocean and I
16 don't know how it's all going to fit in.

17 In closing, I would wish you to reconsider
18 the -- you know, no change option to what you're doing right
19 now.

20 MR. MICHAELSON: Thank you very much. The next
21 speaker is Jim Carlson.

22 MR. CARLSON: Well, first of all, thank you so
23 much for being here and I would like to extend my thanks to
24 all of you for your service to our country and I appreciate
25 that. I guess an example of feeling comfortable that you're

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1 taking care of business is that you had that spare mike
2 right there. I was impressed.

3 MR. MICHAELSON: State your name, please.

4 MR. CARLSON: Jim Carlson. I'm actually a
5 resident of Tillamook County which is the next county up
6 from -- from Lincoln and I'm here tonight wearing two hats.
7 One being that I am the central coast organizer for a
8 environmental or conservation group called Our Ocean and I'm
9 also representing five different sea pacts in Tillamook
10 County that I think some of you -- I've already explained
11 what that is, but just for the record, these are groups of
12 citizens that come together once a month and they discuss
13 land-use and near-shore issues that are coming to -- you
14 know, to fruition in our area. And so it's an advisory
15 group only but we advise the county commissioners and the
16 County Planning Commission on concerns that we have on --
17 not only on the land but the near-shore as well.

18 There's tremendous amount of information for me
19 to digest tonight. Unfortunately, I wasn't really given too
20 much of a lead time to know that this hearing was taking
21 place so I will not probably give any specifics as far as
22 what I feel is appropriate or not appropriate activity as
23 far as the military is concerned on our coast.

24 But I would want you folks to understand that
25 we as Oregonians right now are given the task to take

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1 another look at our near-shore and how we're going to use
2 it, whether that be undersea cables, whether that be marine
3 reserves, wave energy, aquaculture projects and on and on
4 and these are all kind of new ideas to our -- to Oregonians
5 so this is just one more piece of the puzzle that we need to
6 take a look at.

7 So my recommendation is that the fact that I'm
8 the only one here from Tillamook County that I'm aware of
9 that's able to come to this meeting or, in fact, was aware
10 that it was taking place, that you reconsider your deadline
11 because that gives us less than a little over ten days to --
12 first of all, to go through all this information that I'm
13 sure you guys have lived with for a long time but it's new
14 to us.

15 And so, respectfully, I would ask that you
16 consider pushing that deadline out to at least a minimum of
17 30 days to give us an opportunity as coastal Oregonians to
18 decipher this information and give you a -- you know, an
19 educated guess on what we -- how we want to proceed here.
20 Thank you so much.

21 MR. MICHAELSON: Thank you. The next speaker
22 is David Jincks.

23 MR. JINCKS: My name's David Jincks. I live at
24 1260 Southeast Wade Way in Newport, Oregon. I'm here
25 representing Midwater Trawlers Cooperative. It's a fishing

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1 organization that has vessels that participate in the
 2 fisheries on the West Coast and Alaska. I'm also going to
 3 represent Pacific Whiting Cooperative and United Catcher
 4 Boat Association from Seattle, Washington. They're also
 5 fishing organizations that fish these areas between Alaska
 6 and the West Coast.

7 The main fisheries that we participate in on
 8 the West Coast is the Whiting Fishery. It's a pelagic fish
 9 and it migrates from California north up the coast past
 10 Puget Sound into Canada before turning around and heading
 11 back to California. These fisheries take place May 15th
 12 sometimes running into November 15th, sometimes into
 13 December. It's a full summertime fishery and into -- you
 14 know, some of the early wintertime so.

15 The depths these vessels fish are from probably
 16 40 fathoms out to 800 fathoms. They're a wide-ranging
 17 fleet. They'll range from the Oregon-California border to
 18 the Puget Sound. They -- they range in size. It's
 19 probably -- this -- this fleet here is probably 68 vessels
 20 and they range in size from 70-foot to 550-foot.

21 It's an economic engine for the West Coast.
 22 Um, economic indicators indicating in the last couple years
 23 165 million dollars return to the coastal communities
 24 between Oregon and Washington. So it is very important to
 25 us and that the areas are open for us to fish in. So I've

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1 -- this is pretty much new to me. I just got called an hour
 2 and a half ago that this was going to be a hearing here so I
 3 wasn't really prepared to speak on it, but I'm going to do
 4 the best I can.

5 I'm going to just make a statement that I know
 6 from talking to several of you in the hallway which the
 7 information is very good. Thank you. And it's the typical
 8 EIS that's being done it looks like. And though you've been
 9 working with National Marine Fisheries Service, the National
 10 Marine Fisheries Service doesn't always work with us very
 11 well and so the information doesn't trickle down to the
 12 fishing groups. And so we're asking for more coordination
 13 with us, with the local fishing groups. There's several of
 14 us that represent some of the larger fishing industries and
 15 also some of the other ones.

16 I mean, I'm just representing a small bunch of
 17 the fisheries. You have the crab fisheries, salmon
 18 fisheries, long-line, pot fisheries. I mean, it's a
 19 tremendous amount of fishing that goes on in these areas out
 20 here all year round when you get into them. I'm just
 21 speaking about the whiting fishery for the May through
 22 December. But through the rest of the time, there's a
 23 tremendous amount of ground that's being fished out here all
 24 the time. And so what we're asking for also is the February
 25 11th deadline on written comment is coming right up on us

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1 which we didn't know about. I didn't know about the EIS. I
2 haven't looked at it yet so.

