1	NEW JERSEY WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY
2	IN RE:
3	PUBLIC FORUM
4	FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2019 NO NET LOSS COMPENSATORY REFORESTATION ACT
5	ROUND VALLEY RESERVOIR REHABILITATION PROJECT DEFORESTATION AND REFORESTATION PLAN
6	HELD AT:
7	NEW JERSEY WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY CONFERENCE ROOM 1851 STATE HIGHWAY 31
8	CLINTON, N.J. 11:30 A.M.
9	FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2018
10	APPEARANCES:
11	BETH GATES, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
12	NEW JERSEY WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY
13	MARC BROOKS, P.E. CHIEF ENGINEER NEW JERSEY WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY
14	JULIE SHELLEY
15	NEW JERSEY WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY PROPERTY & PERMIT ADMINISTRATOR
16	SCOTT RASCHKE, P.E.
17	PROJECT MANAGER, CONSULTING ENGINEER SCHNABEL ENGINEERING
18	BILL MACHOLDT, PWS
19	LEAD-PERMITTING & REGULATORY COMPLIANCE SUB-CONSULTANT
20	AMY S. GREEN, ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS
21	ROSA YOO NEW JERSEY FOREST SERVICE
22	
23	PUBLIC PRESENT:
24	PATRICIA SPRING, PUBLIC STEWARD
25	BY: INGRID BENNETT CERTIFIED SHORTHAND REPORTER LICENSE NO: 30X100212500

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11	<u>EXHIBIT</u>	
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13	Exhibit-1, Proof of Publication, was received	24
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1 MR. BROOKS: Anyone present please sign 2 I think you're the only member of the public here. 3 Everyone else has signed in already. If you want to provide testimony, I'd ask that you fill out one of 4 If you just have questions, there's no need to 5 6 fill one of these out. It is just a card identifying you. MS. GATES: Are you making a verbal 8 9 statement? 10 MS. SPRING: Not at this point, but I may 11 give one possibly. 12 MR. BROOKS: Okay. 13 My name is Marc Brooks, I'm the Chief 14 Engineer of the New Jersey Water Supply Authority. 15 This is actually what was advertised in the paper. going to read through what the majority of this says: 16 17 Pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 13:11-14.4, and the No Net Loss Compensatory 18 19 Reforestation Act, Public Law 1993, Chapter 106, the 20 New Jersey Water Supply Authority is holding this 21 public forum to provide the public the opportunity to 22 comment on the Authority's plan to deforest more than one acre in certain areas around Round Valley Reservoir 23 24 necessary to complete the Round Valley Reservoir

Preservation Project and the Authority's plan to

reforest areas in accordance with statutes.

2.1

In addition to this forum where the public may submit written or oral statements, the public will have the opportunity to submit written comments to me, care of the New Jersey Water Supply Authority,

P.O. Box 5196, Clinton, New Jersey 08809 until April 9,

2019. You may also submit written comments to me

through info@njwsa.org until April 9th, 2019.

The Authority may not begin removing trees until 180 days from the date of this forum. The Authority must submit the deforestation and reforestation plan to the Division of Parks and Forestry within the Department of Environmental Protection, and the Community Forestry Council for approval.

The notice of this forum was advertised in the Star Ledger, the Hunterdon Democrat and Times of Trenton on January 24, 2019. The notice was also posted on the Authority's website.

The New Jersey Water Supply Authority is responsible for operating and maintaining the Round Valley Reservoir located in Clinton Township, Hunterdon County, New Jersey.

Round Valley Reservoir contains the largest supply of drinking water in the state. The

Authority is planning a project to refurbish the embankments of the Reservoir composed of the North Dam, South Dam and the Dike. These improvements to the embankments will extend the Reservoir's operating life and improve its durability. The project requires clearing approximately 40 acres of trees for temporary staging and stockpiling. More than a half of the trees being cleared are located in heavily ash-dominant forest stands that are dead or dying as a result of the Emerald Ash Borer.

I would now like to present an overview of the project and the plan for deforestation and reforestation. At the end of my presentation, you may ask questions or submit verbal or written statements.

__-

PRESENTATION BY MARC BROOKS:

MR. BROOKS: I am Marc Brooks. I'm the
Chief Engineer at the New Jersey Water Supply
Authority. Scott Raschke is here, he will be
presenting as well. He works with Schnabel
Engineering, he's the project manager. Schnabel
Engineering is the engineer of record for the project.

Bill Macholdt is also here from Amy S. Greene Environmental Consultants. They are a

subcontractor to Schnabel, and they're handling the No Net Loss part of the project.

What we are collectively going to talk about today, we're going to talk about Round Valley, the project description, the No Net Loss Statutory requirements, the project impacts pertinent to the No Net Loss, and we'll talk about the project website, and we'll have a public comment period and O&A.

Round Valley, so we are the New Jersey
Water Supply Authority. We are an independent State
Authority, "in but not of" the Department of
Environmental Protection.

We were created in 1981 to take over and operate the existing facilities and implement projects identified in the State Water Supply Plant.

We operate three water supply systems; the Raritan Basin System, which is comprised of Spruce Run and Round Valley Reservoirs, and the D&R Canal, and Manasquan Reservoir System, and we also operate a small water treatment plant that's connected to the Manasquan Reservoir System.

So Round Valley, Round Valley has three earthen embankments that were constructed in the 1960s to close the valley, the round valley, to impound the water. All three of the dams are Class-1 high hazard

dams and they are regulated by DEP Dam Safety Section.

The capacity of the reservoir is

55 billion gallons. It's the largest water reservoir

by volume in New Jersey. Round Valley Water is

released to the South Branch of the Rockaway Creek near

Whitehouse Station.

Part of the Raritan Basin System, Round

Valley, it's part of the Round Valley Basin System and

it is designed to help maintain passing stream flows on

the Raritan River. It's hard to see here, but we

mostly release out of Round Valley to the South Branch

of the Rockaway Creek and we have to maintain certain

stream flows here on the Raritan River. Our major

purveyor pulls the water out of the Raritan down here

in Bridgewater area, that's the New Jersey American

Water Company. (Indicating.)

