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TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
VOLUME I

IN THE MATTER OF THE PUBLIC MEETING REGARDING
THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN ARSENAL

Panel Members

HUGH KAUFMANN, Facilitator
Environmental Production Agency, Denver
ROBERT MARTIN, National Ombudsman
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

GERALD OWENS, Chief of Western Regional and
Environmental Office, Denver
U. S. Department of the Army

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS for meeting
commencing at 6:45 p.m., on January 26, 2000, at
the Doubletree Inn, 3203 Quebec Street, Denver,
Colorado, before Patricia S. Newton, Registered
Professional Reporter and Notary Public in and for
the State of Colorado.

Patricia S. Newton
Registered Professional Reporter

1 McFarland, if you would speak, sir.
 2 I'd like to identify that
 3 Mr. McFarland has provided a statement and -- gee,
 4 I feel kind of funny being so far away from you,
 5 sir -- so we'll mark this, if you don't mind,
 6 Exhibit 2.
 7 Go ahead, sir.
 8 DR. McFARLAND: My name is
 9 Robert McFarland. I live at 2300 Kalmia Avenue
 10 in Boulder, and my remarks are mostly critical of
 11 the EPA.
 12 In 1959 I came to Colorado and I
 13 was working as a resident physician at the medical
 14 school at Colorado General Hospital and Denver
 15 General Hospital and we had occasion to treat a
 16 number of people who got poisoned making nerve gas
 17 at the arsenal. They'd come in red, flushed,
 18 hallucinating, and having trouble breathing. And
 19 there was a new antidote that was being used at
 20 that time which was called 2PAM, which stands for
 21 pyridine 2-aldoxime, and we'd give an injection and
 22 they'd get better real fast, at least most of them
 23 would.
 24 Four men were severely affected
 25 with respiratory depression and three of them

1 their chronic injuries. They could not sue the
 2 Army. Their lawyer, Brian Morgan, also lives in
 3 Boulder and I know him and he told me that he
 4 obtained kind of a pitifully small financial
 5 settlement for these men because all the doctors he
 6 contacted told him there was no evidence that small
 7 repeated exposures to nerve gas could cause
 8 permanent damage. What most people believed was if
 9 it didn't kill you, you'd be all right. Now,
 10 that's not the case with most poisons. There's
 11 always a gradation of damage.
 12 And I asked Dr. Holmes about this in 1979
 13 or '80 when these guys sued, and the first thing
 14 he said was, "Oh, I hated that study and the dean
 15 made me do it. We were so hard up for money at the
 16 medical school after World War II that we had to
 17 take any study we could get."
 18 And he and Dr. David Metcalf did a study
 19 on EEGs of these men who were hallucinating and
 20 found that they all had EEG -- electroencephalo-
 21 graphic changes a year later.
 22 Now, the Shell Oil Company was producing
 23 pesticides or insecticides at the arsenal which
 24 were basically diluted solutions of the nerve gas.
 25 This was done because these compounds were so

1 required artificial ventilation, but none of them
 2 died. That was a big improvement over the previous
 3 treatment for people getting doused with nerve gas.
 4 They're called organophosphorus poisons.
 5 Now, that nerve gas was used in a subway
 6 attack in Tokyo in 1995. The Japanese doctors were
 7 still using the old antidote, which was atropine.
 8 Several people died in that subway attack.
 9 When I joined the Navy in 1955 -- they
 10 sent me to the Marines -- and we were issued
 11 atropine ampules which were left over from World
 12 War II. So I suspect those Japanese doctors were
 13 probably using old stuff.
 14 But in any case, that kind of medical
 15 information should circulate a little faster than
 16 it did. There may have been too much secrecy, I'm
 17 not sure, but there aren't many poisonings with
 18 nerve gas.
 19 I brought a couple articles that Dr. Joe
 20 Holmes from the medical school authored or
 21 coauthored about this because the medical school
 22 was doing a study of this antidote, and it worked.
 23 Now, in 1979, four former employees of
 24 the arsenal and the widow of another employee filed
 25 a lawsuit against the medical school because of

1 dangerous that only one facility in the country was
 2 licensed to use them, and after the arsenal closed,
 3 they moved that to Pine Bluff, Arkansas.
 4 In 1982, a friend of mine introduced me
 5 to Dr. Eldon Savage of the Environmental Health
 6 Department of Colorado State University. He showed
 7 me a study that he'd done with others on a multi-
 8 tude of farm workers who had been sprayed with
 9 pesticides and had chronic illness as a result. I
 10 mean, that was the conclusion of their study,
 11 which, of course, was what Brian Morgan could have
 12 used back in 1979.
 13 I said, "Where will this study be
 14 published?"
 15 He said, "It won't be published because
 16 the EPA paid for it."
 17 Now, I was a little shocked by that. I
 18 mean, I started out fairly patriotic as a young
 19 man, but as the years went by, I saw the government
 20 doing more and more weird things and most of my
 21 patriotism got challenged along the line. I still
 22 stayed in the Navy Reserve for 20 years, which may
 23 have been a mercenary decision instead of a
 24 patriotic decision.
 25 Now, when the Gulf War came along, there

1 was an accident in which a lot of American soldiers
2 got exposed to nerve gas because some shell or bomb
3 hit a stockpile of it, and so that might even
4 explain the Gulf War syndrome that there was so
5 much attention to.