3 And, um, I think that under NEPA, I think that
4 we should be allowed a little more time because it is a very
5 large impact that is unforeseeable to us what the impact
6 will be. I mean, I look at some of the information out
7 there and it says that there could be potential economic
8 impacts to commercial fishing from use of portable undersea
9 tracking range which I -- like I say, I haven't read the EIS
10 so I'm not aware of what the -- what the portable undersea
11 tracking range is going to be, how much ground it's going to
12 take up, what the notice would be to mariners to move out of
13 that area and how long that would -- how long that would be.

14 30 seconds remaining. Well, thank you.

15 Anyway, so that's -- briefly, that's my statement and I'd
16 hope that over time that you would instead of engaging with
17 National Marine Fisheries Service, you might engage with the
18 fishermen that actually use the ocean. Thank you.

19 MR. MICHAELSON: Thank you. The next speaker
20 is Terry Thompson.

21 MR. THOMPSON: My name is Terry Thompson. I
22 represent the Lincoln County Commission and also Undersea
23 Cables. And I'll start off by telling you why this is a
24 little passionate for me. I've been about 4,200 days at sea
25 in my life. In that time, I've known eight vessels that

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1 have vanished because of submarine activity and five men
2 have died. Now, I consider that a pretty serious issue.
3 Now, to know it's the U.S. Navy or another vessel is -- no
4 vessels ever come to the surface for us to be able to
5 identify, but when you lose friends at sea because of
6 activities by someone underneath the water that's obviously
7 running a vessel that's big enough it can tow a 75-foot
8 sideways at eight knots, it's obvious there's somebody that
9 needs to work on communications.

10 Now, I cannot say who it was, but one of the
11 things that we have tried to pride ourselves and the West
12 Coast Fleet on this coast is the development of an open
13 communication system. And this meeting today represents an
14 opportunity that we've never had before and that's to
15 actually communicate with you about some of the facilities
16 and personnel and equipment that we use in our fishing
17 operations that we are -- have off shore. That
18 communications, I think, can further the lack of -- can
19 stimulate a situation so we won't have conflicts in the
20 future and I very much applaud you for that.

21 We represent about 100,000 -- or excuse me --
22 100 million dollars' worth of fisheries products just in
23 Lincoln County. It's a major business for us and anything
24 we can do to help communicate between you and us can only
25 help our communities.

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1 One of the things that by looking at the EIS
 2 that bothered me the most was the potential for a minefield
 3 to be built out here and a permanent closure. And then when
 4 I looked back and say there's no socioeconomic impact to the
 5 fishing industry, well maybe not as it is today under what's
 6 there, but if you put a minefield in there and tell us it's
 7 permanent and we can't go there, it definitely has an impact
 8 on our community. So I think you need to rethink what that
 9 social impact might be.

10 David Jincks just talked about the whiting
 11 fishery. It's one that would very likely be in conflict
 12 with you because they haul such big nets and they move at
 13 high speed in the ocean. Whether you're using an ROV or a
 14 potential minefield, I'm sure that within a short time,
 15 we'll have one of your devices in our nets.

16 Another area that bothers me is the amount of
 17 shells and marine debris the Navy leaves behind. When I
 18 fished off San Francisco trawling, I found parts of old
 19 airplanes that had been left by the Navy when they came in
 20 from World War II. Stainless steel landing gears, pieces
 21 like that, and if you're going to shoot debris into the
 22 ocean in shallower water inside of 700 fathoms, it won't be
 23 long before we're going to have that debris.

24 Our fishing industry has done a lot to try to
 25 clean the bottom of the ocean. We actually work now with

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1 NOAA to remove old fishing nets. We do all kinds of
 2 operations to bring stuff ashore instead of dumping it back
 3 overboard and for the Navy to leave marine debris on the
 4 bottom, it's not good for our operation and I'm not sure
 5 what the effects would be with some of the sea life but some
 6 of it would probably be impacted.

7 One of the problems that also bothered me about
 8 this meeting was the lack of communications in this meeting
 9 being held. I didn't know about it until yesterday and I
 10 immediately went to the Governor's Office who didn't know
 11 about it. Apparently, Department of State Lands had some
 12 knowledge of it. I contacted the Undersea Cable Committee
 13 which is the main communication system for the Trawl Fleet
 14 today and they had been involved early on but they weren't
 15 aware that this meeting was here and the general public in
 16 our area didn't know that. So I've got -- to cut this
 17 short, I'll make one final comment. Because of that lack of
 18 communications that I think you guys meant well in your
 19 effort to communicate with the public, I think you need to
 20 extend this period so that we can have time for the public
 21 comment and a lot more local people to be engaged.

22 MR. MICHAELSON: All right. Thank you,
 23 Mr. Thompson. The next speaker is -- I hope I pronounce
 24 this correctly -- Marie Gargano?

25 MS. GARGANO: That's correct. Good evening.

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1 My name is Marie Gargano. I live in Depoe Bay and I live
 2 right on the water so your 12-mile buffer between your zones
 3 and my house is very important to me. I will preface what I
 4 say by saying and agreeing with previous speakers; I found
 5 out about this hearing on Monday and that's through an
 6 organization that I belong to called Oregon Coast Watchers.

7 I'm not here representing them, but I'm here to
 8 gather information for them and also for another
 9 organization called Oregon Coast Watch -- or Oregon Shores.
 10 Pardon me. We did not have a lot of notice for this hearing
 11 and I don't know what your mechanism is for notifying the
 12 public, but I have been in this room for topics that are far
 13 less consequential where there's been standing room only.
 14 So I would say looking out and seeing all these empty seats,
 15 to me, that's an indicator that there really hasn't been
 16 adequate notification to the public.