The Raritan Basin System provides

241 million gallons per day in safe yield to ensure

adequate water supply and protection against drought.

The safe yield is the amount of water that a reservoir

system can supply without fail during the drought of

record. Approximately a million and a half people in

Central Jersey rely on the Raritan Basin System.

Round Valley, it's an off-stream pumped storage reservoir, and we fill it from a 3.2 mile

pipeline that connects to the South Branch of the Raritan River where we have a pumping station. The South Branch pumping station has ten 30 MGD pumps that are capable of 40 million gallons per day. In 2017, for instance, we pumped for about six months and added seven billion gallons to the reservoir, raising the water level by about ten feet.

Our professional staff are on site
every day on the dams. They're doing maintenance,
whether they're cutting grass or reading
instrumentation or simply doing security, they're on
the dams. That improves our dam safety. Our dam
inspections are conducted by engineers on a quarterly
basis. The State requires that be done annually.

The DEP State Park Service operates the recreational aspects of Round Valley, and the Division of Fish & Wildlife operate the fish and game aspects, and specifically the boat launch.

The project, why are we doing it? To protect and maintain this great State asset to ensure adequate water supply and protection against drought into the future.

Dams are typically built with an estimated 50 to 100 year service life. It's been almost 60 years, so this is an investment in the State's future.

1 The design standards have changed some 2 since the 1960s, and we are retrofitting the structures 3 with the latest engineering approaches to increase resiliency and sustainability for long-term water 5 supply needs. 6 To get this going, the Authority convened a panel of world renowned dam experts to advise us on how to best extend the operating life of the reservoir. 8 9 The cost of the project will be financed through 10 revenue generated by the sale of water. No tax money will be involved. 11 The Authority procured the services of 12 13 Schnabel Engineering as the Engineer of Record to 14 design and oversee the project. 15 Project description, I will turn it over 16 to Scott. 17 18 PRESENTATION BY SCOTT RASCHKE: 19 20 MR. RASCHKE: So Marc described the 2.1 function of Round Valley and some of the history. As 22 Marc mentioned, there's three earthen embankments which 23 close off the reservoir and form Round Valley 24 Reservoir. Two of the earthen embankments, so the two

on the north side on the western most portion, and I'll

go over these in a second, has the dike and the North

Dam and on the south side of the Reservoir we have the

South Dam, the dams are the third and fourth highest in

New Jersey, explains the retrofit of the structures

which is the major component of the project. There are

some additional ancillary aspects to the project,

improving existing piping, security improvements, but

the impacts of those are relatively minor compared to

the needs of the earthen embankment rehabilitation.

2.1

So this gives you an idea of the actual location. It's just south of the Borough of Lebanon, South of Routes 22 and 78. North Dam is adjacent on Old Mountain Road. Old Mountain Road goes north on Cherry Street into the Borough of Lebanon, and then County Route 629 continues along the northern part of the Reservoir. The Dike actually sits -- or the roadway actually sits on top of the Dike.

We continue to the west and south along Stanton Lebanon Road, which is County Road 629, the roadway hooks around to the southern part of the reservoir near -- or at the intersection of Molasses Hill Road where we have the South Dam, which is the third embankment.

So each of these structures is unique, and the project includes alterations to all three of these

embankment structures.

So, essentially the dike, North Dam and South Dam are earthen embankments, we call them zoned embankments where there is a central core and an upstream and a downstream shell. The structures are designed to impound the water and allow seepage to progress naturally under the flow of gravity and be collected within an existing blanket drain, and then eventually work its way into the regional groundwater system.

One of the features of the refurbishment, as Marc alluded to, is design procedures have changed somewhat, so the objective was to try to lengthen the ability of this blanket drain to intercept the seepage by constructing a chimney drain, and we will look at the details of that construction in a little bit.

The major component of the project and all of the work associated with it, is essentially to try to extend this chimney drain up into the existing embankment, and the design team reviewed several different options that actually incorporate that feature.

So this shows some photos of some typical dam construction projects. Here we've got some photos of a chimney drain type of material being placed with

fill material. You can see here, we have a layer of natural soil laying on top of the blanket drain, the horizontal drain with some pipes that actually collect the seepage. As you can see, this white material is a chimney drain that is being brought up the slope face of the downstream portion of this dam.

So, for example, at the South Dam, we've got the existing downstream embankment. There were essentially two options to try to incorporate this chimney drain, one we could have placed the chimney drain directly on the existing surface and placed additional fill on top of that for protection.

The second option was to remove a portion of the existing embankments, then construct the chimney drain and replace the material. There are certain tradeoffs in terms of the economy and the constructability of those options. Ultimately the option I'll present today is what we call the excavation option, where we actually partially excavate into the existing embankment, remove that material, I will go through these steps in a second, place this chimney drain and the new drainage features, toe drain, at the base of the dam. And all that work requires some impact beyond the immediate vicinity of the existing embankment to actually perform the excavations

and do the construction operations.

2.1

I'll just briefly go through the steps, so here is a representation of existing embankments.

We've got the reservoir impounded on the upstream side.

Groundwater surface goes through the dam and flows into the existing blanket drain, horizontal blanket drain.

So in order to facilitate the construction, the first thing that is needed is to install a dewatering system so that way we can draw down the existing groundwater table and safely perform the construction. So we install wells at various locations on the downstream face, pump the water out to lower the water table that facilitates the ability to actually do the excavation.

The sequence of construction is to remove a certain portion of the existing downstream face, which is done in stages until ultimately we excavate a new toe drain to collect seepage in a modern technique. We then place a new toe drain and chimney drain, which is this element that extends up the slope face, and cover that with soil as a protective measure. And so the completed project will actually have a new chimney drain on the downstream face, and will have existing soils which were originally excavated put in place.

