

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE HEARING
BUDGET HEARING

STATE CAPITOL
MAJORITY CAUCUS ROOM
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

TUESDAY, MARCH 4, 2008, 10:45 A.M.

VOLUME II OF V

PRESENTATION BY
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES

BEFORE:

HONORABLE DWIGHT EVANS, CHAIRMAN
HONORABLE MARIO J. CIVERA, JR., CHAIRMAN
HONORABLE STEPHEN E. BARRAR
HONORABLE STEVEN W. CAPPELLI
HONORABLE H. SCOTT CONKLIN
HONORABLE CRAIG A. DALLY
HONORABLE GORDON R. DENLINGER
HONORABLE BRIAN ELLIS
HONORABLE DAN B. FRANKEL
HONORABLE JOHN T. GALLOWAY
HONORABLE WILLIAM F. KELLER
HONORABLE THADDEUS KIRKLAND
HONORABLE BRYAN R. LENTZ
HONORABLE KATHY M. MANDERINO
HONORABLE MICHAEL P. MCGEEHAN
HONORABLE FRED McILHATTAN
HONORABLE DAVID R. MILLARD
HONORABLE RON MILLER
HONORABLE JOHN MYERS
HONORABLE CHERELLE PARKER
HONORABLE JOSEPH A. PETRARCA

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BEFORE: (cont'd.)
HONORABLE SCOTT A. PETRI
HONORABLE SEAN M. RAMALEY
HONORABLE DAVE REED
HONORABLE DOUGLAS G. REICHLEY
HONORABLE DANTE SANTONI, JR.
HONORABLE MARIO M. SCAVELLO
HONORABLE JOSHUA D. SHAPIRO
HONORABLE JOHN SIPTROTH
HONORABLE MATTHEW SMITH
HONORABLE KATIE TRUE
HONORABLE GREGORY S. VITALI
HONORABLE DON WALKO
HONORABLE JAKE WHEATLEY, JR.

ALSO PRESENT:
MIRIAM FOX
EDWARD NOLAN

JEAN M. DAVIS, REPORTER
NOTARY PUBLIC

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1 REPRESENTATIVE KELLER: Good morning.
2 You know that we usually suspend with the
3 written statement. We'll submit that for the record.
4 If you could start by introducing your
5 panel.
6 SECRETARY DiBERARDINIS: They may introduce
7 themselves.
8 Cindy.
9 DEPUTY SECRETARY DUNN: I'm Cindy Dunn,
10 Deputy Secretary for Conservation and Technical
11 Services.
12 DEPUTY SECRETARY CALVAN: Good morning.
13 Rita Calvan. I'm the Deputy Secretary for
14 Administration.
15 DEPUTY SECRETARY GRACE: I'm Jim Grace,
16 Deputy Secretary for State Parks and Forestry.
17 SECRETARY DiBERARDINIS: And I'm Mike
18 DiBerardinis, Secretary of DCNR.
19 REPRESENTATIVE KELLER: Thank you.
20 This is a joint hearing, and we have the
21 Chairman of the Environmental Resources Committee,
22 Representative Scott Hutchinson.
23 Scott, please.
24 REPRESENTATIVE HUTCHINSON: Thank you,
25 Mr. Chairman.

1 Thank you, Mr. Secretary.

2 I'm going to focus this part of my
3 questioning on the State forests. And in particular,
4 looking at the budget, it seems that you have about
5 2 million extra dollars for State forest operations
6 in there.

7 I was really trying to figure out how that
8 money is going to be used, especially in light of the
9 fact that -- I also looked, you know, on the revenue
10 side. I was hoping some of this money would be used
11 to promote some more timbering maybe, but on the
12 revenue side of the budget, I believe there is no
13 increase for timber sales revenue.

14 So could you comment on those, you know,
15 where that \$2 million is going?

16 SECRETARY DiBERARDINIS: If you don't mind,
17 I would punt this over to Deputy Secretary Grace.

18 REPRESENTATIVE HUTCHINSON: Okay.

19 DEPUTY SECRETARY GRACE: To answer your
20 question, most of the \$2 million will go for the
21 increased waiver costs in this budget cycle. The
22 fact that that \$2 million is required there, it looks
23 like a large amount, a relatively large amount,
24 except when you look at the fact that in the Bureau
25 of Forestry, about 60 percent of the revenue to carry

1 out all the operations of the Bureau of Forestry
2 comes from their timber augmentations.

3 So while that General Fund money is a
4 relatively small amount, now probably what you're
5 also aware of, in the last year or year and a half,
6 the income from timber sales has taken -- there's
7 been a significant drop. And for the most part, it's
8 not in terms of the quantity but it's accrued to the
9 price. The price for oak went down significantly.
10 The price for most of the quality hardwoods has gone
11 down.

12 So that's been remaining -- while that
13 number has gone up probably every year for the last
14 15 years, now we're at a point where it is leveling
15 off and even hopefully it may drop. Since that's
16 about 60 percent of the income for sponsoring the
17 bureau, it's an important number.

18 So that number is remaining stable because
19 it reflects that those timber prices have remained
20 down. We're hoping they'll go back up. We're hoping
21 the actual number is actually larger. But I think
22 the realistic view right now is that it's going to be
23 smaller than it has been in the past.

24 REPRESENTATIVE HUTCHINSON: Well, I'll just
25 add a little coda about -- you know, I probably don't

1 even have to for you, that you know where I'm coming
2 from -- that we want to be ever vigilant that a
3 healthy amount of cutting is done. And, you know, if
4 you do comparisons to private property, some would
5 say that not enough cutting is occurring on State
6 forests. But, you know, know that there are those of
7 us here that want to keep you as close as possible as
8 we can to making sure that a healthy amount of timber
9 is taken from our forests for the health of that
10 forest as well as for the health of our State's
11 economy.

12 I'm going to ask one more question at this
13 point, and that focuses on forestry also but in a
14 little bit different angle, and that's with the gypsy
15 moth.

16 I'll say there's a possibility of problems
17 there more than anything, and my understanding is
18 that you folks originally asked for more money for
19 that, foreseeing a problem. You asked for about
20 \$1.5 million more than you ended up getting. And
21 there are many people who are concerned about the
22 infestation of gypsy moths.

23 Are you going to be able to handle that? Do
24 you need more resources?

25 DEPUTY SECRETARY GRACE: I think we're

1 fairly -- well, actually, compared to where we
2 thought we'd be this year, we're very comfortable.

3 We've got an increase of \$3 million coming
4 from the State General Fund for the program. Also,
5 we're very fortunate that we got a million and a half
6 dollars of Federal money, which we frankly weren't
7 expecting to get that much.

8 So I think with those two sources, certainly
9 you're going to see a large expansion over what we
10 did last year. So we're going from a program of
11 about 70,000 acres to 200,000 acres. So I think when
12 all is said and done, this year we're going to be
13 just about at capacity with what our human resources
14 can handle.

