

Attachment 1

1 March 10, 2022

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Transcription of videotape, New Indy
9 Interviews - for Approval, transcribed by
10 Eileen P. Barth, C.S.R., N.P.

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KATHLEEN MORAN: My name is Kathleen Moran. I live in Millbridge Community down here in Waxhaw in North Carolina.

LESLIE PHILIPS: Leslie Philips, and we live in Carolina Reserve in Indian Land, South Carolina, my husband John, and my daughter Ella -- she's four. We've lived here since 2017.

LUCINDA SWATZELL: I live in Catawba, South Carolina. I've lived here since January of 2015.

SHERRI CLAPPER: My name is Sheryl Lynn Clapper. I go by Sherri, and our community is Bent Creek. We moved in September of 2019.

MARIA BAKER: Maria Baker.

REED BAKER: Reed Baker.

MARIA BAKER: We have been in Treetops since September of 2018, but we have been in this area for 44 years.

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ALAN SNAIDER: Alan H.
Snaider.

MARGARET SNAIDER: Margaret
Snaider, Treetops subdivision,
Lancaster, South Carolina.

ALAN SNAIDER: Two years.

JENNIFER TSONAS: Jennifer
Tsonas.

CHARLES HOWARD: Charles
Howard. Treetops.

JENNIFER TSONAS: A little
over three years.

SYLVIA HUTCHINGS: My name
is Sylvia Hutchings, and I live in
the Treetop community; 11 months.

And I was a healthcare
professional when I worked. To be
more specific, I was a nurse
anesthetist, so I know about
respirations. It is affecting my
health.

MARGARET SNAIDER: He's a
pharmacist, and I'm a licensed
speech language pathologist. So

1 we both really understand the harm
2 that can be done by long-term
3 exposure.

4 LESLIE PHILIPS: I believe
5 we live about eight miles from the
6 paper mill.

7 LUCINDA SWATZELL: A little
8 less than two miles.

9 ALAN SNAIDER: I would say
10 3.7, 3.8 miles.

11 CHARLES HOWARD: 4.3 miles.

12 REED BAKER: We just learned
13 4.3 miles.

14 MARIA BAKER: 4.3 miles.

15 REED BAKER: As the crow
16 flies.

17 MARIA BAKER: As the crow
18 flies.

19 LUCINDA SWATZELL: We're
20 being hit strongly, strongly hit
21 with pollutants that are -- it's
22 causing problems with our health.

23 REED BAKER: We get up and
24 check the weather. Which way is

1 the wind going? Not whether it's
2 raining or sunny or what have you.
3 Which way is the wind today? Can
4 we go outside? Can we enjoy a
5 walk? Can we entertain?

6 Originally, it was the
7 rotten egg smell, and it was very,
8 very pervasive. It permeated the
9 house. And it was that way for
10 three, four, five months.

11 And of late, it has shifted,
12 and it's now a sweet, pungent,
13 chemical smell. And, you know, I
14 would categorize it as the smell
15 of a cheap lavatory cleaning. It
16 smells like a toilet.

17 MARIA BAKER: Actually, for
18 me, the smell now is, if you were
19 in a Port-A-John and outside the
20 Port-A-John was a campfire that
21 was burning dirty diapers. It's a
22 combination of the sweet chemical
23 stench of a Port-A-John with smoke
24 enhancing it. Very, very

1 obnoxious.

2 CHARLES HOWARD: We had to
3 block the bottom of the fireplace,
4 and I had to close off the vent
5 completely to seal it off from the
6 outside --

7 JENNIFER TSONAS: From the
8 outside.

9 CHARLES HOWARD: -- to keep
10 it from coming in the house,
11 because it was waking us up at
12 night.

13 KATHLEEN MORAN: It was
14 almost a year ago March. It's
15 actually gotten worse. The odor
16 has changed. It's -- it's like
17 being asphyxiated by sweet
18 chemicals. It's like something
19 I've never smelled before.

20 ALAN SNAIDER: Because now
21 it smells like those little cakes
22 that they put in the men's urinals
23 because I know they're adding
24 hydrogen peroxide, you know, as an

1 oxidative reduction product.

2 SYLVIA HUTCHINGS: I'm
3 having difficulty breathing, so
4 therefore I stay in the house.
5 And that's not why I moved here,
6 to be a prisoner in my own house.

7 ALAN SNAIDER: On certain
8 days, we're actually prisoners in
9 our own home.

10 KATHLEEN MORAN: Pissed off;
11 you don't feel good. Here you
12 are, you feel like a prisoner in
13 your home. You can't even go out
14 and enjoy, like, the beautiful --
15 this neighborhood is beautiful.