Now, this option was chosen because it met

all of the design requirements, all of the requirements for the rehabilitation. It also was selected over the import option because with the import option it would have just placed the chimney filter on top of the existing slope, we would have had to bring in approximately 750,000 cubic yards of imported material, which would have resulted in a significant amount of truck traffic. So for economy and safety, it eliminated the need to import these materials either by bringing material by truck from a long distance or by finding borrowed materials in close proximity to the dam to minimize the impact to the natural environment and the surrounding areas, as well as increase safety by removing the need to have those 50,000 truck trips to bring in that 750,000 cubic yards of material.

Now, before I move on, one of the things
I'll point out is that as we excavate the dam in
sequence, that material has to be stockpiled somewhere.
As we excavate the dam face and bring in the new
chimney drain, we have to temporarily store the
material that we have excavated off the dam, and so
this is an impact to the project and the surrounding
areas because there's currently not enough sufficient
area, clear area, to facilitate the storage of those
materials. So the need for the clearing is caused by

two factors:

One, vegetation and trees in the immediate vicinity that would be impacted by this excavation directly and, two, we need areas adjacent to the work to stockpile the materials, and the areas that we selected were within close proximity of the work, which is done for both economy and dam safety.

Now, I'll talk a little bit more in detail specifically about the impacts at each of the three dam structures, but for now I'll turn it over to Bill, who will talk about the specific statutory requirements.

PRESENTATION BY BILL MACHOLDT:

14 --

MR. MACHOLDT: Good morning, I'm Bill Macholdt with Amy Greene's office. So, basically, as Scott just alluded to, we are doing a bit of clearing to create the staging and stockpiling areas, which is why we're subject to the No Net Loss requirements.

The No Net Loss provisions were initially enacted into State law back in 1993, and they were amended in 2001, and basically as Marc alluded to, they require you to, if you're doing a half acre or more of clearing as a State entity, you're required to prepare a Reforestation Plan. And, again, if you're doing more

1 than one acre of deforestation you're required to hold 2 this public forum, which is obviously what we're doing 3 today. Following the public forum today, there is 4 an open public comment period that will run for 60 days 5 6 so it will allow the public to, for the next 60 days to supply the Water Supply Authority with comment with regard to this presentation and the project in general. 8 And following that 60 days, the Water Supply Authority 9 10 has 60 days to respond to the public comment. And then during this period of time our office is involved in 11 actually preparing a Reforestation Plan for the impacts 12 13 that are associated with the clearing for implementation of the project. 14 15 The plans are subject to review, first of 16 all by the New Jersey Forest Service most importantly, 17 and then also by the New Jersey Community Forest 18 Counsel. 19 Rosa, do you provide them with that, or is 20 that somebody that we have to directly --2.1 MS. YOO: We provide --22 MACHOLDT: -- them. Thank you. 23 So the way you do the Compensatory

Reforestation, there are a couple of options available

to you. The one that we are considering for this

24

particular project is to replace the trees basically on site.

There are two other options, one of which is called the Alternative Site which allows you to pick another site that's owned by the public entity, or you can actually do monetary compensation, but again we're actually going to be looking at the replacement of trees.

The tree species that we're currently looking to use to do a reforestation are a mix of hickories, oaks, tulip poplar is apparently a good species for that. We are required to, based upon the way the calculation is done, to provide 408 whips or container trees from a four to six foot tall size per acre of forest for an area that we deforest.

The Forest Service requires that after two-year establishment period that 90 percent of those plantings are established, and the Forest Service will be the one who will be doing that, those inspections, to guarantee that that's the establishment that we have. The Forest Service makes the final determination with regard to, you know, whether the project is successful, and they will -- you know, that's their determination to make.

The guidelines for the No Net Loss

2.1

1 Program, that is the website if you're interested. 2 can download the guidelines. I've got a book there. 3 It's a relatively small book, and it tells you about all the requirements from the No Net Loss Program. 4 5 Thank you. 6 MR. RASCHKE: I guess I will kind go over 7 these, Bill, feel free to talk about it. MR. MACHOLDT: Okay. That's fine. 8 9 10 FURTHER PRESENTATION BY SCOTT RASCHKE: 11 12 MR. RASCHKE: And I'll specifically look 13 at the impacts, the areas that need to be cleared as a 14 result of the project, and these are driven by, as I said, two different things. 15 16 One, areas where we have existing trees 17 that will be disturbed just due to the footprint of the 18 project itself, and areas that we need to clear so we can temporarily store the excavated soils that we're 19 20 removing from the dam temporarily, and then replacing 21 after we've constructed that new toe drain and chimney 22 drain. 23 So at the dike, we've got a relatively 24 small area of existing trees that will be impacted.

This graphic shows the location of those, and this is

primarily driven by the footprint of the actual excavation that's required to perform the project.

At the North Dam, there are a small number of trees that are going to be impacted by the project. The largest area, however, that's going to be impacted is an area that we're going to clear so we can store, temporarily store, the excavated material from the North Dam while construction is occurring. The areas were chosen to be in close proximity to where the excavation, the work was actually occurring, and this is done for two reasons. It is done for economy so that we don't have to move the material an excessive distance. It's also for safety because the areas do not have to be accessed via public roadways.

They also are in close proximity to the work, which is selected to keep the materials in close proximity to the dam just out of due diligence for dam safety.

South Dam, pointing out some existing features. Here we have the South Dam embankment, this is an existing clear area on the east side of the dam, relatively flat, that is for the Round Valley Youth Center. There is a pond and some additional areas.

I want to reference the areas that we're going to be influencing for clearing for staging and

stockpiling is primarily between the Youth Center and this existing pond. There are some additional areas, however, that are going to be cleared both to have area for additional staging and stockpiling. Some that will be impacted, again, by the footprint of the actual excavation, and some for staging the largest area of which is the area between the existing clear Youth Center and the pond, and this is the area where there's a significant amount of existing trees which are impacted by the Emerald Ash Borer. So, these are the areas which are going to be cleared and impacted by the project for those two different purposes.

I'll turn it back over to Bill and he'll talk specifically about some of the areas particularly as they relate to the ash tree area that I pointed out in that last slide.