15 So we feel fairly good that we're going to
16 handle the situation relatively well this year.

17 REPRESENTATIVE HUTCHINSON: Okay. Thank
18 you. I will suspend with questions at this point.

19 Thank you.

20 REPRESENTATIVE KELLER: Thank you.

21 Representative John Siptroth.

22 REPRESENTATIVE SIPTROTH: Thank you very
23 much, Mr. Chairman.

24 Mr. Secretary and staff, good morning.

25 I have a couple questions. Number one,

1 regarding the \$2.4 million allocation that DCNR will
2 administer for the flood plain maps, if you could
3 expound on that. Is that going to kind of bring us
4 up to date currently?

5 A number of my constituents were flooded
6 that were not in the defined area, and they were
7 unable to obtain flood insurance. And as we continue
8 to mitigate this Delaware River flooding issue with
9 the New York DEP, they are going to be susceptible to
10 additional flooding.

11 So if you could just give me an update on
12 that, I would appreciate that very much.

13 SECRETARY DiBERARDINIS: Sure,
14 Representative.

15 REPRESENTATIVE SIPTROTH: And then I have a
16 couple of other questions. Thank you.

17 SECRETARY DiBERARDINIS: The flood plain
18 mapping that you refer to was part of a program
19 called PA MAP, which DCNR is the lead State agency in
20 building the most, one of the most sophisticated
21 digital mapping programs in the country.

22 We've been at it for about 4 years, and this
23 year we want to complete -- and all of this is built
24 on flyovers. So it's very expensive to get the
25 aerial photography in place, and that \$2.4 million

1 will be used to complete the remaining one-third of
2 the State that we need to cover. And then we'll have
3 the entire State mapped -- flown, photographed, and
4 mapped.

5 And then any local government, county
6 government, or State agency that needs this, not only
7 for certainly understanding flood threats but also
8 for a whole range of planning tools -- PENNDOT for
9 doing their road restoration or planning, DEP for
10 their work along the watersheds -- FEMA and PEMA both
11 rely on this data.

12 So we're really proud of this project and of
13 this tool. We think over time -- and I mean in a
14 very short period of time -- the utility of this
15 mapping system will just be extraordinary with all
16 its many uses for planning, particularly for us on
17 the State level but also for county and local
18 governments.

19 So when we're finished that flyover, we will
20 have completed the entire State. And then the
21 challenge will be in the future to keep that data
22 updated. So that would be the long-term,
23 intermediate and long-term question that I think we
24 will have to face.

25 But right now, once the flyover is done, we

1 will have the complete map of the State, and we will
2 promote and help educate people as to its utility.

3 REPRESENTATIVE SIPTROTH: Okay. And once
4 that flyover and the mapping is complete, you will
5 forward that to FEMA for their input---

6 SECRETARY DiBERARDINIS: Right.

7 REPRESENTATIVE SIPTROTH: ---and
8 justification.

9 SECRETARY DiBERARDINIS: Right now, in fact,
10 we work pretty closely with them in this process. So
11 we're not bringing them in at the back end. They're
12 with us, FEMA and PEMA, on the front end as well.

13 REPRESENTATIVE SIPTROTH: Okay. Great.

14 The next question regards the gypsy moth in
15 the northeast -- not as widespread as what we've seen
16 in the past, but there are significant pockets of
17 total defoliation, and that's somewhat of a concern.
18 And the newer residents moving into the area
19 certainly have not adapted well to the gypsy moths as
20 our local residents have. They find them to be
21 somewhat of a pest, and they certainly are.

22 I understand that there has been an increase
23 in the Governor's budget of 1.8 percent, and will
24 that be sufficient, do you think, to address that
25 gypsy moth infestation?

1 SECRETARY DiBERARDINIS: We do.

2 The program is primarily a forest-based
3 program, so when you get into residential areas, it's
4 hard to fly a helicopter over and spray residential
5 areas or communities that are somewhat mildly
6 forested.

7 But relative to where the infestation is
8 greatest and where there are large blocks of forested
9 area, we are confident. We project the program will
10 be over \$7 million, so we're confident -- and cover
11 roughly 200,000 acres -- we're confident that we will
12 be able to address the problem in a reasonable and
13 professional fashion.

14 I think some of the questions and that kind
15 of was your question is these residential areas that
16 do not afford a flyover.

17 REPRESENTATIVE SIPTROTH: Yes.

18 SECRETARY DiBERARDINIS: There are
19 treatments that are available, but they're more
20 on-the-ground treatments and not using the
21 helicopter, and that takes us out of the game.

22 REPRESENTATIVE SIPTROTH: Okay.

23 SECRETARY DiBERARDINIS: So our program is
24 basically for forested areas.

25 REPRESENTATIVE SIPTROTH: In years past,

1 there was a partnership program between DCNR, at
2 least administered through DCNR, and local
3 municipalities whereas local municipalities would
4 offer a match and DCNR would offer a match for
5 flyovers, and also then the property owner themselves
6 would offer a portion of those moneys. Is that
7 program still available?

8 SECRETARY DiBERARDINIS: I'm going to ask
9 Jim to answer that.

10 REPRESENTATIVE SIPTROTH: Sure.

11 DEPUTY SECRETARY GRACE: Yes, and I think of
12 the projected 200,000 acres this year, almost, I
13 think, 70,000 to 80,000 are in that category.

14 As the Secretary was alluding, we are
15 spraying predominately areas where people live in
16 rural forested areas, and those are the communities
17 that we're dealing with.

18 Where it gets touchier is where I would
19 describe it -- and this isn't so much the Poconos,
20 but in other parts of the State where you get closer
21 to a golf course environment and a forested housing
22 environment, it starts to get more complicated.

23 REPRESENTATIVE SIPTROTH: Okay. And one
24 other question, Mr. Chairman?

25 The Heritage and Parks Program has a

1 79.7-percent reduction this year, I noticed. Is that
2 program being replaced by another program, or is that
3 just going by the wayside?

4 SECRETARY DiBERARDINIS: That program is
5 under Cindy's deputate, and I'll ask her to answer
6 the question.

7 DEPUTY SECRETARY DUNN: Okay. We asked for
8 1.95, I believe, in that, and every year the
9 Legislature has added money to that. We asked for
10 1.95 last year and it was raised, so.

11 REPRESENTATIVE SIPTROTH: Okay.

12 DEPUTY SECRETARY DUNN: It's the same as
13 what we asked for last year.

14 REPRESENTATIVE SIPTROTH: Available in
15 2007-08, according to my records here, it was \$9.6
16 million, and this year the Governor's request is 1.9.

17 DEPUTY SECRETARY DUNN: Yes.

18 SECRETARY DiBERARDINIS: Yeah; that's our
19 annual request, and then through the budget process,
20 through the legislative process, that amount gets
21 raised.