17 I'm going to read some excerpts from the
 18 January/February 2009 newsletter for the National Resources
 19 Defense Council. I'm a member of that organization and I'm
 20 sure all you gentlemen are very familiar with them because
 21 they have had numerous suits against the Navy.

22 Ruling 6 to 3 in a case brought by the NRDC,
 23 the Supreme Court has recently struck down two important
 24 safeguards that protect whales from dangerous mid-frequency
 25 sonar during naval exercises off the coast of California.

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1 The decision -- quote, the decision places marine mammals at
 2 greater risk of serious and needless harm said Joel
 3 Reynolds, Director of the NRDC Marine Mammal Protection
 4 Program. The ruling was very narrow, said Reynolds. It
 5 left in place four vital safeguards that we have won in the
 6 lower courts.

7 As a result, the Navy's sonar ships will still
 8 be required to avoid key wild -- key whale habitat in a
 9 12-mile coastal zone and also to use marine mammal lookouts,
 10 to power down its sonar when marine mammals are within a
 11 half a mile.

12 I have not seen the EIS because I'm seeing the
 13 website right now for the first time. I'll quote again from
 14 this newsletter. The Navy itself has estimated that the
 15 California sonar drills will disturb or injure 170,000
 16 marine mammals and cause permanent injury to more than 450
 17 whales. And I know from other organizations that I belong
 18 to there is certainly suspect that the Navy has been the
 19 cause of marine mammal deaths including whales.

20 So one of the questions that I have is this was
 21 a suit for the coast of California. What are the statistics
 22 relevant to the Oregon coast and will the Navy be following
 23 these same vital four safeguards for any activities off of
 24 the Oregon coast?

25 Despite this legal setback, the trend is

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1 definitely toward a more whale-friendly Navy, said Reynolds.
 2 We've made enormous progress over the past decade in getting
 3 the military to study the impacts of sonar and put
 4 precautions in place. So you are going in the right
 5 direction, but because it's whales, we don't know when there
 6 are going to be fatalities. We won't see the carcasses on
 7 land. They will sink and they'll be gone. So I would
 8 really question what's going to happen with our whale
 9 population off the coast of Oregon. Thank you very much.

10 MR. MICHAELSON: Thank you. The next speaker
 11 is Dr. Bruce Mate.

12 DR. MATE: Good evening. And I want to add my
 13 thanks to your coming here and including Newport in one of
 14 your areas to hold hearings and public comment. I'm very
 15 grateful for that and I'm also grateful to you gentlemen for
 16 upholding the finer traditions of the services in protecting
 17 our well-being. I think we're all appreciative of the job
 18 you're doing on behalf of the United States.

19 Because these are important matters, I do think
 20 that what we've heard tonight and what I've experienced in
 21 this last week, I would very much hope that you'd extend the
 22 comment period by another 30 days. The material is -- that
 23 you've put together is in many areas wonderful but at 1,068
 24 pages, a bit daunting for most of us to get through.

25 In my particular area, I'm representing myself

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1 tonight as a citizen, but I have considerable marine mammal
 2 experience. I do not represent Oregon State University, but
 3 I do direct the Marine Mammal Institute here and I've been
 4 in Oregon doing marine mammal work since 1968. I can tell
 5 you that there are some things in the document that will
 6 actually require some reassessment. Some of that is local
 7 knowledge. Some of it's very current.

8 And I had the opportunity to speak during the
 9 time period before this group came in and I appreciated the
 10 candor of several of the folks with me and the expression
 11 also of the difficulty for those of us who view this
 12 professionally in assessing impact because risk is a
 13 combination of a species, the time and the place. And the
 14 time and the place is a very difficult thing for you to be
 15 specific about for a variety of reasons and we appreciate
 16 what some of those are.

17 But just simple things like knowing that gray
 18 whales are here during the summertime and near shore, that
 19 we have blue whales and humpbacks off shore. Because we
 20 have a narrow continental shelf within a very steep slope,
 21 we have very close access to deep water. So a lot of the
 22 species that are of public concern and are a part of the
 23 debate going on about the impacts of sonar and other
 24 activities are going to be a part of our concerns and these
 25 include beaked whales and sperm whales, other deep divers

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1 where sound channeling can occur in deep waters.

2 I think there are a number of things that we
3 have to think a little longer about as a community and it'll
4 take a little bit of time for this to come through. When we
5 start talking about permanent threshold shifts that are
6 based on 50 percent tympanic membrane ruptures and not
7 consider that underwater detonations may also be a source of
8 that but it's just related to sonar. There are things like
9 that that'll take time for people to evaluate for themselves
10 for a little while.

11 Or why lung injury may only be associated with
12 harbor seals and yet they're the very nearshore species.
13 There are aspects related to fish where we aren't seeing a
14 very thorough impact assessment with regard to active sonar
15 activities in this document and I do know that some of the
16 consultants you've had are experts in some of these areas so
17 I would like to see some of that more fully explored in the
18 Final EIS.

19 I think that there could be a variety of
20 aspects of getting ready to start these activities where
21 you're trying to assess whether there are animals in the
22 region where you have ten minutes of helicopter time
23 devoted. Quite clearly that's not going to be adequate for
24 deep diving animals that may spend 45 minutes on a dive like
25 sperm whales or over half an hour like beaked whales.

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1 So some of those things may need a little more
2 development in terms of your pre-activity, um, assessments
3 and also probably in your mitigation processes. I think at
4 a minimum, the scientific community would like to know that
5 after the fact, your operations will know when and where
6 those occurred so that anything that may come up, we could
7 start to think about some correlations. These are things
8 that can clear your -- all our collective consciousnesses
9 (sic) as well as knowing the correlation is not cause and
10 effect.