17 | --

FURTHER PRESENTATION BY MR. MACHOLDT:

19 --

MR. MACHOLDT: Sure. So we have, as Scott just said, we have that 24.1 acre area that's basically infested, has ash trees in it, they're infested with the Emerald Ash Borer.

Emerald Ash Borer is a large problem for our ash trees. On site generally what I've been

reading about is within three to four years of a tree becoming infected it's probably going to be dead.

Nationwide problem is it's becoming more prevalent. The number I saw was that within a few decades we might lose almost all of the ash trees wherever they are growing throughout the United States, so that's a real unfortunate, real unfortunate thing.

One of the best reasons other than the staging and stockpiling but to get these ash trees out of there is, again, as Scott said, this is the Round Valley Youth Center. This area is used by kids during the summertime and probably even into the fall and other times of the year. The last thing we want out there is large trees falling down onto people. Bad idea.

So the No Net Loss rules allow for, there's basically an exemption that's allowed for taking down trees that are infested, insect infested, specifically in this case with Emerald Ash Borer.

We had the Forest Service out there a week ago to do a survey for us to determine how much of the area was actually dominated by ash trees and how many were non-ash, and they came back to us with the number of 67.1 percent of the ash tree area is actually dominated by ash trees, and the other 32.9 is non-ash

and/or other species of tree.

So what that does for us is, we are then only responsible in terms of our reforestation effort for the 32.9 percent of that 24 acres, which gives us a responsibility of about 7.9 acres that we will have to restore for.

So this is basically the overall number of clearing acres that we're going to have for the project. So North Dam has got that relatively large area that Scott was showing that's 11.8 acres. South Dam, again, that very large ash tree area which is 24.1 acres within there, and then those other ancillary areas which give you 3.2 acres. So it's really the 11 to 27, and then 1 acre at the dike, which gives you the 40.1 acres of total deforestation.

So in terms of our anticipated mitigation or reforestation, we're looking at the 11.8 acres at the North Dam. Basically, the addition of the ancillary areas and the ash tree area, which gives us 11.1, and then the 1 acre at the dike, which gives us a total of 23.9 acres that we're going to be responsible for reforesting, or at least that's the number we have to use to make our calculation with regards to how many replacement trees we need to provide.

The current project suggests that we're

going to plant, the majority of our reforestation will take place within that cleared ash tree area. We have some additional area at North Dam, which we will probably have to use to do a little bit of additional planting. So this is that ash tree area at the South Dam, which will be reforested based on our reforestation plan, and then this is the potential and, you know, again the size of this is going to be adjusted based upon our final calculation as to how many acres we actually need for our replanting, but that's an area that's available at North Dam for us to reforest as well.

MR. BROOKS: So if you haven't seen it already, our website is great. There's a lot of information on there on the project, on the Authority. There's a list of frequently asked questions. There's contacts. There's an e-mail. You can sign up for e-mail blasts that give updates on the project. There's a timeline for the project. I would ask that you look at that if you're interested.

I'm handing the Proof of Publication of this hearing to the stenographer to enter it into public record, and I would open it up to questions if you have any.

1	(At which time, Exhibit-1, Proof of
2	Publication, was received and marked in evidence.)
3	
4	PUBLIC COMMENT, Q & A:
5	
6	MS. GATES: Would you kindly state your
7	name for the stenographer?
8	MS. SPRING: Patricia Spring.
9	MR. BROOKS: Do you have any comments?
LO	MS. SPRING: I will get to the forest, but
L1	I guess you're addressing the whole project; isn't that
L2	right, that's the whole project, not just the tree
L3	issue?
L 4	MR. BROOKS: Well, we gave you a summary
L5	of the whole project, sort of outlining
L 6	MS. SPRING: Well, I have a question. How
L7	will this project affect the Prescott Brook on the
L8	South Dam side?
L 9	MR. BROOKS: How will it affect the
20	Prescott Brook? I don't think it will affect it. I
21	don't think it will have an effect on it.
22	MS. SPRING: Now, is that brook at that
23	point at the South Dam, is that fed from coming
24	underneath the brook, the original source of the brook,
25	or is it fed through the blanket drain or toe drain?

1	What waters from Round Valley are contributory to the
2	Prescott Brook?
3	MR. BROOKS: The existing seepage through
4	the dam feeds the Prescott Brook.
5	MS. SPRING: From underneath or from the
6	toe drain to the blanket drain?
7	MR. BROOKS: I would say both. I would
8	say both. Some of the water is coming underneath the
9	dam, and it's showing up in places we don't see it, and
10	some of the water is visibly coming out of the toe of
11	the dam out of the blanket drain.
12	MS. SPRING: And that water coming from
13	the toe drain is coming from the top of the dam?
14	MR. BROOKS: No. Okay, so this line here,
15	this dashed line is called the phreatic line, so it's
16	representing the point at which the entire dam below it
17	is saturated. So seepage could be coming through at
18	any point through here
19	MS. SPRING: Oh, it's not like a pipeline
20	then, that dotted line?
21	MR. BROOKS: No.
22	MS. SPRING: The dotted line is showing
23	how high up that
24	MR. BROOKS: Right. That's where we
25	measure the existing the saturation zone

1	MR. MACHOLDT: Is it like the water table,
2	Marc?
3	MR. BROOKS: It's a water table.
4	MS. SPRING: Okay. See, I was thinking it
5	was like a pipeline.
6	MR. RASCHKE: No, it's just the top of the
7	surface of that.
8	MS. SPRING: So when they're removing all
9	the dirt, that won't cause undue sediment running in to
10	Prescott Brook?
11	MR. BROOKS: It shouldn't. We will have
12	measures in place, not from this water, this water will
13	still be below the ground, this water will. They will
14	be pumping some down they will be pumping some out
15	from down here out of the rock, and that will
16	automatically be discharged to the brook.
17	MS. SPRING: When they remove the water
18	and it rains, what are you doing so that muddy water
19	doesn't go into the Prescott Brook?
20	MR. BROOKS: There will be measures in
21	place.
22	MS. SPRING: So at no point then should
23	Prescott Brook be muddy water?
24	MR. BROOKS: Correct, there'll be measures
25	in place.