22 REPRESENTATIVE SIPTROTH: Okay.

23 SECRETARY DiBERARDINIS: So this is no
24 different than our annual request in previous years.

25 REPRESENTATIVE SIPTROTH: All right. And

1 you still are administering that program? Is that
2 correct?

3 DEPUTY SECRETARY DUNN: Yes.

4 REPRESENTATIVE SIPTROTH: Okay. Thank you
5 very much, Mr. Secretary and staff.

6 SECRETARY DiBERARDINIS: Thank you.

7 REPRESENTATIVE SIPTROTH: Thank you, Mr.
8 Chairman.

9 REPRESENTATIVE KELLER: Thank you,
10 Representative Siptroth.

11 Representative Mario Scavello, please.

12 REPRESENTATIVE SCAVELLO: Thank you,
13 Mr. Chairman, and good morning.

14 SECRETARY DiBERARDINIS: Good morning.

15 REPRESENTATIVE SCAVELLO: I'm going to beat
16 up a dead horse. We're going to go back to gypsy
17 moths.

18 Is it too late for a municipality to sign
19 on?

20 DEPUTY SECRETARY GRACE: Yes. I believe
21 the deadline was, I believe, September or October.
22 So at this point, the contracts have been let.
23 What's going to happen has been dictated.

24 SECRETARY DiBERARDINIS: It's not an
25 artificial deadline, and that is really the demands

1 to get the flights up and running in this early
2 spring. So we can't start any later than the fall to
3 begin the negotiations with the contractors to talk
4 to the counties. So it's the end product that
5 determines when we start, not our decision.

6 REPRESENTATIVE SCAVELLO: Is it accurate to
7 assume that that formula has been weakened, that it
8 doesn't do the job that it used to do?

9 DEPUTY SECRETARY GRACE: In the last year,
10 particularly when you get very aggressive building
11 populations, and this can be weather dependent and a
12 lot of other things, I think the feeling last year
13 where those very high populations were and they were
14 expanding, that the formulation of BT which they
15 utilized was not as effective as it has been in past
16 years.

17 They're doubling that formulation this year
18 with the BT in hopes of improving that. But the
19 nature of this insect -- and thank God it's been
20 probably 15 years since it was really bad before,
21 because people start to forget. When the population
22 is really growing, it's a very difficult time, and
23 the spraying is not going to correct all those and
24 it's impossible to do so.

25 I think we're trying to do the best we can

1 with an environmentally acceptable formulation.
2 We're going to try to up that to deal with the
3 problems that we had last year, and hopefully we'll
4 get better results this year.

5 REPRESENTATIVE SCAVELLO: You know, last
6 year -- I don't think I've ever seen the devastation
7 by tent caterpillars in any other year -- but last
8 year, last year driving on 80, on any of the
9 highways, the tent caterpillar took over the whole
10 tree.

11 Do we do anything? Are we doing anything?
12 Does the tree come back?

13 DEPUTY SECRETARY GRACE: In most years, if a
14 hardwood tree gets defoliated -- now the tent
15 caterpillar tends to attack the tree later in the
16 year.

17 REPRESENTATIVE SCAVELLO: Yes.

18 DEPUTY SECRETARY GRACE: So insects that
19 defoliate the tree after July and August, the tree
20 has already produced their food for the year, and so
21 it's much less damaging at that point, whereas the
22 gypsy moth, which is a very early spring defoliator,
23 the tree has to leaf out. So you do that two or
24 three times, and it can have a negative impact on the
25 tree.

1 But the long-term health of the tree is
2 somewhat dependent on whether you have multiple
3 defoliations and also whether you have good moisture
4 conditions. If you combat defoliation with drought,
5 it tends to be much more damaging. If you have good
6 growing cycles, a tree sometimes can deal with
7 certainly a single defoliation and sometimes two or
8 three and not be -- obviously, they slow their growth
9 down, but you don't get excessive mortality.

10 So a lot will depend on the other weather
11 conditions.

12 REPRESENTATIVE SCAVELLO: Yeah; I'm assuming
13 that we don't have anything at all for the tent
14 caterpillars? We don't do anything at all; am I
15 correct? There are no programs?

16 DEPUTY SECRETARY GRACE: In certain years,
17 we have actually had a spray program for some of the
18 insect pests. We're not doing anything with that
19 right now, and that tends to be much more sporadic
20 and not as encompassing as the gypsy moth.

21 REPRESENTATIVE SCAVELLO: Okay.

22 What is the status of the Oil and Gas Lease
23 Fund, and how is it used?

24 SECRETARY DiBERARDINIS: Well, the revenue
25 produced from the fund is approximately \$5 million a

1 year, and that fund, by law, that fund has to go back
2 into the upkeep and support of the department in its
3 work in parks and forests.

4 And that's really important money to us. It
5 allows us to do things that we wouldn't ordinarily be
6 able to do out of our operating dollars. So, for
7 instance, some large equipment purchases are
8 absolutely essential to do some of the work,
9 maintenance work, that we have to do, and we can move
10 through that program.

11 So it's a good source of income; we depend
12 on it, and it's been pretty healthy the last few
13 years.

14 REPRESENTATIVE SCAVELLO: Yeah; that was my
15 next question. Do you anticipate an increase in
16 permits, because I see there is an increase in
17 permits.

18 SECRETARY DiBERARDINIS: Yes. We will do
19 over 100 permits.

20 I'll ask Jim: How many new permits will we
21 do? He's asking about permits.

22 DEPUTY SECRETARY GRACE: We put in about --
23 I think on the areas that we have leased this year,
24 we saw probably 150 new wells go into those leased
25 areas. So there will be increased revenue.

1 REPRESENTATIVE SCAVELLO: Any successes?

2 DEPUTY SECRETARY GRACE: Pardon me?

3 REPRESENTATIVE SCAVELLO: In the drillings,
4 have there been any successes?

5 DEPUTY SECRETARY GRACE: Oh, yeah, most of
6 those have been successes.

7 REPRESENTATIVE SCAVELLO: Very good. Thank
8 you very much.

9 DEPUTY SECRETARY GRACE: You're welcome.

10 REPRESENTATIVE SCAVELLO: Thank you,
11 Mr. Chairman.

12 REPRESENTATIVE KELLER: Thank you.

13 Representative Greg Vitali, please.

14 REPRESENTATIVE VITALI: Thank you,
15 Mr. Chairman.

16 Thank you, Mr. Secretary, along with your
17 staff, for coming here today.

18 SECRETARY DiBERARDINIS: Thank you.

19 REPRESENTATIVE VITALI: Recently I've been
20 hearing about one of your programs, the Conservation
21 Landscape Initiatives.

22 SECRETARY DiBERARDINIS: Yes.

23 REPRESENTATIVE VITALI: I don't know a lot
24 about that. I think the committee might be
25 interested in knowing a little more.