11 We've had strandings of beaked whales along the
12 Oregon coast for years. As recently as last week, we had
13 sightings of L pod, the southern orcas, right here off
14 Lincoln County in the last two weeks and being a listed
15 species, that's a concern.

16 Finally, in summarizing, I'd just like to say
17 that the mitigation process kind of goes both ways about
18 getting ready to do things and then after the fact looking
19 at possible effects. So we need to be able to do that.
20 Thank you very much.

21 MR. MICHAELSON: Thank you. I think we will
22 have time for second helpings if anyone wants to add
23 anything. I just need to make sure everyone gets a first
24 chance to come up here.

25 Have there been any more cards turned in?

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1 Okay. Is there anybody who hasn't filled out a card who
2 would like to speak? Yes. I'm just going to ask you to
3 fill out a card afterwards. Why don't you come up here and
4 all I need is your name and you'll have your opportunity.

5 MS. MILLS: My name is Charlotte Mills and I
6 live in Tidewater, Oregon, and I'm a member of Oregon Shores
7 Conservation Coalition, one of the oldest citizens groups
8 that have had attention to the marine issues and we were
9 very prominent in getting the beach bill.

10 I'm also a member of Our Ocean like the
11 gentleman was here from Tillamook and Our Ocean has had some
12 action teams. We've been working for two years to get the
13 marine reserve networks here and our group has recommended
14 nine sites along the Oregon coast. We've got 362 coastal
15 miles.

16 (Interruption in proceedings.)

17 MS. MILLS: And along those 362 coastal miles,
18 we have proposed nine of them. Our pod, our group was
19 proposing the marine reserve between Haceta Head and Cape
20 Perpetua. We called our -- we were the Yachats Pod on that.
21 So I only got -- found out about this meeting at
22 4:00 yesterday afternoon and a friend who was on the
23 Internet got some of the information to us.

24 And so Oregon Shores Conservation Coalition was
25 not on your list of organizations that got notified, nor

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1 were -- I don't believe Our Ocean got notified either and I
2 can tell you that if either one of those organizations had
3 been notified, this would have been full attendance tonight.

4 So I want to say most importantly that your
5 NEPA -- your National Environmental Policy Act, your notice
6 and comment efforts have been inadequate. They did not
7 reach not hundreds but thousands of people along the Oregon
8 coast. Many of them are property owners along the coast.
9 Some of them are fishing communities. Some of them are
10 marine commercial activities as well as private property
11 owners. If you had notified the Oregonian or the Associated
12 Press, one of those organizations, we'd have had more people
13 here tonight.

14 So my recommendations are -- I'm going to go
15 beyond extending the comment period. I believe you should
16 have another public meeting. I think you need to have it --
17 reschedule this and notify the right media, notify the right
18 organizations and have another one. I don't -- and then
19 extend the comment period.

20 Those about cover it for me except that, you
21 know, we spent a long time on trying to create these marine
22 reserves and I can tell you the issues that I found in your
23 literature yesterday are kind of like what Terry Thompson
24 was talking about; that if we're talking about your -- you
25 have air, land and sea activities, all three of those, and

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1 our marine reserves are only going out to the three-mile
 2 limit and we're concerned about the kelp forest and the big
 3 fat female fish who seek shelter in those kelp gardens to
 4 feed and to spawn, and if there are going to be explosives,
 5 if there are going to be minefields, if there are going to
 6 be this whatever undersea tracking range for anti-submarine
 7 training, all of those off-shore activities, I don't think
 8 we need to even guess. I know they will have an impact on
 9 these marine reserves we're proposing. Thank you very much.

10 MR. MICHAELSON: Thank you. Is there anyone
 11 else?

12 MS. BURKE: Yeah.

13 MR. MICHAELSON: Just come on up here. If you
 14 get her to fill out a card, that would be great.

15 MS. BURKE: Hi. My name is Patty Burke and I'm
 16 from Waldport, Oregon, and I'm speaking as a citizen as
 17 Bruce is, but I'm also kind of involved in fisheries
 18 management here. I do work for NOAA and I also only just
 19 heard about the meeting yesterday. So I do think it would
 20 be beneficial to extend the comment period.

21 For example, the program that I run is
 22 responsible for serving fisheries up and down the coast.
 23 We've got transects in all the areas that you're talking
 24 about and next week we're meeting in Santa Cruz to talk with
 25 the National Marine Sanctuaries Program about access for

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1 science and for research in those areas. And so I know that
 2 we haven't had those dialogues with you and I think that
 3 it's important that we try to at least acknowledge the good
 4 work that you've done by giving us some time to do some of
 5 the interactions with you locally on the issues. So thank
 6 you very much.

7 MR. MICHAELSON: Thank you. Anyone else who
 8 would like to speak who hasn't had a chance to yet? Sure.
 9 Go ahead.

10 MR. HORNING: Thank you for the opportunity.
 11 My name is Marcus Horning. I speak as a resident of the
 12 City of Newport and will actually be providing most of my
 13 comments probably by on-line submission but would like to
 14 add my name to the list of many this evening who have
 15 commented on the fact that it is very laudable that you're
 16 reaching out and having this forum but sadly many of us were
 17 not really informed of this until recently.

18 So I also only found out about this yesterday
 19 and would like to take the time to really read the EIS in
 20 detail to be able to understand it as much as possible and
 21 then provide comment based on my opportunity to read that in
 22 detail. So I would also like to ask you to extend the
 23 public comment period, if possible, and the suggestion of
 24 30 days that several have come up with sounds like a very
 25 reasonable one. Thank you.