1	MS. SPRING: It's just a normal natural
2	occurrence.
3	MR. BROOKS: Right.
4	MR. RASCHKE: We have to comply with the
5	rules of Hunterdon County for erosion and sediment
6	control, and those will be adhered to.
7	MS. SPRING: And what department in
8	Hunterdon County would you be working with regarding
9	that?
LO	MR. RASCHKE: That's the local
L1	conservation district.
L2	MR. BROOKS: Soil Conservation District.
L3	MR. MACHOLDT: Soil Conservation District.
L 4	MS. SPRING: Now, can you show the picture
L5	of where you are removing trees at the South Dam?
L 6	First of all, I want to address the area,
L7	I think it's marked 0.4 acres, that's on the left side.
L8	Yes, that small area. It actually happens to be right
L9	now that is one of the most beautiful, with the trees
20	that are there are the most beautiful in the fall when
21	you're driving north on 629. The array of trees there
22	is dogwoods, the colors are just brilliant and vibrant.
23	So when you remove them, you're not planning now to
24	reforest that, are you?
25	MR. BROOKS: Correct, and

1	MS. SPRING: And why would you need to
2	remove those trees?
3	MR. BROOKS: Scott?
4	MR. RASCHKE: That's primarily to allow,
5	in addition to using these cleared areas for staging
6	and stockpiling, these other open areas will be used as
7	well. So we need to expand the footprint slightly just
8	to optimize the configuration of the truck traffic and
9	other construction activity.
10	MS. SPRINGS: But we're talking about
11	0.4 acre, and in light of all of that area below it,
12	would that still be necessary? It's just because they
13	are such beautiful specimens of trees in that area, I
14	just know from the fall from viewing.
15	MR. BROOKS: I'm going to ask, do you
16	think that they're all on the edge here because
17	MS. SPRINGS: Oh, no, they're farther up,
18	too.
19	MR. BROOKS: We're only taking this.
20	We're only proposing this small sliver.
21	MS. SPRINGS: About how many feet do you
22	think that is in depth?
23	MR. RASCHKE: Unfortunately, there's not a
24	scale here, but if that's only four-tenths of an acre,
25	it's probably, you know, tens of feet.

1	MS. SPRING: Tens of feet?
2	MR. RASCHKE: Yes, not hundreds of feet.
3	Less than 50 feet easily.
4	MS. SPRING: I'm going to tell you, these
5	beautiful dogwoods are right in that area.
6	Is there any consideration that dogwoods
7	be one of the trees that is used in the reforestation?
8	MR. MACHOLDT: That's not a species that's
9	been recommended by the Forest Service.
10	MS. SPRING: Because?
11	MR. MACHOLDT: I would have to ask the
12	Forest Service.
13	MS. SPRING: So most of the reforestation
14	is going to be taking place in the 24.1 acres?
15	MR. BROOKS: Correct.
16	MS. SPRING: And is staging, the removal
17	of all of those trees is due, is being said is because
18	of the Emerald Ash Borer, correct, or is it also
19	because you're staging there, too?
20	MR. BROOKS: Well, we're staging there.
21	We're staging there but we chose that because the ash
22	trees were there we thought that was the best place to
23	choose that would do the least damage.
24	MS. SPRING: And of that 24.1, all that
25	area is going to have soil dumped on top of it

temporarily?

MR. BROOKS: Yes, the majority.

MS. SPRING: And yet on the north side you don't need that much land?

MR. RASCHKE: The requirements are dependant on how much existing area we have available to us. So we're clearing these areas because the footprint that we have here is not sufficient.

We're also doing... the dike and the North Dam are essentially adjacent to each other, and we anticipate now doing the dike first, and then the North Dam. So some of this area at the dike can be used while we're actually doing the North Dam. So we have more available area on the north side because we will be doing these rehabilitation of the dike and the North Dam in different sequences.

MS. SPRING: Now, back to the picture of the South Dam. There are some of the ash that aren't infected. Now my question is, is the proaction thing remove all ash, is that sort of the -- the Forestry says that we must remove all of the ash? I mean, obviously, we won't have a problem then if we don't have any ash. So is that the way of seeing this, to remove them all?

MR. BROOKS: I think we see the removing

1	of the ash tree areas as the lesser of two evils. So
2	we need the area for staging. We have chosen the ash
3	trees because the area with the ash trees because
4	they are already infected.
5	MS. SPRING: But 67 percent, so there's 40
6	percent that aren't affected?
7	MR. BROOKS: We need the area for the
8	staging. So we've chosen that area, again, the lesser
9	of two evils, right? We'd rather choose an area like
10	this. We thought about this. We chose this because
11	the trees are already dying there. That's why we chose
12	that area. (Indicating.)
13	MS. SPRING: And who will be doing the
14	removal of these trees?
15	MR. BROOKS: It will be a contractor. The
16	contractor, we'll be bidding it out. We expect to have
17	one general contractor who will be doing the work on
18	the dams, and he might subcontract the tree removal
19	out, that's up to him.
20	MS. SPRING: So that hasn't been, the
21	contractor who will be doing it, hasn't been selected
22	yet
23	MR. BROOKS: Correct.
24	MS. SPRING: or the person removing it.
25	And the wood that's removed, how would will that be

1 disposed of? 2 MR. BROOKS: The ash tree... go ahead, 3 Bill. MR. MACHOLDT: Well, I think the idea is that it's ground up it's left on site. 5 MR. BROOKS: At least the ash trees. 6 MR. MACHOLDT: The ash trees. MR. BROOKS: The other trees? 8 MR. MACHOLDT: We'll be taking that wood 9 10 off site. MR. BROOKS: Will be taken off site. 11 MS. SPRING: Okay. So how does that in 12 13 the life of an Emerald Borer get rid of that? MR. MACHOLDT: Get rid of? 14 15 MS. SPRING: The eggs, and the lifecycle of -- because usually I thought when you had 16 contaminated infested wood it had to be burned. 17 18 MR. MACHOLDT: That's a great way to kill, 19 obviously, the egg larva and the bug itself, but 20 again, we're removing the ash trees from that area and 2.1 what we're planting back is not going to be ash. So 22 the fact that we're leaving that wood ground in that 23 area it's not going to be detrimental certainly to that 24 area. And other adjacent areas around here, if there's 25 Emerald Ash Borer there, they're already within this

1 geographic area. So I don't think there's really going 2 to be any impact. I mean, certainly less of an impact 3 than dragging these logs off site and bringing them somewhere where perhaps they have trees that aren't 4 currently infested. 5 6 MR. BROOKS: The main idea is to not 7 transport the bugs to other places where they are not

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already.