1 SECRETARY DiBERARDINIS: Sure.

2 REPRESENTATIVE VITALI: I know you've had
3 some success in north-central Pennsylvania.

4 SECRETARY DiBERARDINIS: Right.

5 REPRESENTATIVE VITALI: Could you maybe tell
6 us what is happening there and maybe some other areas
7 of the State you might like to apply that to?

8 SECRETARY DiBERARDINIS: Thank you.

9 This idea is trying to look where there's
10 large concentrations of public land and seeing how
11 can we elevate, not only the sort of environmental
12 and ecological value of those lands but through
13 working with local government, nonprofits, and
14 businesses, how do we extend the social and economic
15 value as well?

16 So it's trying to sort of move in and pay
17 attention to our stewardship and our management
18 practices, and at the same time try to do a better
19 job at that, and at the same time trying to connect
20 more people to those resources and have that be more
21 a part of their lives in their communities, and at
22 the same time see if we can build more sort of robust
23 and sustainable economies.

24 And the Pennsylvania Wilds is sort of the
25 one that we've spent the most time on. We started

1 very early. What we have done there is we've
2 invested significantly into the public lands in that
3 area to improve not only the environmental integrity
4 and ecological integrity of those lands but also to
5 have an improved outdoor experience for folks that
6 really ties them and connects them to nature.

7 So we're doing a lot of trail work --
8 improve our trails, interpret our trails. We're
9 attempting to maintain public access to the
10 waterways. So if you look at the map of the State,
11 we're actually losing public access to waterways.
12 We're trying to maintain and expand public access.

13 We're running outdoor programs like we have
14 never done before -- kayaking, canoeing, rock
15 climbing, bird watching, hiking, you know,
16 introduction to fishing, mountain biking. So not
17 only connecting people, but connecting them in a way
18 that really builds stewardship and keeps them there
19 for a longer amount of time, and then, therefore,
20 hopefully they will be eating out and buying gifts,
21 things like that, and generating the local economy.

22 In addition to that, we're doing around --
23 this is sort of a similar approach around the State.
24 We're working with the local government, not just by
25 ourselves but with DCED, to do the kind of good

1 planning, so we're supporting -- we have a 12-county
2 planning group that is the vehicle to support any
3 infrastructure needs that may grow from increased
4 visitation.

5 So for instance, in Benezette there are like
6 100,000 people come to this little town. I think
7 there are probably 100, 150 people in the town. They
8 get 100,000 visitors a year to do elk watching and
9 other kinds of outdoor activities there.

10 We've worked with PENNDOT on road repair
11 there. So we're working very closely with PENNDOT to
12 make sure that their work is on time to support the
13 local infrastructure. We've put in public bathrooms
14 into their park recently so people have a place to
15 take care of themselves when they're there, and there
16 are very few restaurants or places they could use.

17 So that's the kind of work -- we're working
18 with DEP on some of the acid mine work, acid mine
19 drainage work, to make sure that the important
20 streams are remediated that would add to the outdoor
21 features -- fishing and kayaking and boating.

22 So it's a coordinated effort there and then
23 a coordinated effort down to the local government, to
24 county government to the local government. And then
25 on top of that, we're working with a lot of the

1 industries, sort of the folks that are the
2 entrepreneurial class that wants to get in on this,
3 particularly the artists. So we're working with DCED
4 with an artisans group that is trying to stimulate
5 high-quality art products and craft products that
6 could be a symbol of that part of State.

7 So it's a very exciting program. If you
8 look, just look at the visitation up there, it
9 outstrips the State and the country in terms of its
10 increases over the past couple of years.

11 So we don't have complete data, but we do
12 have some early data that suggests that it's working.

13 REPRESENTATIVE VITALI: I mean, it sounds
14 like a great program. Are there any other regions of
15 the State where you think this might be appropriate
16 for?

17 SECRETARY DiBERARDINIS: Well, yes. And the
18 backbone of this is where -- it's not that we don't
19 work in other areas, but what attracts us there is
20 the large public-land holdings.

21 Another area that we're very interested in
22 working in is in the Laurel Highlands, where there's
23 a great deal of State parks and State forest lands
24 and kind of some of the same dynamics. So we're
25 working with the county commissioners; we're working

1 very closely with the folks at Ohiopyle, and I can't
2 remember the township.

3 Cindy, what township?

4 DEPUTY SECRETARY DUNN: Stewart Township.

5 SECRETARY DiBERARDINIS: Stewart Township.

6 We're working very closely with them about reshaping
7 Ohiopyle and our park that sort of reflects their
8 interest, their municipal interest, their business
9 interest, their community interest.

10 We're working with both -- DCED is working
11 very closely with us down there. We've done a
12 recreation plan that I think will, at least on the
13 public lands with our investment of Growing Greener
14 money, will, I think, make between Washington and
15 Baltimore and Pittsburgh, make that probably one of
16 the premier outdoor destinations on the East Coast
17 and certainly in those two metropolitan regions.

18 So we're trying to duplicate the work there.
19 That's not just about bringing more people there. It
20 is about that, but it's also about improving our
21 stewardship of the public lands, connecting people to
22 the outdoors and building a stewardship ethic, and
23 then working closely with local government, county
24 government, nonprofits and businesses where the State
25 can present itself as unified as it can, as unified a

1 partner as it can.

2 So again, it's very exciting. We're getting
3 great results and a lot of enthusiasm on the ground.

4 REPRESENTATIVE VITALI: Okay. Thank you.

5 SECRETARY DiBERARDINIS: Thank you.

6 REPRESENTATIVE KELLER: Thank you.

7 Representative Gordon Denlinger.

8 REPRESENTATIVE DENLINGER: Thank you,
9 Mr. Chairman.

10 Good morning.

11 SECRETARY DiBERARDINIS: Good morning.

12 REPRESENTATIVE DENLINGER: I would like to
13 get into -- well, just an initial comment to follow
14 up on Representative Scavello's comments on the
15 gypsy-moth issue.

16 I do hear complaints about the State program
17 and the weakened formula for the spraying of gypsy
18 moth, and I'm encouraged to hear that you are
19 strengthening the formula.

20 In the local communities that I represent,
21 the word kind of spread that if you really want to
22 deal with the issue, ignore the State program and go
23 out and privately contract for that. So I just want
24 to add a word of encouragement on that point.

25 I did want to get to the flyover mapping

1 that you have been doing and specifically ask, I
2 understand that DCNR has undertaken an effort to do
3 some infrared photography to try to gauge the deer
4 population. Are those two efforts conjoined or are
5 those separated?

6 SECRETARY DiBERARDINIS: They are very
7 different technologies.

8 REPRESENTATIVE DENLINGER: Okay.

9 SECRETARY DiBERARDINIS: One is flown at
10 night, right? The infrared for the deer is flown at
11 night, and it's a very different technology. And
12 somehow, and I don't know how they do it, but they
13 can sort of pick up the deer in the night. I think
14 it's heat based.