16 LESLIE PHILIPS: Sometimes
17 we just feel like we're a prisoner
18 in our own home, which is really
19 unfortunate.

20 CHARLES HOWARD: I have PTSD
21 from Vietnam, and I have to be
22 able to get out of the house,
23 literally. I -- I was crushed in
24 a bunker. Okay. I'm not going to

1 get into big details.

2 But the point is I have this
3 PTSD, and I have to have a sense
4 of being able to get out at any
5 given time. And that's
6 restricting that.

7 But I can't stay out there.
8 I go out there, my eyes burn like
9 crazy; my nose burns like crazy;
10 my throat and so forth, and it's
11 horrible. I can't even stay out
12 there.

13 But again, after I come in,
14 it -- you know, especially if it's
15 in the evening, I'm dealing with
16 that trying to go to sleep with
17 that burning sensation.

18 I could come in after being
19 out there for 10 minutes or so,
20 and it takes up to four hours for
21 that to clear my nose and clear my
22 head.

23 I can't come back in the
24 house -- it's not [inaudible].

1 It's not a refuge, you know, for
2 me to come back in the house
3 because that comes in with me.

4 MARIA BAKER: Last year when
5 the stench was getting into the
6 house and it was coming in -- in
7 our case, it was coming in from
8 the bathroom vents, and in the
9 laundry room especially. I would
10 have to go to sleep at night with
11 Vicks VapoRub underneath my nose,
12 a dryer sheet underneath my
13 pillow, and an air freshener in
14 the wall next to my bed, just to
15 sleep.

16 I was suffering from
17 migraines every time I smelled it,
18 bloody noses, sore throat to the
19 point of laryngitis, and nausea,
20 and irritability.

21 KATHLEEN MORAN: At first it
22 started out eyes burning, you
23 know, a little congestion. Every
24 night, I'm, like, all congested.

1 I didn't correlate it in the
2 beginning.

3 It started getting
4 progressively worse. I live with
5 this on and off. Depending on how
6 bad the smell is, nasal passages
7 constantly burning; if I blow my
8 nose, blood comes -- you know,
9 bloody mucous. I used to get a
10 severe burning in my chest, like
11 heartburn in my throat and chest
12 every time I would go outside. As
13 soon as I go outside, I come in.

14 Even my ears would get numb;
15 strangest things like popping in
16 my ears; complete brain fog.

17 LESLIE PHILIPS: I'm
18 honestly more concerned with the
19 long-term effects it will have on
20 our daughter. I think that that
21 would be any parent's concern.

22 A few months ago, we ended
23 up having to have a Solaris air
24 filter installed on our system.

1 It was about a thousand dollars.
2 And we had to have that installed
3 because I would wake up in the
4 morning and smell the fumes in my
5 daughter's playroom, and I was
6 afraid that that would start
7 affecting her. This is where we
8 wanted to raise our daughter, and
9 I was pregnant when we moved in.

10 Since we've noticed the odor
11 from New Indy, it's affected -- if
12 we go to the pool in the summer
13 and if it smells outside, I'm not
14 going to have my daughter
15 subjected to that, if she wants to
16 play outside with her friends and
17 it smells.

18 My four-year old even knows
19 if she smells it, it's not going
20 to be long before we have to come
21 inside from her riding her scooter
22 or playing on the playground.

23 So it's effected us a lot.
24 We're worried about what she's

1 breathing in, and I don't want her
2 to have the same symptoms that
3 I've had when I smell it.

4 MARGARET SNAIDER: I'm never
5 one that get headaches, you know.
6 And I find that on those days when
7 it's really bad, I get dull
8 headaches and nauseous.

9 CHARLES HOWARD: I have a
10 sinus condition which I feel has
11 definitely worsened.

12 You probably notice that as
13 well.

14 It's worsened with that, and
15 I have to take Aleve more often.
16 I never used to. So it's a
17 regular thing. My head keeps
18 draining and -- so it's affecting
19 it. It definitely changed.

20 SYLVIA HUTCHINGS: I'm under
21 the care of a pulmonologist. I'm
22 going to have a PET scan on
23 Monday. I've had a CT with dye
24 scan. There's some changes in my

1 lungs.

2 Yeah, I didn't use albuterol
3 before. I didn't use a Breo
4 inhaler until the pulmonologist
5 put me on the Breo for my
6 breathing. And I've been on that
7 for some months.

8 It is killing me. It is,
9 slowly. We're all dying, but I
10 don't need to die by the New Indy
11 plant.

12 One neighbor shared that
13 they never had nosebleeds before,
14 and now they do. And it was
15 around Mother's Day that a lady
16 was saying that, I have my house
17 built where I have an outdoor
18 patio, and we can't use it.

19 In the Next Door, the
20 newsletter, people were saying
21 they couldn't go out to have a
22 little -- a get-together for
23 Mother's Day because of the odor
24 from the plant.