MS. SPRING: And at this time there is no way to kill the borer?

MR. MACHOLDT: I think there are treatments, but the things I've read about the treatments is that they're very long-term, and at this point these trees, at least the ones I've seen out there, are highly compromised. These trees are not -they're pretty much at least halfway dead, if not further.

I was out there in the fall. They had lost their leaves before any other tree had lost any leaves whatsoever. So these trees are gone. One way or another, these trees are not going to be there very soon.

MS. SPRING: And am I seeing this right, on the 24.1 acres on the lower south, yes, that's the side (indicating), is that going along the road of the

1	recreation area? Where is the road that goes from 629
2	to the recreation area?
3	MR. MACHOLDT: It's right below the
4	MS. SPRING: I see it. So this is really
5	contained pretty much right below, right with the
6	recreation area, correct?
7	MR. BROOKS: Yes. This is a, this is a
8	wooded area. Right. I guess they use it all here.
9	MS. SPRING: So when these trees are
10	removed, what's going to be done to stop erosion,
11	because it is on an incline, correct?
12	MR. BROOKS: Right. Well, we will have
13	to, we will be again, Hunterdon County Soil
14	Conservation District will have guidelines for the part
15	of the Reforestation Plan.
16	Is there grass in between the trees?
17	MR. MACHOLDT: Yes, there will be the tree
18	planting and seeding as well, and as Scott was alluding
19	to before, they will be subject to the Soil Erosion
20	Sediment Control Plan, so they're going to have to make
21	sure these areas are stabilized and are not eroding per
22	the regulations.
23	MS. SPRING: And if I got this right, this
24	24.1 acres won't all be reforested?
25	MR. MACHOLDT: It will be.

1 MS. SPRING: It will be. 2 MR. MACHOLDT: It will be. 3 MS. SPRING: I thought there's some sort of -- only 23.9. 4 5 MR. BROOKS: So the number -- go ahead, Bill. 6 MR. MACHOLDT: Right. I think what's getting confusing is the calculation that we're making 8 9 because we have the 32.9 percent, that percent that is 10 not ash tree and the percentage that is ash tree. I think that's where the confusion is coming in. 11 MR. BROOKS: I think this 23.9 acres is 12 13 the number of acres we need to make the calculations, 14 to multiply by 408 trees per acre deforested. 15 MR. MACHOLDT: Right. 16 MR. BROOKS: So we're going to take that 17 23.9, multiply by 408, that is the number of trees, and then we need to determine how much space we need, and 18 19 it's more than that 24.1 acres. MR. MACHOLDT: And let me just point out, 20 2.1 I think there is a slight discrepancy between these two 22 mappings. We are still on the process of developing 23 our Reforestation Plan. So these numbers, as we allude 24 to here, these numbers are at this point approximate. 25 I mean, they're not going to vastly change, you know,

1	20 acres here or there, but it might be .3 or .2 acres
2	off at this point.
3	MS. GATES: Is it safe to say that the
4	bulk of the trees will be planted in the Boy Scout
5	area, former ash tree area?
6	MR. MACHOLDT: Yes.
7	MS. GATES: If you need more space, the
8	balance of the trees will go to the North Dam?
9	MR. MACHOLDT: That's correct.
10	MS. SPRING: And will these trees be
11	planted randomly, or in a row, or what is the
12	intention?
13	MR. MACHOLDT: The way you generally plant
14	trees is you're given an on-center distance. So you're
15	trying to, you're not planting them in rows, what
16	you're trying to do is put one here and then ten feet
17	away you put one here. So you try to plant them as
18	randomly as you possibly can.
19	MS. SPRING: Will it be approximately ten
20	feet away each tree?
21	MR. MACHOLDT: Exactly, each tree will be
22	approximately ten feet from the other one.
23	MS. SPRING: And who will be overseeing
24	this removal of the trees and reforestation on site?
25	MR. BROOKS: So the Authority, we are the

1	owners of the project. Schnabel will have
2	representatives on site doing construction inspection
3	for all aspects of the project.
4	MS. SPRING: On a daily basis, a weekly
5	basis?
6	MR. BROOKS: On a daily basis they'll be
7	there. And on top of that, I think Bill said that the
8	Parks and Forestry Service will have a final review of
9	the plantings both when they're done, I think, and two
10	years later to make sure the mortality rate is
11	appropriate. Right?
12	MR. MACHOLDT: Yes, I actually believe
13	that they do a yearly inspection.
14	MS. SPRING: Is there any consideration to
15	have evergreens as part of the reforestation?
16	MR. MACHOLDT: Again, that was not
17	provided in the species list I got, but I can certainly
18	ask about that.
19	MS. SPRING: I think that would be a good
20	idea.
21	MR. MACHOLDT: Again, we're kind of
22	subject to whatever the Forest Service recommends.
23	MS. SPRING: You're subject to it?
24	MR. MACHOLDT: Yes.
25	MS. SPRING: But you can't recommend?