15 And I think it was about 2 years ago we
16 concluded those flyovers with the Game Commission.
17 We thought that was very successful because it did
18 add another piece of data to the debate, and that has
19 sort of been our approach. We think the best
20 information, the best science, the best data, the
21 best research, is what's needed, at least from our
22 perspective, to guide our practice and to support
23 others.

24 So that's why we did that. We did that in
25 conjunction with the Game Commission. But we have

1 not done that -- I think a year and a half ago we
2 probably finished that. We have not flown since
3 then. But they're not connected.

4 REPRESENTATIVE DENLINGER: I did review the
5 results of that, and my question is perhaps a bit
6 dated. I was under the impression you were going to
7 continue that or perhaps do it again in the future.

8 SECRETARY DiBERARDINIS: Well, I'm not
9 saying no. We're just not doing it now, and we're
10 not currently -- at least as far as I know; maybe Jim
11 knows -- having any significant discussions with the
12 commission about continuing that at this moment, but
13 I would not rule it out either.

14 REPRESENTATIVE DENLINGER: Could you share
15 with the committee here the policy of DCNR with
16 regard to the purchase of additional land.
17 Currently, I guess we have what, 2 million acres of
18 State forest land, and we are evidently struggling to
19 manage all that we have.

20 What is your policy going forward, and can
21 we really handle what we have?

22 SECRETARY DiBERARDINIS: Yeah; well, that's
23 always a question when we're purchasing land to take
24 into either the State park and the State forest
25 system.

1 The other acquisition possibility is we work
2 with a county or a local municipality, and it's
3 theirs or it's some nonprofits to manage. So we do
4 both.

5 And relative to the State forests and State
6 parks, I fight with Jim around every acquisition.
7 I'm teasing. We argue a little bit, and it's good.
8 It's a healthy debate about what are the resources---

9 REPRESENTATIVE DENLINGER: Fight on the plus
10 side or the against side?

11 SECRETARY DiBERARDINIS: Well, it's really
12 about, either parks or forests, are the resources
13 available to manage the additional land?

14 Now, there are two ways of looking at it.
15 One is, some land is very important to acquire
16 because it's adjoining land; it's an inholding; it's
17 a very important space around the existing public
18 lands, and we have no disagreement around that. We
19 are serious about that. That helps us manage the
20 land better when we strategically buy smaller parcels
21 around the existing public lands.

22 The bigger question is, you're picking up
23 10,000 acres or 5,000 acres that may adjoin the State
24 forest, but it's a big piece of land; do we have the
25 management capabilities? That's always the question,

1 always the question in that. And sometimes we turn
2 it down, sometimes we look for another manager
3 depending on, you know, whether or not we feel like
4 it's an appropriate fit and are resources needed.

5 On the other side, though, when it's a local
6 municipality, a local township, a county, a
7 nonprofit, my only rule is if the State legislator in
8 the district is for it and the county wants to
9 co-invest or we have a co-investor, then we're fine.
10 But if the Senator or the Representative is against
11 it, we don't need to do it.

12 That's my policy. That's not anything --
13 maybe when I leave it will change. And then after
14 that we have to work with the county and local
15 officials. But if there's an objection on that side
16 of the acquisition program, I have no problem
17 folding, because you appropriate the money. You're a
18 stakeholder. You're an interest group in this
19 process, and I want to respect that.

20 REPRESENTATIVE DENLINGER: Can you share
21 with the committee -- I don't know if you have this
22 information on hand -- how much land has been
23 acquired since you've become Secretary?

24 SECRETARY DiBERARDINIS: Yeah. No, we've
25 acquired quite a bit of land. I think the number is

1 around 100,000 acres.

2 Cindy, am I close there?

3 DEPUTY SECRETARY DUNN: Yes. It is going to
4 be a couple thousand above that.

5 SECRETARY DiBERARDINIS: Yeah; so we're over
6 100,000 acres. I'd like to think that was done in a
7 strategic way. I mean, that is, where there's local
8 support; where there's real leveraged investment,
9 that we're not the only ones lifting; that there's
10 foundation support, there's county support, there's
11 local government support, there's private investor
12 support. So that's the other feature, that it has
13 some environmental or ecological importance.

14 So we're trying to go to where, you know,
15 there's value, not just, well, there's some green
16 space there. What is the value of that green space?
17 And then, what's the social value as well? What are
18 the recreation values?

19 So we have a formula; we have a statewide
20 approach, and I think it works pretty well.

21 In fact, we have been well funded, too. I
22 mean, I would congratulate the Legislature for
23 supporting Growing Greener II, because that has
24 absolutely enhanced our capabilities to work with
25 county and local government in this effort.

1 REPRESENTATIVE DENLINGER: One final
2 comment, I guess, with regard to budgeting
3 philosophy. We got into the question -- I forget who
4 it was that had asked about the heritage and other
5 parks and that budget line, of course, being cut
6 dramatically in your submission.

7 You know, I hear various folks who come
8 before this committee state, well, you know, that's
9 the Legislature's initiative; that money always gets
10 put back in. However, as we work with you to seek
11 your guidance as far as the statement of your
12 priorities as a department and we see, you know,
13 certain items increased and others cut dramatically,
14 to this Representative that looks like, you know, the
15 family that had to make some hard decisions and
16 maybe, you know, in a \$1,000 budget they had \$600 for
17 housing, you know, \$300 for food, and \$100 for fuel,
18 and for that we cut the 2-week vacation because that
19 really became an expendable.

20 So as I look at that item, is that an
21 expendable or is that something that you value or
22 prioritize?

23 SECRETARY DiBERARDINIS: Well, here's what
24 we value. Our dollars -- and, Cindy, correct me if
25 I'm wrong -- that 1.9 is really to keep those

1 organizations operating. It's a base commitment to
2 the heritage groups. And they have to go out and
3 fundraise to keep themselves afloat, but we give them
4 that baseline investment that allows them to, again,
5 raise more money and to continue to, you know,
6 advance and improve their programs. So that's our
7 request, and it's real, honest to goodness operating
8 dollars.

9 Usually what goes beyond that are the
10 programmatic dollars. So we feel like we've
11 maintained our commitment, both staffing from our
12 central office and regional office to those groups,
13 as well as our commitment to their sort of continued
14 existence and ability to administer the programs.

15 Then we move into, I think, a whole nother
16 area, which is really a programmatic area, which is
17 really, I think -- and I hope I'm not disagreeing
18 with you -- but it's not our purview as it is to kind
19 of begin to get into the programmatic realm of this.
20 We want to keep them healthy. We want to keep them
21 connected to our organization and connected to our
22 bigger initiatives.

23 But then after that, you know, we sort of
24 let go and in some ways would seek the guidance from
25 the Legislature about what your interests and your

1 priorities are.