1 This is not why people
2 purchase homes here, to stay
3 inside their house.

4 MARGARET SNAIDER: We moved
5 here to be close to our
6 grandchildren. And they're young
7 and they love to be out in the
8 yard running around. And there's
9 times when we can't let them go
10 out because we don't want them
11 breathing the air.

12 JENNIFER TSONAS: That it's
13 going to continue to impact our
14 retirement, our lives, our
15 lifestyle, quality of life. I
16 mean, that's not what we came here
17 for, you know.

18 MR. BAKER: It's affected us
19 110 percent in everything that we
20 do. Again, we live for New Indy;
21 we live for which way is the wind
22 blowing; how much is it going to
23 smell today. You know, we don't
24 have a life except for that's tied

1 to this stench.

2 JENNIFER TSONAS: And
3 they've -- it's affected every
4 part of our life. We're always
5 talking about it with each other,
6 with our friends, with our
7 neighbors. Everything that we do
8 is impacted by how does it smell
9 today, how do we feel today.

10 And they're responsible for
11 our safety, and we don't feel that
12 that's being attended to.

13 CHARLES HOWARD: It's been
14 proven that stress affects
15 longevity. And this is constantly
16 in the back of our head --

17 JENNIFER TSONAS: Yeah.

18 CHARLES HOWARD: -- every
19 day.

20 KATHLEEN MORAN: It brings,
21 like, anxiety to you. You know,
22 you're just, like, what do I do
23 now; and then constantly a
24 reporting to the Department of

1 Health probably numerous times a
2 day. The smell would last almost
3 all day, at least for, like six
4 hours at a clip. And it just --
5 it just ruins your entire day.

6 It has affected this whole
7 community. I hear it from people.
8 They're afraid to let their
9 children out to play.

10 You know, it's such a
11 beautiful community. We have a,
12 you know, a clubhouse, a pool.
13 People can't even enjoy this, you
14 know.

15 And the EPA needs to know
16 that, you know, this really has to
17 stop that these companies just can
18 do whatever they want and feel
19 that they're above the law just
20 because it's making profits. The
21 profit over people -- what good is
22 it going to do if half the people
23 are sick and dying? What's the
24 point?

1 SYLVIA HUTCHINGS: And why
2 should my lungs have to suffer,
3 and somebody is in violation of
4 what they're supposed to do?

5 Now, it was the EPA's
6 equipment who said that those
7 levels were that high. And
8 nothing's changed. Terrible.

9 Because I'm a very active
10 person. And sometimes in my mind
11 when I wake up and I feel good,
12 should you go out and walk? Maybe
13 you'd feel better if you stayed in
14 the house and you wouldn't have
15 all this (panting).

16 And I said, but I don't want
17 to do that. I want to get out and
18 walk. Why should I have to stay
19 in a house because of this? Why
20 should I have to have apparatuses
21 around the house?

22 Why should this company,
23 this man, steal years of my life?

24 ALAN SNAIDER: We've paid

1 our taxes. These are our
2 inalienable rights, okay, and
3 they're being infringed upon:
4 Life, liberty, and the pursuit of
5 happiness. Okay?

6 Is it shortening our lives?
7 I don't know. We're not even at
8 liberty to open a door or a window
9 at any time, you know, when the
10 wind is blowing in the wrong
11 direction.

12 And as for our pursuit of
13 happiness? No prisoners in their
14 own home could be happy.

15 So does it affect us? Yes.

16 REED BAKER: So everything
17 revolves around New Indy. Our
18 life is around New Indy and the
19 stench and the poison, because we
20 don't know what the poison is now.

21 MARIA BAKER: Yeah, that's
22 right.

23 The monitor -- in fact, we
24 have a monitor in our backyard.

1 The monitor is only tracking
2 hydrogen sulfide. And that was
3 the original issue, was -- the
4 rotten egg smell is usually
5 hydrogen sulfide.

6 REED BAKER: And that's a
7 New Indy monitor, not ours; it's
8 theirs.

9 MARIA BAKER: Yes. It's
10 their monitor.

11 It's tracking zero now
12 because it's not hydrogen sulfide
13 anymore. But what is it? What
14 chemical is it now that's, you
15 know, making us sick?

16 MARGARET SNAIDER: I am just
17 constantly concerned about -- you
18 know, it's not just sulfur
19 dioxide. They're emitting all
20 kinds of chemicals that they're
21 not acknowledging and they claim
22 they're not even studying.

23 But the pollution they're
24 putting into the air and the water

1 -- you know, the Catawba River is
2 just loaded with nasty stuff, and
3 it just concerns me on a huge
4 basis how many people are being
5 poisoned by the air and the water
6 pollution that's going on.