1	MR. MACHOLDT: We get recommendations.
2	No, I can certainly ask them about it, but they are the
3	arbiters as to what can and can't be done, so I can
4	certainly ask them about that.
5	MS. SPRING: Just a guess, why would they
6	not go for having evergreens?
7	MR. MACHOLDT: That's a great question,
8	and if I find the answer I can certainly pass it on to
9	you.
10	MS. SPRING: If they said nixing on the
11	evergreens can you find out why not?
12	MR. MACHOLDT: That will be part of the
13	comment response.
14	MS. SPRING: And is this the only public
15	meeting that there will be before this all goes
16	forward, or he's going to check there and everything?
17	How would I know if I was just spinning my wheels here?
18	MS. GATES: The transcript will be posted
19	on our website as will the Q&A responses to the public
20	comments.
21	MS. SPRING: And that's the
22	Roundvalleyproject.com?
23	MS. GATES: Yes.
24	MS. SPRING: Is this PowerPoint also on
25	that?

1	MS. GATES: Not yet.
2	MS. SPRING: But it will be.
3	MS. GATES: Large parts of it.
4	MS SPRING: I specifically request that,
5	especially this mapping, the red areas I mean, the
6	whole thing, but I specifically on this north, you
7	know, South Dam because that seems to be where mostly
8	the extensive disruption will be. Is it possible?
9	MS. GATES: Yes.
10	MS. SPRING: Okay. And at some point, I
11	heard ash tree 7.9 acres have to be restored?
12	MR. MACHOLDT: Correct, that was because
13	we are getting we did a study of the area, and found
14	out that 67.1 percent of that area is actually the ash
15	tree. So those we're not responsible for reforesting
16	that percentage. However, 32.9 percent of that area
17	contained other species. We are responsible for the
18	reforestation for those species, and that's what gives
19	us that 7.9
20	MS. BROOKS: 32.9 is the non-ash
21	percentage
22	MR. MACHOLDT: Times the 24 percentage
23	MS. SPRING: Is it possible, though, to
24	ask whoever is contracted to make it a part of the
25	agreement that even the ash tree area will also be

reforested, not with ash trees, but with trees?

MR. MACHOLDT: No, that whole area is going to be reforested. That whole 24.1 acre area will be the subject of the reforestation plan. This is just how we're doing the calculation as to how to get to how much needs to be, but that whole ash tree area that's going to be cleared is going to be replanted, and we need probably a little bit of additional area of the North Dam.

MS. SPRING: Okay.

MR. RASCHKE: We're required right now based on the figures that we have, we're required to restore 23.9 acres, and that area happens to be approximately equal to that. So the area that we're required to mitigate is approximately equal to the size of the ash tree area, which is 24.1 --

MR. MACHOLDT: With the fear of confusing that, the 23.9 number that Scott just referenced, that's the number that we have to use to calculate how much reforestation we have to do. We will actually have to reforest for slightly more acreage because of the way the calculation works out. So that is why we might need that additional area at North Dam. We will need that entire area at South Dam where the ash trees are. We have to do that whole thing. We'll probably

1 need a small sliver at North Dam to get our additional 2 acreage to get the rest of those trees in. 3 MS. SPRING: Now, this is like a side question, but while I got you here I'm just... it's a 4 5 curiosity thing. In the law about No Net Loss, I'm 6 just curious, if there is a parcel of trees and someone removes a good portion of those, it's on State property, removes... in harvesting trees more than... 8 9 what was the law, over a half an acre? 10 MR. MACHOLDT: Yes. 11 MS. SPRING: Do they have to reforest it 12 also? 13 MR. MACHOLDT: Well, I think you're saying 14 harvesting, that implies they have a Forest Management 15 Plan, and I would assume if you're subject to a Forest 16 Management plan, you're not replacing trees at that 17 point. This is if --MS. SPRING: And if you didn't have the 18 19 forest --20 MR. MACHOLDT: It's beyond my --2.1 MS. SPRING: That was just a sideline 22 thing that came up when I saw that. 23 And you are? 24 MS. GATES: Beth Gates. 25 MS. SPRING: And what's your --

1	MS. GATES: Executive Director.
2	MS. SPRING: Director of here?
3	MS. GATES: Yes.
4	MS. SPRING: It's just important to know
5	who I talked so in the future, you know, I know who to
6	contact.
7	And you're from?
8	MR. MACHOLDT: Amy Greene Environmental
9	Consultants. We're a firm in Flemington and
10	subcontracted to Schnabel. So he is overseeing me.
11	MS. SPRING: Back to the picture of the
12	North Dam with the 24.4 acre red marking.
13	MR. BROOKS: South Dam.
14	MS. SPRING: South Dam. Where the pond is
15	on the Round Valley recreation area, and also because
16	it's an incline which runs down to the Prescott Brook,
17	will that pond get muddy after all of this work here?
18	MR. MACHOLDT: Not if they do their soil
19	and sediment control.
20	MR. RASCHKE: We have to, the Hunterdon
21	County Soil Conservation District has specific
22	requirements when you disturb the land to control
23	MS. SPRING: Hunterdon County?
24	MR RASCHKE: Yes, Hunterdon County. They
25	are the regulatory agency that's responsible for

1	MS. SPRING: Now, in the line of command
2	of that Prescott Brook and the pond and the water, is
3	that the water supply company or with Hunterdon County
4	department, who is on the higher command there?
5	MS. GATES: Meaning what?
6	MS. SPRING: Like if you saw a muddy brook
7	or the pond all muddy, who is the first in command
8	about that?
9	MS. GATES: You mean if you were to see it
10	and you want bring it to someone's attention?
11	MS. SPRING: Yes.
12	MS. GATES: You could always contact the
13	Water Supply Authority.
14	MS. SPRING: That's you?
15	MS. GATES: That's us, or you could
16	contact the Hunterdon County Soil Conservation
17	District.
18	MR. BROOKS: And then they will contact
19	us.
20	MS. GATES: Then they'll contact us
21	anyway.
22	MR. BROOKS: So we need to get a permit
23	from them to do this project, and to get that permit we
24	need to show them what the plans are to prevent that
25	from happening, and they will approve that or not.