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1 MR. MICHAELSON: Thank you. Is there anyone
2 else? Is there any -- yes? If not, if no one is new, if
3 anyone who already spoke for four minutes would like another
4 chance at that, please feel free to come up and add to your
5 time an additional four minutes. All you need to do is
6 state your name for me. Thank you.

7 MR. THOMPSON: Terry Thompson again. Lincoln
8 County Commissioner. There's a couple of areas in specific
9 in the EIS I'd like to cover. One is there was -- when I
10 examined the document, it looked like to me, like the Navy
11 document did not have a very good understanding of the
12 fishing industry. I'll give you an example.

13 It discussed in one area where salmon are
14 trawlers and trollers fish for flat fish. Now, that's a
15 basic error that shouldn't be in a document like this.
16 Trollers fish with wires and they fish for salmon and
17 Trawlers fish for bottom fish.

18 There were several things in there related to
19 the commercial fishery and I suggest that you go back and
20 get with some commercial fishermen and work this document a
21 little better and the contact point may be through the
22 Undersea Cable Committee. I mentioned that that exists on
23 this coast. It's a group of trawlers that communicate up
24 and down and that have probably been involved in every
25 fishery and we have a contact point with the manager who

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1 really understands fisheries and could work with you to
2 improve some of that information related to the fishing
3 industry. It can only help.

4 Another area that bothered me wasn't in there
5 was that today under our modern management system, we've
6 made agreements in trawling which is the one you're going to
7 most have a chance to have conflict with that I'll restate
8 the comment. It's now closed outside of 700 fathoms. So
9 that's a very important factor when you're working. The
10 only boats that'll probably be outside of 700 fathoms are a
11 very occasional whiting boat and a tuna fleet. So there's
12 not a lot of activity out there beyond 700 fathoms by our
13 fishing fleet. And that should do it, but good luck. I
14 hope you'll try to rework that section related to the
15 fishing industry.

16 MR. MICHAELSON: Thank you. Anyone else like
17 to come back up?

18 MS. GARGANO: Marie Gargano, Depoe Bay. I
19 heard the one lady say that she encourages you to have a
20 rehearing, a second hearing. I think you have heard from a
21 good number of speakers that the notification here along the
22 coast was grossly inadequate and I know that's probably not
23 your fault, but I think we need to have another hearing so
24 just extending this by 30 days, I think, is inadequate, um,
25 and to encourage that to happen, I'm going to be calling the

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1 Governor's Office tomorrow and also my two senators and ask
 2 them to intercede with the Secretary of the Navy to try to
 3 make that happen. So we may see your smiling faces back
 4 here again, but I think that that's really what needs to
 5 happen because you come back again and this room is going to
 6 be filled to capacity. I can promise you. Thank you.

7 MR. MICHAELSON: Thank you.

8 MR. JINCKS: Yes. My name's David Jincks. I
 9 spoke earlier. I'd like to make one more comment and that
 10 has to do with the fishing fleet again and if this is --
 11 does become a foregone fact and this is a reality for us,
 12 we'd like to have in the records that hopefully you'll work
 13 with us and our navigation programs as far as updating us on
 14 these zones and areas.

15 There's several different navigation programs
 16 that are used on these vessels. Some of us use Globe, Olex,
 17 but local fleets around here use many different other types,
 18 too. But most of the chart companies are -- and these
 19 navigation companies are willing to update our nav.
 20 programs for us with closures and these areas. We use them
 21 quite a bit up in Alaska for closures and other areas, but
 22 hopefully you will pay attention and look into this because
 23 it is -- it would be very helpful to us. Thank you.

24 MR. MICHAELSON: Anyone else like a second
 25 chance? Yes, sir.

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1 DR. MATE: Bruce Mate again and I just want to
 2 add a few comments. One is that there are several other
 3 noise makers in the ocean who are held to a different
 4 standard of accountability and we understand why that would
 5 be. But, for instance, the National Marine Fisheries
 6 Service establishes 160 decibel level for the exposure of
 7 marine mammals as an indication of where 50 percent of the
 8 population is going to be behaviorally disturbed. And that
 9 means cutting off feeding behaviors or doing something
 10 different than they might normally be doing.

11 At 235 decibels and knowing that this is a
 12 logarithmic scale, the kind of noise level that the Navy is
 13 proposing to make in this area is substantially larger than
 14 that which would be regulated in other industries. And I
 15 guess it would be really nice to get some scaling for those
 16 who are less physics oriented and the circles you have of
 17 influence for temporary threshold shifts and permanent
 18 threshold shifts, if you could provide for the more general
 19 community some sense of what scale that is and the frequency
 20 ranges you operate in so that we would be better informed as
 21 a public to reflect back to you what we think of that, that
 22 would be very helpful I think.

23 And when you look at something like the summary
 24 table on effects on 3.9-13, most of that table is populated
 25 with assessments that read either perhaps no effect in your

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1 judgment or as several of them are, MA or not enough data
2 basically, or MA, may affect, I'd say that those kinds of
3 sort of broad-sweeping three categorical choices don't leave
4 a lot of leeway for people to make good interpretations for
5 themselves about what you might really expect to happen.
6 I'd like to see it quantified a little more.

7 I know you've done these things in terms of
8 modeling in terms of the populations, the seasonality, their
9 sensitivity and so forth and I commend you for the depth of
10 detail that's in the Draft EIS, but I would like to see you
11 go a bit further in this regard for people who are less
12 familiar with that kind of information.

