
Good afternoon Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee. My name is Angela Renee Jones and I am a Trustee for Jefferson Township, located in Montgomery County, Ohio. It is a pleasure to be here today to present my views on steps taken by the U.S. Army, Parsons, Perma-Fix, and Montgomery County with respect to the satisfaction of the public acceptance requirements of Perma-Fix's contract with Parsons and the U.S. Army. I want to stress, that my comments are based upon information I am aware of in my capacity as Jefferson Township Trustee, a position I have held for six years.

I have been invited to provide remarks regarding the extent to which I believe the public acceptance measures of the contract in question have been fulfilled.

The U.S. Army, Parsons, and Perma-Fix of Dayton have not provided a clear definition of what was meant by "a measure of public acceptance for planned hydrolysate transport and disposal".

Does it mean that the public had to accept the transport and disposal of VX hydrolysate at Perma-Fix? Does it mean that without this public acceptance, the project would not go forward? There is and are so many questions unanswered; however, our 3rd Congressional District Congressman Mike Turner had his office provide me with a document titled "**Accelerated Newport Parsons – Perma-**

Fix Contract Outreach Language”. Section 3.3 of this document states there are a minimum of five (5) Outreach and related requirements to be addressed in the Subcontractor’s plan.

My testimony will address to what extent Parsons, Perma-Fix of Dayton and Montgomery County satisfied these minimum requirements related to the public acceptance aspect of the contract.

During the summer of 2002, representatives from Perma-Fix of Dayton met with Jefferson Township officials stating that they were considering pursuing a contract with the Army to dispose of VX hydrolysate. Shortly thereafter Perma-Fix met with Montgomery County officials, also advising them that they were “considering pursuing” a contract to dispose of the VX hydrolysate. We were aware that Perma-Fix had submitted an application to Parsons in September of 2002 to dispose of the VX hydrolysate.

Soon after, the Township Administrator and Fire Chief met with a Review Team from Newport Indiana, Parsons, and the U.S. Army during their site visit at Perma-Fix of Dayton.

There was then an announcement that Perma-Fix of Dayton had received a limited notice to proceed and was awarded a subcontract from Parsons. Township officials met with Perma-Fix to discuss the best ways to inform Township residents of the award.

After the announcement, Township Trustees were contacted by citizens and urged to oppose the project. Perma-Fix then set up the first Jefferson Township public meeting in January 2003 at the Jefferson Township Board of Education Office.

Officials from Perma-Fix, Parsons, Newport Indiana, and the U.S. Army were present with displays showing the proposed process, general information packages, and to answer questions from the Jefferson Township community.

After this first public hearing, it became clear to me that there were a lot of unanswered questions about the proposed project, the disposal process, and how it would impact the health and safety of Jefferson Township residents.

Perma-Fix decided to hold a meeting in March 2003 to establish a Citizen Advisory Panel. This public information session also ended with many questions related to the

process and the safety implications for residents not having been answered.

There were a couple more of these Citizen Advisory Panel meetings designed to get citizens involved and to obtain their input in the project; however, the citizens did not wish to participate as part of the panel.

Rather, citizens came to these meetings to ask pointed questions and to air their objections to the project. This was clearly not public acceptance.

Subsequently, the Jefferson Township Board of Trustees, in response to further Township residents concerns and the inability of the U.S. Army, Parsons, and Perma-Fix to adequately provide answers to specific health and safety questions, issued the following position statement on April 1, 2003:

“It is the position of the Jefferson Township Trustees that the movement of VX Hydrolysate from Newport,

Indiana to Perma-Fix, located in Jefferson Township, Montgomery County, Ohio is unacceptable.

After receiving numerous calls from Citizens, listening to their concerns at our monthly meetings and

attending public information forums regarding the issue we believe there are several unanswered questions regarding the safety of the proposed project?

This being the case, the Jefferson Township Trustees unanimously opposes Perma-Fix's effort to process VX Hydrolysate in Jefferson Township."

The Montgomery County Commissioners Vicki Pegg, Charles Curran, and Don Lucas passed a resolution on June 10, 2003, opposing the transportation and treatment of VX hydrolysate at the Jefferson Township facility of Perma-Fix of Dayton. The Montgomery County Commissioners also contracted with Dr. Bruce Rittmann, of Northwestern University as an expert consultant, to

undertake an independent study of Perma-Fix's proposed treatment method and their entire process.

Dr. Rittmann's findings concluded that even with a Doctorate Degree in Environmental Engineering he did not fully understand the impact of the Perma-Fix demonstration study.

In conclusion, I would like to state for the record that:

1. There can be no public acceptance when the same consultant recommends that Perma-Fix should upgrade the existing process equipment and address

current problems before committing to process the VX hydrolysate.

2. There can be no public acceptance when the process for treating the VX hydrolysate, while based on apparently scientifically sound individual steps, has never been proven effective on a larger scale.

3. There could be no public acceptance when the Government Accounting Office issued a report in September of 2003 criticizing the U.S. Army and Department of Defense for their management of the entire chemical weapons destruction program.

That concludes my prepared testimony. Thank you for the opportunity to appear before the Committee.