6 I tried to use the Freedom of Information
7 Act to get that study and the EPA gave me a
8 different study, not the one I asked for. I had
9 given up on anything until now, so I really
10 appreciate this hearing.

11 I called Dr. Savage in Fort Collins today
12 and he said the building where he'd stored all his
13 stuff was torn down and he thought his study that
14 he had a copy of had probably been destroyed, but
15 he surely felt the EPA would have one somewhere.
16 And I'll give you his phone number along with this
17 other material.

18 I tried to get some help from Gary Mundt,
19 who used to work for Pat Schroeder. His father had
20 been poisoned as a farm worker being sprayed by
21 insecticides and had chronic illness.

22 So I think that's a fairly common problem
23 and I think it should be studied.

24 MR. MARTIN: Can I ask you a
25 question?

1 DR. McFARLAND: Sure.

2 MR. KAUFMANN: No, the panel first.

3 MR. MARTIN: The FOIA -- the

4 document you referenced in your letter here, where
5 did you direct your FOIA, to EPA Washington?

6 DR. McFARLAND: Yes, EPA

7 Washington.

8 MR. MARTIN: Did you work with EPA

9 Denver at all or --

10 DR. McFARLAND: I can't remember.

11 MR. MARTIN: You can't remember.

12 Okay. Hugh?

13 MR. KAUFMANN: Did -- one quickie.

14 DR. McFARLAND: Okay.

15 MR. KAUFMANN: Did you get a letter

16 from EPA?

17 DR. McFARLAND: Oh, yeah, they sent
18 me another study that had been done by Dr. Savage.

19 MR. KAUFMANN: Oh, they sent you
20 the wrong study?

21 DR. McFARLAND: Yeah. I got mad
22 at that point and gave up.

23 MR. KAUFMANN: Okay. So they sent
24 you a different study, not the one you referenced,
25 and then you gave up the process?

1 DR. McFARLAND: Right.
2 MR. KAUFMANN: Okay. Well, I thank
3 you for your testimony and I see Dr. Savage's
4 number is here in Exhibit 2, so I could put on the
5 record.

6 DR. McFARLAND: I mean, I think he
7 feels the same way I do, that because of the Gulf
8 War exposure of people to nerve gas, we ought to
9 look at what chronic small exposures might do or
10 even brief exposures.

11 MR. KAUFMANN: Okay. And that,
12 you believe, is some of the material that was
13 diluted by the PRP Shell in making their
14 pesticides?

15 DR. McFARLAND: All I know is I
16 clipped a newspaper article that came out.

17 MR. KAUFMANN: Okay.

18 DR. McFARLAND: Dr. Joshua

19 Letterbrook was in charge of doing the study as to
20 what caused the Gulf War syndrome and he said he
21 wasn't given the information that these men were
22 exposed to nerve gas, so he was complaining about
23 that, and somebody denied what he said and...

24 MR. KAUFMANN: No, I was just
25 asking about the arsenal. And I apologize. I'm a

1 little confused. Did you say that it was your
2 understanding that when Shell was making pesticides
3 at the arsenal, what they were doing was diluting?

4 DR. McFARLAND: Oh, I don't know

5 what their process was. I just know that that
6 stuff's so dangerous; that they were doing both
7 nerve gas and pesticides at the same place at the
8 same time for protection purposes.

9 MR. KAUFMANN: I see. Okay. All

10 right. Thank you very much, sir. Okay.

11 The next speaker is Paul Fox.

12 MR. PAUL FOX: I'll pass at this

13 time.

14 MR. KAUFMANN: You'll pass at this

15 time. Okay.

16 Lanny L. Ford. Is that the correct
17 pronunciation?

18 MR. LARRY L. FORD: Good evening,
19 gentlemen. My name is Larry Ford. I live at 12388
20 Levy Circle in Henderson, Colorado. I'm a resident
21 of Henderson. I'm also the manager of the South
22 Adams Water and Sanitation District.

23 I've lived in the Commerce City
24 area for 45 years. I raised my three children
25 there, and I have 11 grandchildren being raised