13 Thank you very, very much for coming. I do
14 hope we see you again and whether it's in this kind of a
15 forum or in an opportunity to have more dialogue with a
16 community that feels very not only attached to this area
17 aesthetically, but a livelihood and a connection with the
18 wildlife that's here. Thank you.

19 MR. MILLER: Thanks again.

20 MR. MICHAELSON: Thank you. Anyone else who
21 would like to speak for the first time or for the second
22 time? If not, we will adjourn for now and if you'd like,
23 you can go back to the poster stations. We are here till
24 8:30. Thank you very much for coming tonight.

25 (Public hearing adjourned at 8:09 p.m.)

AUTHENTICATION

1 This is to certify that the foregoing
2
3 transcription of the proceedings held at the Northwest
4 Training Range Complex, Draft EIS/OEIS Hearing held on
5 Friday, January 30, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. is a true and correct
6 transcription of said proceedings and the original thereof
7 delivered to Katz & Associates mailed by Priority Mail on
8 Thursday, February 12, 2009.
9

10
11
12
13 _____
14 Anne M. Duffey,
15 Certified Shorthand Reporter for Oregon
16 CSR No. 07-0405
17 Notary Public for Oregon, Comm. No. 409050
18 My Commission Expires August 13, 2010
19

1 NORTHWEST TRAINING RANGE COMPLEX
2 DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT/
3 OVERSEAS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

4
5
6 OPEN HOUSE

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11
12 TRANSCRIPT OF ORAL STATEMENT

13 VOLUME I -- PAGES 1 - 4

14
15 DATE: Friday, January 30, 2009

16 TIME: 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

17 LOCATION: Hatfield Marine Science Center
18 Visitor Center
19 2030 SE Marine Science Drive
20 Newport, Oregon 97365

21
22
23
24 REPORTED BY:
25 ANNE M. DUFFEY
OREGON CSR NO. 07-0405

BERMAN COURT REPORTING

SALEM (503)364-2551 ----- PORTLAND (503)222-6066

1 NEWPORT, OREGON, FRIDAY, JANUARY 30, 2009, 5:00 P.M.

2
3 (Transcription of oral statement given at Open
4 House as follows:)

5 COURT REPORTER: First, I need you to state
6 your name and address.

7 MR. CARLSON: James H. Carlson, P.O. Box 47,
8 Netarts, Oregon, 97143.

9 COURT REPORTER: Okay. Go ahead.

10 MR. CARLSON: I'm a resident of Tillamook
11 County which is the county north of Lincoln. We're now in
12 Lincoln County. I'm a little bit concerned about the
13 outreach as far as having all coastal Oregon residents
14 having, at least if nothing else, a basic understanding of
15 what the Navy is proposing to make any significant or not
16 significant changes.

17 So I'm real involved with land-use issues in
18 Tillamook County as a chair of the Netarts Planning Advisory
19 Council for Tillamook County. So we're advisory only, but
20 we operate under the guise of county commissioners in the
21 Tillamook County Planning Commission and so it's -- it would
22 be nice if Tillamook County residents would have had an
23 opportunity to give their input on these issues.

24 One of the -- one of your areas that is
25 designated as a training area and that is W-570 is adjacent

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1 to Tillamook County. And so I'm here tonight to express my
 2 concern that the timeline for deciphering all this
 3 information and giving feedback back to the Navy is a pretty
 4 short timeframe. And if I'm correct, the due date on any
 5 comments is February 20th or sooner -- oh, February 11th.
 6 So my -- that's a big concern and that's a pretty good
 7 stretch of marine real estate that Tillamook County is next
 8 to. And so I really do not have anything else to say. This
 9 is all new to me.

10
 11 (Oral statement of Mr. Carlson concluded. No
 12 further oral statements given.)
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AUTHENTICATION

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 3 This is to certify that the foregoing
 4 transcription of the oral statements taken during the Open
 5 House held at the Northwest Training Range Complex, Draft
 6 EIS/OEIS Hearing held on Friday, January 30, 2009, at 5:00
 7 p.m. is a true and correct transcription of said proceedings
 8 and the original thereof delivered to Katz & Associates
 9 mailed by Priority Mail on Thursday, February 12, 2009.

10
 11
 12 _____
 13 Anne M. Duffey,
 14 Certified Shorthand Reporter for Oregon
 15 CSR No. 07-0405
 16 Notary Public for Oregon, Comm. No. 409050
 17 My Commission Expires August 13, 2010
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1 U.S. NAVY NORTHWEST TRAINING RANGE COMPLEX
2 DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT/OVERSEAS
3 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
4 EUREKA, CALIFORNIA
5
6
7
8

9 REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT
10 OF PROCEEDINGS
11
12 MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2009
13
14
15 7:00 P.M.

16
17 Location: Eureka Women's Club
18 1531 J Street
19 Eureka, CA 95501
20 5:00 P.M.

21 COURT REPORTER: MARLENE A. RAGAIN, CSR #11343
22
23
24
25

0002
1 A P P E A R A N C E S

2
3
4 LEWIS MICHAELSON
5 Moderator

6
7 COMMANDER MATTHEW MILLER
8 Executive Officer of Naval Air Station
9 Whidbey Island

10
11 JOHN MOSHER
12 Project Manager from the Navy's Pacific
13 Fleet

14
15 KIMBERLY KLER
16 Project Coordinator from Naval
17 Facilities Engineering Command, Northwest
18

19 PUBLIC SPEAKERS:
20 Patrick Higgins
21 Mary Bawden
22 Gordon Anderson
23
24
25

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1 EUREKA, CALIFORNIA; MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2009

2 7:00 P.M.
3 . . .
4

5 MODERATOR MICHAELSON: Good evening and thank
6 you for coming tonight.

7 My name is Lewis Michaelson, and I will be
8 the -- actually if I could ask the my poster station
9 people to politely disengage, I would appreciate it.
10 Thank you.