7 How many thousands of people
8 are going to have to get sick and
9 die before they went, oh, yeah,
10 well, I guess maybe there is a
11 little bit more going on than we
12 should have.

13 MARIA BAKER: What they have
14 put in that decree is just what
15 they're already doing. They're
16 doing a little bit of dredging
17 here; they're doing a little
18 tweaking there.

19 JENNIFER TSONAS: When I
20 read it, I was shocked. I mean,
21 it is such a light tap on the
22 hand. It's, like, okay, well, we
23 have to write something. They
24 skirted all of the really

1 pertinent issues.

2 And, I mean, a million point
3 1? They make that in a day.

4 You know, the thing that
5 gets me is, yes, I know, it's all
6 about making money, but they
7 should want to be good neighbors.

8 And it would be so easy to
9 get everybody off their backs if
10 they would dig in a little deeper
11 and do the right thing. It's so
12 -- it's such a simple fix. That's
13 what I don't get.

14 Are they not rich enough? I
15 think so. Do they not want to,
16 you know, have this off their
17 plates and deal with whatever's
18 next?

19 I mean, it just -- it seems
20 like a no-brainer and not very
21 difficult to fix, and I don't get
22 it.

23 SHERRI CLAPPER: Some of the
24 things that they've agreed to do,

1 some of the actions, the amount of
2 territory that they're putting up
3 the mechanisms to measure the -- I
4 don't know what you call those --
5 chemicals. I think that's in too
6 restrictive an area. I think it
7 needs to be broader, because I
8 don't think a lot of people
9 realized that we were getting the
10 odor this far away from New Indy.
11 It's -- and it's bad. When it's
12 bad, it's very, very bad.

13 ALAN SNAIDER: You know,
14 this could be dragged out for
15 years. They could make their
16 money, and they'd rather pay the
17 fine than pay for the equipment.
18 And that is unacceptable.

19 You know, so rather than
20 putting a Band-Aid on a gash, you
21 know, let's do the surgery. Let's
22 -- let's -- let's solve the
23 problem rather than prolong it.

24 MARGARET SNAIDER: I'm

1 deeply, deeply disappointed in
2 what's called the Environmental
3 Protection Agency. I firmly
4 believe they are dragging their
5 feet and they are not protecting
6 the environment.

7 I simply know that as a
8 protection agency, they're not
9 protecting the environment. They
10 know what's going on. They know
11 the poisons that are being
12 emitted. They know it.

13 SHERRI CLAPPER: You know,
14 we need to be making better
15 strides to protect our earth, to
16 protect our people, and the
17 long-term consequences of them not
18 requiring New Indy to really
19 comply fully and do everything in
20 their power to make sure that we
21 are, you know, operating a
22 facility as cleanly as possible --
23 I'm not just concerned about the
24 air; I'm concerned about the

1 river. It's my understanding that
2 some of their solution is running
3 into the Catawba River, which is
4 where we get a lot of our drinking
5 water. And to me, that's very
6 concerning.

7 MS. MORAN: We just want
8 them to do the right thing. Just
9 clean it up. It's very simple,
10 you know. There's -- there's a
11 process from experts that can tell
12 you. It's very simple if they
13 would just clean it up.

14 I just hope that the EPA
15 really takes into account that
16 this is affecting real people,
17 that people's lives should matter,
18 not just companies' lives. I
19 really hope the EPA takes
20 everything into account, because
21 we're -- we're desperate. We're
22 suffering.

23 LESLIE PHILIPS: It's a slap
24 on the wrist. They need to update

1 their equipment. They need to
2 stop polluting our neighborhoods.
3 Kids shouldn't have to be worried
4 about running around outside at
5 recess. No one should have to
6 have symptoms, and no one should
7 have to worry about their
8 children.

9 No one should have to have
10 to check the wind direction on
11 their phone every day and check
12 the air quality in their
13 neighborhoods every day. That's
14 just not something that people
15 should be tracking on their phones
16 when they wake up in the morning.

17 SYLVIA HUTCHINGS: Because
18 I'm tired and I can't breathe, I
19 cannot live my life to its fullest
20 capacity due to nothing of my
21 choosing. Someone else decided to
22 put a plant there and said deal
23 with it.

24 And the EPA should be an

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advocate for the citizens in this community because I want to live to my fullest potential. God gave me a life, and he didn't say that I had to sacrifice it for Kraft.

And this is what, with the EPA doing nothing, is what it's telling me I have to do, or move.

(Videotape concluded.)

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CERTIFICATION

I, EILEEN P. BARTH, hereby certify that the proceedings in the foregoing matter are contained fully and accurately in the stenographic notes taken by me and are a true and correct transcript of the same.



EILEEN P. BARTH
Certified Shorthand
Reporter

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