2 REPRESENTATIVE DENLINGER: I appreciate
3 that. You know, in a tough budget year as we look at
4 the priorities that you've submitted, we use that as
5 guidance, and I think that caught up a bit with the
6 Department of Agriculture in the last cycle where
7 certain items were cut fairly dramatically with the
8 expectation that we would rush right back in, and we
9 were unable to do so.

10 So that's just the reality of budgets, but
11 thank you.

12 SECRETARY DiBERARDINIS: Thank you.

13 REPRESENTATIVE DENLINGER: Thank you,
14 Mr. Chairman.

15 REPRESENTATIVE KELLER: Thank you.

16 Representative John Myers.

17 REPRESENTATIVE MYERS: Thank you,
18 Mr. Chairman.

19 Mr. Secretary and Deputy Secretaries, good
20 morning.

21 SECRETARY DiBERARDINIS: Good morning.

22 REPRESENTATIVE MYERS: It seems like it's
23 afternoon now.

24 You know, I've been kind of trying to get a
25 handle on the Governor's energy independence plan,

1 you know, and I've been like asking almost every
2 department, you know, questions how they fit into
3 this.

4 In the testimony that you submitted, one of
5 the missions for DCNR is to expand alternative fuel,
6 and I guess a couple of questions come to mind.

7 SECRETARY DiBERARDINIS: Okay.

8 REPRESENTATIVE MYERS: How do you see that
9 unpacking, one?

10 Secondly, since some of the ingredients
11 actually will come out of the forests, are you all
12 intending to grow some of them ingredients, because
13 as I understand it, there's like 16 million acres of
14 forest land in the State of Pennsylvania. You all
15 have oversight over two. So the other
16 14 million acres, you know, how does that get brought
17 into the equation with regards to -- first of all,
18 who's growing, selling, and buying timber on the
19 other 14 million acres and how do you see yourselves
20 playing a role with them?

21 SECRETARY DiBERARDINIS: Okay. That's a
22 very good but complicated question.

23 REPRESENTATIVE MYERS: Well, you can submit
24 it in writing.

25 SECRETARY DiBERARDINIS: It's a good

1 question. I want to try to answer, at least as much
2 as we can at this moment, and I want to call on Jim
3 to maybe weigh in here.

4 But we're looking at -- and I caught hell
5 for this -- we're looking at the possibility, just
6 the possibility, and I already took my lumps in the
7 media about this, about the possibility of siting
8 windmills on public lands.

9 We haven't made a decision, one, to
10 understand, is it possible? What would be the
11 dangers? What are the risks? What are the benefits?
12 We looked at that. We think we can do it, but we
13 haven't made a decision yet.

14 But to your question, that's one of the
15 areas that we are exploring as a possibility.

16 REPRESENTATIVE MYERS: Okay. Well, actually
17 the area that I'm exploring is---

18 SECRETARY DiBERARDINIS: I'm going to go --
19 I'm going to where you---

20 REPRESENTATIVE MYERS: Oh; okay.

21 SECRETARY DiBERARDINIS: I'm going to the
22 forests.

23 REPRESENTATIVE MYERS: Cellulosic.

24 SECRETARY DiBERARDINIS: All right. So we
25 think that, in terms of biofuels, we think that there

1 is a possibility that the State forests can play a
2 role in supplying and is a supply chain for
3 generating carbon-neutral energy, and we think wood
4 can be an important feature in that process.

5 Again, we're looking at an understanding,
6 well, what would that mean if we're going to go in
7 and take out pulpwood, which really had no real value
8 up until this point, and forest refuge? And how do
9 we integrate that into our resource management plan
10 for the forests?

11 So we're looking at that, because we have
12 one of the few forests in the country and very few in
13 the world that are sustainably certified. So we have
14 this third-party certification that we have to
15 protect.

16 So working within that certification, it
17 says, you're doing the best job possible of managing
18 that forest relative to the health of the ecosystems;
19 what is the capacity of the forest to supply fuel for
20 that? So we're looking at that and trying to
21 understand that as well.

22 REPRESENTATIVE MYERS: Okay. The only
23 reason I came to that is because they give you a very
24 short time in here.

25 SECRETARY DiBERARDINIS: All right; I'm

1 done, so go ahead.

2 REPRESENTATIVE MYERS: Okay.

3 Actually, you had mentioned something that I
4 did have an interest in, and, you know, you can
5 probably just submit it to the committee in writing
6 or at some point we can discuss this.

7 The 6 million dry tons of forest residue, do
8 you pay somebody to come take that out? I mean, like
9 the small trees? I mean, what happens, when you
10 clean these parks up, what do you do with the
11 residue, if you clean them up?

12 SECRETARY DiBERARDINIS: We do clean them
13 up. But let me -- I'll pass that off to Jim, because
14 I get weak when we get down deeper into this.

15 DEPUTY SECRETARY GRACE: This is all in an
16 economic, I'm going to call it a food chain, but it's
17 a wood chain.

18 REPRESENTATIVE MYERS: Right.

19 DEPUTY SECRETARY GRACE: So you only can get
20 that wood if you pay somebody to move it. And
21 predominantly when you get on the lower value end of
22 the wood chain -- the very high value timber is the
23 first thing that comes off, and people are ready,
24 willing, and able to pay for that and move it. And
25 that's a big part of the economy in Pennsylvania, and

1 it puts supply into all our sawmills in the State,
2 and there's a whole economic chain that moves that
3 along.

4 When you get to the lower value wood,
5 historically that was used in pulp mills. Currently
6 it's used to produce pellets and a lot of other low
7 value things.

8 The predominant need, it's part of, when you
9 go into a forest, you get some high quality wood, you
10 get some low quality wood. The high quality wood
11 goes one way, the low quality wood goes another way,
12 and basically from the point of view if you're a
13 cellulosic energy plant, it's not a whole lot
14 different than if you were a pulp mill. It's just
15 that your product is a little bit different.

16 REPRESENTATIVE MYERS: Okay.

17 DEPUTY SECRETARY GRACE: So one is produced
18 -- but you've got to pay for the wood, and you've got
19 to pay enough for that wood to show up at your door,
20 which in many cases is more than what people think
21 they can spend on some of these ethanol plants.

22 REPRESENTATIVE MYERS: Okay. I have just
23 one more, Mr. Chairman.

24 Actually, I had read an article about a guy
25 who did, you know, trees, took care of trees, and he

1 actually went to a recycling thing. What he had to
2 pay \$125,000 a year for somebody to remove, when you
3 start making wood pellets for burning in a woodstove,
4 he's actually making \$2 million a year now.

5 One other question. I heard read somewhere
6 that if in fact the State gets into the business of
7 timber for cellulosic fuel, that a hybrid poplar tree
8 -- that was the term they used, hybrid poplar tree --
9 was probably what some of the plantations ought to
10 look like. Have you all given any thought to that?

