

1 impacts both continuing or alleged continuing harm. We're not
2 talking about remedies here.

3 As you all know, there were motions filed before the
4 Thanksgiving break, we ruled on those over Thanksgiving, and
5 ordered a supplemental report from Mr. Scott. I'm going to
6 allow Mr. Nance to go back into this legacy phosphorus issue.

7 We're going to take a break first. We're sitting at
8 10:45. We'll be in recess for ten minutes.

9 (Short recess)

10 **THE COURT:** Mr. Nance.

11 **MR. NANCE:** Thank you, Your Honor.

12 **REDIRECT EXAMINATION**

13 **BY MR. NANCE:**

14 **Q.** Sir, do you know the term "legacy phosphorus"?

15 **A.** I do.

16 **Q.** Will you tell the court how you understand -- what you
17 understand legacy phosphorus to be?

18 **A.** Legacy phosphorus is phosphorus above the natural content
19 that's a result of human activities.

20 **Q.** Okay. So it's a human creation and not a creation of
21 nature?

22 **A.** Yes.

23 **Q.** Okay. Now, going back to basics, what is the
24 significance of soil test phosphorus 65 on a field?

25 **A.** Generally speaking, land-grant universities establish

1 some level of phosphorus saturation that would meet all of the
2 crop needs for that year. So in Oklahoma, 65 would be 100
3 percent of needed phosphorus for any crop grown.

4 Q. Okay. Now, if poultry litter is land-applied on a field
5 that starts with 65 STP, does the STP go up?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And if it happens year after year after year, does it
8 keep going up?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Now, we've talked about the STP not being the only
11 phosphorus in the system; right?

12 A. Correct.

13 Q. There are the adsorb phosphorus and the chemically bound
14 phosphorus and the reactions that make the equilibrium; right?

15 A. Right.

16 Q. Okay. If the soil test phosphorus goes up very high,
17 then does the other kind of phosphorus go up high as well?

18 A. It should.

19 Q. Yes. And over a period of a long number of years
20 perhaps, does that phosphorus leak out of the system and into
21 water if there's water nearby?

22 A. It can depending on the soil's ability to tie up that
23 phosphorus for long periods, many years.

24 Q. Okay. So the leaking phosphorus problem is one that will
25 take many years to work itself out?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Okay. Let me share with you the court's finding of fact,
3 357, which he alluded to -- the judge alluded to, in that the
4 judge said -- or the court said, "Even years after the
5 cessation of poultry litter application, runoff water quality
6 can be affected because of phosphorus stored in the soil."

7 Is that a true statement?

8 A. It is.

9 Q. I'm not talking about any remedy for that problem, but is
10 the problem itself inexorable, will it just happen no matter
11 what?

12 A. Are you talking about the excess concentration of
13 phosphorus in runoff water?

14 Q. Yeah. The leaking of the phosphorus into the water.

15 A. It will continue to leak into the water until equilibrium
16 is achieved in that soil.

17 Q. Okay. And if there's an awful lot of phosphorus in the
18 soil, does it take an awful long time to quit?

19 A. It can.

20 Q. We'd all like to win a legacy or get a legacy. Let's
21 talk about a legacy in the bank.

22 Is this storage of phosphorus that comes from land
23 application like putting money into a bank account, a
24 phosphorus bank account?

25 A. It can be.

1 Q. It can be. And is the taking of phosphorus from the
2 phosphorus bank account to grow forages a withdrawal from the
3 bank account?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. So the total phosphorus in the soil, am I understanding
6 correctly, is going to be the difference between what goes in
7 and what comes out?

8 A. Right.

9 Q. And if it comes out in the Illinois River watershed, is
10 it likely to get into the water?

11 MR. TODD: Objection, Your Honor. Your Honor,
12 there's been no -- well, no foundation for an opinion specific
13 to the IRW. This witness has -- well, first of all, no such
14 foundation has been disclosed. Secondly, the witness has
15 testified that whether phosphorus leaves a particular field
16 requires a site-specific analysis, which they already testified
17 he has not done. So this witness can testify generally about
18 legacy phosphorus but he cannot give the opinion he was just
19 asked for. Objection.

20 THE COURT: Sustained. Rephrase, please.

21 MR. NANCE: Just a moment.

22 Q. (BY MR. NANCE) Did your report on page -- just a moment
23 -- 2 say that so long as poultry waste and phosphorus are
24 land-applied in the IRW, phosphorus concentrations in the soil
25 will continue to climb?

1 MR. TODD: Objection, your Honor. The report is
2 hearsay. I don't dispute the report states that. The
3 testimony -- the testimony here today confirms the witness can
4 give that opinion, and if the witness is allowed to give that
5 opinion, Your Honor, that is an undisclosed retained expert
6 Rule 26(a)(2)(B) opinion that should have been the subject of a
7 full expert report disclosed to defendants, to be challenged by
8 our own experts, subject to deposition, subject to discovery in
9 the proper course. This witness cannot state that opinion in
10 this court. I object.