11 My name is Lewis Michaelson, and I will be
12 the Moderator for tonight's hearing on the Navy's
13 Northwest Training Range Complex Draft Environmental
14 Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact
15 Statement, or Draft EIS.

16 If I could ask everyone to please turn off or
17 turn down your cell phones at this point, I would
18 appreciate it.

19 Here to receive your comments are Matthew
20 Miller, Executive Officer of Naval Air Station Whidbey
21 Island; Mr. John Mosher, the project manager from the
22 Navy's Pacific Fleet; Mrs. Kimberly Kler, standing to
23 my right, your left -- she's raising her hand -- is
24 the project coordinator from Naval Facilities
25 Engineering Command, Northwest, is here as the primary

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1 point of contact for sharing your written comments
2 about the project.

3 Let's look at the agenda for tonight.
4 Hopefully you all had the opportunity to talk
5 to the many knowledgeable experts and program
6 officials who were staffing exhibits during the open
7 house. The primary purpose for this portion of the
8 hearing is for the panel members to listen to your
9 comments firsthand. They will not be answering
10 questions during this phase of the proceedings.
11 Comments and questions will be addressed in the Final
12 EIS.

13 After I finish this introduction, Commander
14 Miller will give a brief overview of the Navy's
15 activities in the Northwest Range Complex.

16 Next, Mr. John Moser will brief you on the
17 environmental impact analysis process and summarize
18 the results reported in the Draft EIS.

19 The last item on the agenda, however, is the
20 most important. The public comment session is your
21 opportunity to provide information and make statements
22 for the record.

23 Your input ensures that the decision makers
24 can benefit from your knowledge of the local area and
25 any environmental effects you think may result from

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1 the Proposed Action or alternatives.
2 Keep the mind the EIS process is intended to
3 ensure that decision makers will be fully informed
4 about the potential environmental impacts associated
5 with the various alternatives before they decide on a
6 course of action.

7 Please remember the comments on issues
8 unrelated to this EIS are beyond the scope of this
9 hearing.

10 To request an opportunity to make a verbal
11 comment during tonight's hearing, please fill out a
12 verbal comment card, such as the one that Allison is
13 holding up over there in front.

14 Every speaker, including public officials,
15 organizational spokespersons and private individuals
16 will have four minutes each to provide his or her
17 comment.

18 If you don't feel comfortable standing up
19 here tonight to make a statement, you have until
20 February 11, 2009, to submit a written statement for
21 consideration in the Final EIS, or you can wait till
22 tonight's presentation of public comment session is
23 over and provide your comments privately to the court
24 reporter, one-on-one.

25 Keep in mind that written comments are given

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1 the same consideration as verbal comments offered here
2 tonight.

3 Now it is my pleasure to introduce Commander
4 Miller.

5 COMMANDER MILLER: Thank you, Lewis.
6 Welcome to the public hearings for the
7 Northwest Training Range Complex Draft Environmental
8 Impact Statement. My name is Commander Matt Miller,
9 and I am the Executive Officer of Naval Air Station
10 Whidbey Island.

11 I want to thank you on behalf of the United
12 States Navy for attending this evening. This is one
13 of the five public hearings the Navy is holding in
14 Washington, Oregon and Northern California for the
15 Northwest Training Range Complex Draft EIS.

16 As Lewis mentioned, we hope that you've had a
17 chance to visit the poster stations this evening and
18 meet with Navy project team members.

19 Before we proceed, a little bit of my
20 personal and professional background. I've been
21 wearing the Navy uniform for 26 years. I've been on
22 active duty for 21 years. I'm a career carrier
23 aviator. I flew the A-6 Intruder and the EA6B
24 Prowler.

25 I'm originally from Silver Springs, Maryland;
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1 went to the University of Maryland.

2 I've been the Executive Officer for about a
3 year. Before that, I was the operations officer. And
4 before that, I was assigned to the USS Abraham Lincoln
5 Aircraft Carrier stationed in Everett, Washington, and
6 a year before that, another West Coast tour as an
7 Electronic Attack Weapons Instructor. So I've been on
8 the West Coast for almost ten years and transplanted
9 from the East Coast, and I don't plan to back. I just
10 like the Northwest. So that's me.

11 As Lewis stated before, you will have the

12 opportunity to make oral comments regarding the
13 content of the environmental analysis. Written
14 comments will be accepted tonight and throughout the
15 public comment period, which closes on February 11,
16 2009.

17 The Northwest Training Range Complex is a
18 military training area that has been in use by the
19 Navy since World War II. It is comprised of two
20 primary components: The offshore component -- the
21 offshore area and the inshore area.

22 The mission of the Northwest Training Range
23 Complex is to serve as the principal backyard training
24 range for those units homeported in the Pacific
25 Northwest area, including surface ship, submarine,

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1 aviation and Explosive Ordnance Disposal units located
2 at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, Naval Station
3 Everett, Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, Naval Base
4 Kitsap-Bremerton and Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor.

5 The Range Complex also supports military
6 units from outside the range complex area, such as
7 Naval Special Warfare units.

8 The Range Complex includes ranges, training
9 areas and air space that extend west to 250 nautical
10 miles beyond the coast of Washington, Oregon and
11 Northern California and east to the Washington/Idaho
12 border.