11 SECRETARY DiBERARDINIS: Only in the general
12 sense. I mean, this will be a significant turn for
13 the department and the bureau to begin to produce
14 short rotation woody crops, and that's what you're
15 talking about.

16 So we're trying to understand, is it
17 possible, all right? You have soil questions; you
18 have temperature and climate questions around it.
19 What we're trying to do now, and we're at the early
20 stages, we want to understand the questions and the
21 possibilities and then begin a deliberative process
22 around them.

23 So we are in the early or intermediate
24 stages of like looking at those things and saying, is
25 this possible? Is this a legitimate function of the

1 State? What's the private sector's interest? How do
2 we measure that like, you know, we have a
3 relationship with the timber industry? Do we have a
4 relationship with the alternative energy industries?

5 We're trying to figure all that out right
6 now. And I'm not predicting any answer, but what I
7 think is, we have to look at it. I think we'll be
8 selling ourselves short, the agency short, our
9 mission short, and the citizens of the State short if
10 we don't understand these questions as fully and as
11 clearly as we can, and then present policy options to
12 the Governor and then, where appropriate, to the
13 Legislature and then down to the citizens.

14 REPRESENTATIVE MYERS: Well, that's why I
15 want to be in that number. Thank you.

16 SECRETARY DiBERARDINIS: All right. Great.
17 Thank you.

18 REPRESENTATIVE KELLER: Thank you.

19 Representative Fred McIlhattan.

20 REPRESENTATIVE McILHATTAN: Thank you,
21 Mr. Chairman.

22 Good morning, Mr. Secretary.

23 SECRETARY DiBERARDINIS: Good morning.

24 REPRESENTATIVE McILHATTAN: I'd like to
25 begin with a brief comment and maybe a little bit of

1 a confession, and then I'd like to follow up with a
2 question.

3 SECRETARY DiBERARDINIS: Okay.

4 REPRESENTATIVE McILHATTAN: You know, when
5 you were appointed Secretary of DCNR, you know, I had
6 some real concerns. You had been the recreational
7 commissioner of the city of Philadelphia.

8 SECRETARY DiBERARDINIS: Right.

9 REPRESENTATIVE McILHATTAN: So I thought to
10 myself, what does this guy know or care about the
11 rural, wild, and beautiful northwest Pennsylvania
12 that I represent? This guy's probably never been
13 there and he's probably never going to go there, and
14 all the money, all the time, and all the effort is
15 going to go to Philadelphia and the southeastern
16 portion of the State. And that was my original
17 thought and feeling, and I must confess, Mr.
18 Secretary and to everyone else here, I was wrong. I
19 was very, very wrong.

20 DCNR under your direction and guidance, Mr.
21 Secretary, has probably invested more money, time,
22 and effort in rural northwestern Pennsylvania than
23 ever before.

24 You put thousands into my community parks
25 and our recreational facilities. Our Rails-to-Trails

1 projects: hundreds of thousands of dollars fixing up
2 some of the ones we have and creating new ones. Our
3 State parks in my area: hundreds of thousands of
4 dollars being invested in our State parks.

5 And we talked here today about land
6 acquisition and things like that. We just completed
7 a major land acquisition in my area, a few in the
8 Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, a project that I
9 supported, a project that our county commissioners
10 supported and our local township officials supported.
11 A beautiful tract; thousands of acres in the
12 beautiful Clarion River Valley, which will be
13 preserved forever for people to enjoy.

14 And the Pennsylvania Wilds project --
15 absolutely fantastic. And I just want to personally
16 thank you and your staff for what you have done and
17 what you're doing in northwestern Pennsylvania. It's
18 absolutely magnanimous, and I really, really
19 appreciate it.

20 SECRETARY DiBERARDINIS: Thank you.

21 REPRESENTATIVE McILHATTAN: And I also want
22 to recognize Kim. I think you know Kim is your
23 regional director there, and what a great job she
24 does working with the local elected officials. I
25 don't care whether it's Saturday or Sunday or

1 whatever time, she's there helping them, getting
2 things together.

3 So we can compete and do well, and again, I
4 just want to thank you so much for that.

5 SECRETARY DiBERARDINIS: Thank you.

6 REPRESENTATIVE McILHATTAN: I do have an
7 area, though, that deals with a State park issue.
8 Mr. Grace, you might want to handle this.

9 This really comes from Representative Sam
10 Smith. Sam has Jefferson County, and Clear Creek
11 State Park is there, and Sam has some concern. He's
12 gotten different letters from a lot of his
13 constituents in that area.

14 I understand you are going in and you are
15 making some major renovations in that part of the
16 State park. And I can understand, I imagine the
17 first thought on your mind is, oh, gee-whiz, I'm up
18 there investing hundreds of thousands of dollars and
19 trying to make life better and now everyone wants to
20 dump on me, and that's not the case.

21 I think sometimes in public service we
22 realize it is not just what we do but it is how we do
23 it that really makes the whole project successful.

24 SECRETARY DiBERARDINIS: Right.

25 REPRESENTATIVE McILHATTAN: And the issue

1 there is, I guess you are going to close Clear Creek
2 State Park -- you are going to open it for the spring
3 session, it looks like, and then around June you are
4 going to close it, and then we thought you were going
5 to open it again next season and everything was going
6 to be fine.

7 Now, there are a lot of stakeholders
8 involved. There are people, you know, building their
9 economy around that whole area. And I guess in
10 conversation with Sam and the things he's hearing
11 from his constituents, they wanted to sit down and at
12 least have a conversation and input into this idea
13 and let people know how impacted they were going to
14 be. I guess that never took place, number one, and
15 he had some concern about that.

16 Another issue that Representative Smith
17 brought up and he said he would like you to consider
18 is that maybe when you do these projects, if you
19 would send a detailed letter to the Representative in
20 that area and really explain what you're doing, why
21 you are doing it, the things that are going to be
22 involved. And I think that probably does make some
23 sense. Instead of maybe being a person that is
24 criticizing, maybe we can be on your side and help
25 you with the constituents. So that might be a pretty

1 good idea.

2 But I guess here also, just recently the
3 Representative said that there has been another
4 change, and now we are sort of going to be closed in
5 and out for two seasons, and that's got everybody
6 roiled up. So could you sort of take us through the
7 forest on that and tell us what is going on and maybe
8 see where we are.

9 SECRETARY DiBERARDINIS: Well, first let me
10 say that we will commit ourselves to doing better in
11 the public process and in informing not only the
12 local Representative but try to do that consistently
13 across the State, in this instance Representative
14 Smith as well as anywhere else in the State. I think
15 we generally do a good job, but in this case, it
16 doesn't feel like it has been consistently as good.