1 MS. SPRING: I think I'm coming to the end 2 of my questions here, but since I'm the only public 3 person here, I think there's time for this. And I just say that I am one who is the representing many. I 4 think there are many people who don't read this little 5 6 fine print in the Democrat. The Democrat is like a na-na paper anymore and, but I think if a lot of people 8 were more aware there would be more people here. I'm 9 just definitely an aware person. 10 Going back to the .4 acres, how could you 11 make me feel more confident, more relaxed about that 12 area and protecting what I see is a very special tree 13 area? 14 MR. BROOKS: I don't know how to answer 15 that. 16 MR. SPRING: Is there any way --17 MR. BROOKS: I look at this and we're just 18 taking a little sliver. 19 MS. SPRING: Yeah, but you're taking a 20 sliver, because that outer edge that's getting the most 2.1 sun and you're getting... here's also where I'm coming 22 from, we have a definite deer problem in this area, and 23 for every tree that we take down by itself, and I'll 24 address that in a minute, too, every tree that

naturally comes down, it doesn't get to reseed itself.

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Even when they're up, they're not allowed to reseed themselves because of the deer, and there is no question of that.

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I've lived in this area more than 50 years, and you never... when you look through a forest from the beginning you couldn't see through there. If there are houses on the other side or within the forest you couldn't see them. Now, here in the winter it's like you see more of everything than you ever could see, and even the summer you see stuff that you never could see, and it's due to this deer that aren't being controlled, and unfortunately when people are hunting on the outskirt of the State property all of the deer are running over here and hiding. So I know that's not our particular area. I'm just saying removing trees is something we got to keep very mindful that the natural way that the earth deals with this is compromised because of a number of things that we have done to this environment and, you know, natural habitat of the deer, not killing the deer, this and that. So that's why I'm really concerned about this .4 acres. The poor things are struggling there to survive and now we're just coming along and wiping them out.

MS. GATES: The Water Supply Authority does not take lightly taking down trees. However, this

is a high hazard dam and these improvements have to be made to the embankment.

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We have these staging areas for dam safety purposes so that soil is close by in the event that we need it quickly. We are trying to minimize the number of acreage that is impacted by the removal of the trees, and if in planning this project there is a decision made that we don't need to take down certain trees, we wouldn't do it, but in the end if we do have to widen that space in order to accommodate staging areas, dam safety issues, trucking routes through the site, we will have to take them. But I do commit to you that we don't take it lightly and we will plan it as best we can.

MS. SPRING: And most of the trucking is going to be on site, so it's not going to be like they'll be bringing things on these roads?

MS. GATES: There is a certain amount of fill that will have be brought in for the drain, but this material that we'll be excavating out of the dam will be placed on site to be replaced back into the dam.

MS. SPRING: And the truck traffic will be coming from 22, or it will be coming from, you know, Flemington out to there, or is it mostly through 22

1	access?
2	MR. BROOKS: It won't be allowed on
3	Molasses Hill.
4	MS. GATES: 22 access, 78 access along the
5	county highway, along Round Valley access road.
6	MS. SPRINGS: Yes, well, that's what I'm
7	saying, will 629 be impacted
8	MS. GATES: Yes.
9	MS. SPRINGS: north of the dam by a lot
10	of truck traffic?
11	MS. GATES: Yes.
12	MS. SPRING: It can't go down 31 and then
13	come around onto 22? I'm trying to alleviate less
14	traffic right onto
15	MR. MACHOLDT: If you're on 22 you have to
16	come in on 629.
17	MS. SPRING: Yes, I know up there, but the
18	lower area which is in wetlands area
19	MR. BROOKS: You mean south of here?
20	MS. SPRING: Yes.
21	MS. GATES: They won't be going south of
22	the South Dam. They will coming in from 22, 78, on
23	629.
24	MS. SPRING: So it's not coming from the
25	Flemington

1	MR. BROOKS: No.
2	MS. SPRINGS: That's my concern. Up there
3	it's higher, it's a wider road, but when you start
4	going south from the South Dam on 629, you're dealing
5	with lot of curves, fragile lands, wetlands, you know,
6	that road does not need any more access.
7	When you're replanting the trees are they
8	going to have some kind of protection from the deer?
9	MR. MACHOLDT: Yes, definitely.
10	MS. SPRINGS: Well, at the moment I think
11	you've addressed I thank you for giving me the
12	opportunity to address these questions, and I
13	particularly appreciate your courtesy in which you've
14	responded, you know, not being demeaning, like who is
15	this person asking anything like that. I just want to
16	tell you I really appreciate that courtesy.
17	We do have until April to send written
18	concerns, correct?
19	MS. GATES: April 9th.
20	Ms. SPRING: Once again, as much as
21	possible, this PowerPoint, if that could be on the
22	Roundvalleyproject.com.
23	Would there be a reason why you couldn't
24	put it all on?
25	MS. GATES: Well, we would have to make a

1	determination if any of the graphics with respect to
2	the embankment are sensitive for security purposes, but
3	the maps certainly of the areas of deforestation and
4	reforestation, we will post them. A lot of the other
5	issues that are addressed in these slides are already
6	up on the website.
7	MS. SPRING: Now, there was a website that
8	I think the State do you have a card?
9	MR. MACHOLDT: I didn't bring cards, but I
10	can give you my information.
11	MS. SPRING: That would be good. And do
12	you have a card?
13	MS. YOO: I don't, ma'am.
14	MS. SPRING: You're from the State, right?
15	Could you give me your information if I need to contact
16	you. I think that concludes my part in this matter.
17	MS. GATES: We shall adjourn the meeting
18	at 12:34. Thank you very much.
19	(Whereupon, the matter was concluded.)
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1	CERTIFICATE
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3	I, INGRID BENNETT, Certified Court
4	Reporter of the State of New Jersey, do hereby swear
5	that the foregoing is a true and accurate record of the
6	live testimony taken stenographically by me; and I am
7	neither attorney nor counsel for nor related to or
8	employed by any of the parties to the action in which
9	this matter is taken; and further, that I am not a
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