13 The offshore component of the Range Complex
14 encompassed 122,400 square nautical miles of air,
15 surface and subsurface ocean training areas. The
16 inshore component includes about 875 acres of land on
17 Whidbey Island and Indian Island, more than 12,000
18 square nautical miles of special use airspace, and
19 surface and subsurface training areas within the Puget
20 Sound.

21 Military activities currently conducted in
22 the Northwest Training Range Complex can be divided
23 into the primary mission areas listed here.

24 To accomplish its mission in the Pacific
25 Northwest, it is critical for the Navy to maintain and

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1 operate the necessary facilities and to provide these
2 critical training areas to U.S. Navy commands so that
3 forces can train realistically.

4 Realistic training ensures U.S. Navy
5 personnel maintain the highest level of readiness and
6 capability and is the single greatest asset the
7 military has in preparing and protecting American
8 service men and women to defend the nation. There is
9 no such thing as routine training when it comes to
10 practicing combat skills.

11 To ensure Navy forces are fully ready prior
12 to deployments requires specialized ranges where
13 military personnel can learn, through practical
14 hands-on experience, the technical skills necessary to
15 effectively plan and conduct operations. Continuing
16 technological advancements also require more complex

17 and varied testing and training scenarios to be able
18 to combat new threats.

19 The ranges, facilities and installations of
20 the Northwest Training Range Complex are unique and
21 provide training opportunities essential for the
22 safety and readiness of military personnel and the
23 success of the military mission.

24 Environmental stewardship is a priority goal
25 of the Navy during mission training activities.

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1 The Navy is committed to protecting the
2 physical and natural environment and has established a
3 successful track record of environmental stewardship
4 while completing our mission.

5 To accomplish our environmental stewardship
6 goals, the Navy implements protective measures on land
7 and at sea to reduce potential effects to the
8 terrestrial and marine environment and ensure public
9 safety and accessibility.

10 I will now turn the presentation over to John
11 Mosher from the U.S. Pacific Fleet who will tell you
12 about the Navy's Proposed Action for the Northwest
13 Training Range Complex and give you an overview of the
14 Draft EIS and the environmental analysis process.

15 MR. MOSHER: Thank you, Commander.

16 My name is John Mosher, and I am the project
17 manager for the Northwest Training Range Complex EIS.
18 I am here tonight to give you an overview of the
19 findings contained in the Draft EIS.

20 The Draft EIS was prepared by the U.S. Navy
21 to comply with both the National Environmental Policy
22 Act, or NEPA, and Executive Order 12114, which
23 requires federal agencies to consider the
24 environmental effects of their activities that occur
25 outside of territorial waters. The Draft EIS

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1 represents compliance with these environmental
2 statutes and is an important part of the Navy's
3 overall commitment to environmental stewardship as it
4 tests and trains.

5 The Navy is the lead agency for the EIS. The
6 National Marine Fisheries Service is a cooperating
7 agency, in addition to their role as a regulator. As
8 a cooperating agency, they provide early review of the
9 proposed action, alternatives and analysis methods.
10 As a regulator, they help ensure that the EIS and the
11 Proposed Action are in full compliance with
12 environmental laws and regulations.

13 This slide lists the actions that the Navy is
14 proposing to conduct that are analyzed in the Draft
15 EIS. Not all of the actions are included in each
16 alternative. Over the next three slides, I will
17 discuss which actions are included in each
18 alternative.

19 The Proposed Action is needed to provide a
20 training environment consisting of ranges, training
21 areas and range instrumentation, with the capacity to

22 fully support required training tasks for operational
23 units and military schools. The Proposed Action
24 supports the overall Navy mission as required by
25 federal law.

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1 Under the No Action Alternative, training and
2 testing activities would continue at current levels.
3 This alternative would not accommodate increased or
4 new training activities, and range investments and
5 enhancements would not be implemented.

6 The No Action Alternative provides a baseline
7 for assessing the potential environmental effects of
8 the other alternatives.

9 Alternative One is a proposal designed to
10 meet Navy and Department of Defense near-term training
11 requirements.

12 This alternative includes an increase in
13 training activities currently conducted and
14 accommodates force structure changes associated with
15 the introduction of new weapon systems, vessels and
16 aircraft. These include the EA-18G Growler Aircraft,
17 SSGN Guided Missile Submarine, P-8A Multi-mission
18 Maritime Aircraft and Unmanned aerial systems.

19 Alternative Two is also designed to meet
20 current and near-term training requirements.

21 It includes all activities identified under
22 Alternative One, plus an increase in the level of
23 training activities identified in Alternative One. In
24 addition Alternative Two provides for the
25 implementation of range enhancements including: New

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1 air and sea surface targets, the operation of air
2 target services for locally-based aircraft and
3 vessels, the development of an additional electronic
4 signal emitter, the development of an underwater
5 training minefield, and use of a portable undersea
6 tracking range.

7 Alternative Two is the Navy's preferred
8 alternative because it fully supports the type and
9 frequency of activities required to achieve complete
10 fleet readiness and carry out its mission in the
11 Northwest Training Range Complex.

12 In preparing the Draft EIS, the Navy
13 evaluated the potential effects of the alternatives to
14 marine, terrestrial and human environment.

15 We have taken a comprehensive approach in
16 assessing the potential effects to physical,
17 biological and socioeconomic resources.

18 We encourage you, if you haven't already, to
19 review the Draft EIS which presents the findings of
20 the Navy's environmental analysis for each of these
21 resource areas.

22 The Navy's use of active sonar and explosives
23 puts sound into the marine environment. While
24 preparing the EIS, Navy scientists analyzed the
25 potential effects of sound in the water to marine

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