17 This is a complicated project. It's not
18 hundreds of thousand; it's \$2 million.

19 REPRESENTATIVE McILHATTAN: So what are you
20 doing? Why don't you explain that?

21 SECRETARY DiBERARDINIS: We are doing sewer
22 and water work.

23 REPRESENTATIVE McILHATTAN: Okay.

24 SECRETARY DiBERARDINIS: And it's a 300-day
25 job. So I don't know how -- so we want to do better,

1 and we will adapt as best we can to the interests of
2 the Representative and to the accompanying
3 businesses. But when you have a 300-day construction
4 job, it's hard to protect a season, you know, because
5 you can't do it in the winter. I mean, you are going
6 to be shut down in some pretty significant way in the
7 winter, so we are stuck here.

8 So what I would pledge to you and to the
9 Representative is that we will later this week or
10 early next week sit down with him and whoever those
11 individuals or businesses or organizations are to
12 review the plans.

13 And the plan did change, because we were
14 going to do this later. We got a project that got
15 stuck with permitting. We didn't want the money to
16 sit around. Because we were going to sit in
17 permitting for 6 months, we moved it to this project
18 so this project could shove off sooner and get done
19 sooner.

20 That is part of the issue. We didn't
21 communicate it that well, but, you know, we thought
22 we were doing good and then it ended up---

23 REPRESENTATIVE McILHATTAN: You meant well;
24 I understand that. I appreciate that, and I think
25 you covered it well.

1 SECRETARY DiBERARDINIS: So we are on this.
2 We will, in the next few days, present the ideas and
3 the program in its fullest detail, and then listen
4 and do the best we absolutely can within the
5 constraints of a complicated and expensive and very
6 long construction project at the park.

7 REPRESENTATIVE McILHATTAN: Okay. Thank you
8 very much. I appreciate it.

9 REPRESENTATIVE KELLER: Mr. Secretary, that
10 falls under my favorite phrase: No good deed goes
11 unpunished, so.

12 Representative David Millard, please.

13 REPRESENTATIVE MILLARD: Thank you,
14 Mr. Chairman.

15 Mr. Secretary, earlier you talked about
16 acquiring additional lands, and I just might draw
17 your attention to one item.

18 The Yankee Magazine, one of my favorites,
19 has a very interesting story this month on forest
20 management acquisition and all those details, so I
21 would just give you that comment.

22 I would like to talk about the PA MAP
23 initiative now. From what I understand, this is
24 strongly supported and advocated to be continued by
25 both public and private organizations that, I believe

1 up to this point, have given over \$20 million to this
2 initiative already.

3 Now, it appears that this program really,
4 according to what you said, makes Pennsylvania a
5 technological leader in GIS technology. My question
6 really concerns the amount of funding.

7 With what you are saying that you have going
8 into the budget this year, comments from outside your
9 agency would indicate that a little over \$4 million
10 is going to be required to really complete this
11 project, and you are asking for a little bit less
12 than half of that, I believe. But the numbers that
13 have been supplied to me would indicate that in
14 addition to that \$4 million to complete it, that it's
15 going to probably take you about \$2 million a year to
16 maintain that, and the benefits are tremendous.

17 Now, can you comment on that amount of money
18 and the discrepancy in the total?

19 SECRETARY DiBERARDINIS: Well, I don't think
20 there's a discrepancy. I think I essentially agree
21 with sort of the way you framed it out.

22 The \$2.4 million will, as I said earlier,
23 complete the flyover. Now, once you do this, you
24 have got to fly again. I mean, everything changes.
25 In order for the maps to be completely utilitarian

1 and to have the highest value, you have to fly
2 continuously in the out-years.

3 Now, the sequencing of the flying is in
4 question. That's the question. So when do we fly
5 again is a presenting question for, I think, next
6 year or the following year.

7 I am comfortable -- I'll be honest with you
8 -- I am comfortable with the 2.4 because it completes
9 the flyover of the State and gives us, I think the
10 earlier maps are like 2 to 3 years old. I think that
11 works, so we will have a pretty current snapshot or a
12 big snapshot of the State to use in the PA MAP.

13 Now, if in the out-years we don't fly, we
14 don't do continuous flying in the out-years, well,
15 what happens to PA MAP? It's utility will drop over
16 time, and I think there is probably nobody in the
17 world that can come in here and argue differently.
18 That's just the way it is.

19 Now, if I were uncomfortable with the
20 current picture we have of the State, I think I would
21 say that here. I'm not. I think the big question
22 is, next year or the following year, what will we do?
23 And I think that's a pretty important question,
24 because the State has over \$20 million invested in
25 this technology. It is in great demand, not only

1 from within our State but on the national level with
2 FEMA and the U.S. geologic service and other Federal
3 agencies.

4 REPRESENTATIVE MILLARD: Well, I---

5 SECRETARY DiBERARDINIS: This is part of a
6 national program, so we are very proud of this and
7 very comfortable with where we are now. And I have
8 some faith that in the future, people will respond to
9 the future demands because of its great utility
10 around the State.

11 REPRESENTATIVE MILLARD: Well, I guess my
12 concern is whether you are comfortable in the amount
13 of money, because it does offer and serve really a
14 broad range of interest of the constituents. I mean,
15 it is really not just limited to economic development
16 but what you mentioned with PEMA and tourism and all
17 those things.

18 SECRETARY DiBERARDINIS: I mean, even
19 Homeland Security questions. I mean, the use of this
20 tool, once you get into it, is pretty amazing, and
21 that is why I think the department is so committed to
22 building it and then sharing it.

23 REPRESENTATIVE MILLARD: Well, we can have
24 the greatest program, but unless it's completed and
25 utilized, it goes nowhere.

1 SECRETARY DiBERARDINIS: Right.

2 REPRESENTATIVE MILLARD: Thank you, Mr.
3 Secretary.

4 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

5 REPRESENTATIVE KELLER: Thank you,
6 Representative Millard.

7 First, I would like someone to take note and
8 tell Chairman Evans that after a shaky start, we are
9 back on schedule again.

10 Mr. Secretary, thank you, and unlike
11 Representative McIlhattan, I know you do a great job,
12 because you did a good job in Philadelphia. And I
13 spend most of my time trying to figure out how your
14 department can help me in South Philadelphia.

15 SECRETARY DiBERARDINIS: Hey, we always like
16 to help. Thank you.

17 REPRESENTATIVE KELLER: I would like to
18 thank you and the panel for a great discussion.

19 Any further comments, Mr. Secretary?

20 SECRETARY DiBERARDINIS: No, I'm fine.
21 Thank you.

22 I appreciate the questions, and I think they
23 were substantive and they get at the heart of why I'm
24 here and why we are in front of you today. So thank
25 you.

1 REPRESENTATIVE KELLER: Thank you. We are
2 going to take a recess for lunch. We'll be back in
3 at 1 o'clock. We will have the Department of
4 Insurance at that time.

5 Thank you.

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7 (The hearing concluded at 11:53 a.m.)

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I hereby certify that the proceedings and evidence are contained fully and accurately in the notes taken by me on the within proceedings and that this is a correct transcript of the same.

Jean M. Davis, Reporter
Notary Public