11 THE COURT: Rephrase the question, please.

12 Q. (BY MR. NANCE) Are you a retained expert? Are you
13 being paid to be here other than your regular salary?

14 MR. TODD: Objection; calls for a legal conclusion.

15 THE COURT: I'm sorry?

16 MR. TODD: Legal conclusion, Your Honor. He can't
17 testify as to what type of expert he is under the rules and
18 "retained" doesn't necessarily mean paid. I'm happy to have
19 that argument to the court as to who's what type of expert, but
20 this witness I don't think can answer that question, although
21 he can testify as to whether he's being paid.

22 THE COURT: Overruled. Are you being paid?

23 THE WITNESS: My regular hourly salary, yes.

24 THE COURT: All right. Let me just ask here: As
25 a -- and we're not talking about specifically the IRW. But do

1 you understand here that the ODAFF allows phosphorus to be
2 placed on the land up to 300 STP? Do you understand that?

3 THE WITNESS: Yes.

4 THE COURT: And you understand and you've
5 established here that 65 STP is the agronomic need; correct?

6 THE WITNESS: Yes.

7 THE COURT: Okay. And do you remember Dr. Johnson?
8 Did you ever work with him at OSU?

9 THE WITNESS: Knew of him, yes.

10 THE COURT: All right. Well, he had testified in
11 the earlier proceeding that the limit ought to be 120 and I
12 adopted that. I mean, very credible. But the Oklahoma ag
13 department allows up to 300.

14 So just generally, if you have a situation with
15 phosphorus applied up to the point where the soil test
16 phosphorus is 300 STP and the agronomic need is 65, do you have
17 -- and I'm sure the answer is complex depending on the gradient
18 of the soil, etcetera -- but do you have an understanding of
19 how long -- and I know part of your supplementary report talked
20 about length and it seems to -- length of a legacy phosphorus,
21 and it seems to depend on the topography, which is part what
22 was geomorphologists do; correct?

23 So any idea of how long phosphorus would remain in the
24 soil if the STP is 300 if no litter was applied from this point
25 on?

1 MR. TODD: Objection, Your Honor.

2 THE COURT: Is it -- overruled.

3 MR. TODD: Thank you.

4 THE COURT: Overruled. Go ahead.

5 THE WITNESS: So if I have an STP of 300 today --

6 THE COURT: Yes.

7 THE WITNESS: -- the residence time for that is
8 going to depend on how quickly I empty my bank balance.

9 THE COURT: Right.

10 THE WITNESS: If I empty my bank balance with corn,
11 that balance will go down quicker than if I --

12 THE COURT: Okay. We have very little corn
13 production in the IRW, okay? So I'm talking about --

14 THE WITNESS: Bermuda grass.

15 THE COURT: -- Bermuda.

16 THE WITNESS: Bermuda grass will remove about seven
17 and a half to ten pounds of phosphorus per ton of hay per year.
18 So a considered opinion that's been published would be that 30
19 years of hay would remove that 300 level down below the
20 agronomic sufficiency.

21 THE COURT: How many years?

22 THE WITNESS: Thirty.

23 THE COURT: All right. Mr. Nance.

24 MR. NANCE: Thank you, Your Honor.

25 Q. (BY MR. NANCE) In that thirty years of haying the

1 property, would the hay have to be removed from the property?

2 A. Yes. It would require export --

3 MR. TODD: Objection, Your Honor. We're getting
4 into remedies again.

5 THE COURT: Overruled.

6 Q. (BY MR. NANCE) You may answer. Would the hay have to
7 be removed in order to reduce the STP in the ground?

8 A. Well, yes.

9 Q. Okay. So 30 years, if you're growing hay and taking it
10 off the property, during that 30 years would the process that
11 we've talked about -- I'm just going to call it "leaking
12 phosphorus" -- if there's water available, would the phosphorus
13 continue to leak into the water?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Okay. And if --

16 MR. NANCE: Well, that's argument. I'm not going to
17 ask him that.

18 Your Honor, do you have a satisfactory understanding
19 for yourself about the legacy phosphorus problem?

20 THE COURT: Let me ask: In your supplemental
21 report, you seem to suggest that there is science for the
22 proposition that our friend from Iowa talked about, that slope
23 is a factor, the specific soil composition in a particular
24 place is a factor; correct? And does it matter where in the
25 topography the phosphorus has been deposited to determine the

1 time of the legacy that the phosphorus is leaving? In other
2 words -- that's a poorly worded question. But does topography
3 have an effect on the length of the legacy?

4 **THE WITNESS:** Yes.

5 **THE COURT:** All right. Could you expound on that
6 generally? And I'm not talking about the Illinois River
7 watershed, but just generally as a soil scientist, as a
8 geomorphologist, how does that play a factor?

9 **THE WITNESS:** Current research has been looking at
10 watershed-sized sites, and the important point that comes out
11 of that is that the heterogeneity when you look at slope, soil
12 type, the ability of the soil to absorb and fix phosphorus, the
13 ability of sites to generate erosion creates a watershed system
14 that is extremely complex and the residence time for dissolved
15 phosphorus or particulate phosphorus is just highly variable
16 within that watershed. The critical measurement point is where
17 the water exits the watershed system. That would be the
18 summation of all of the contributions and entrainments.

19 **THE COURT:** Well, if there's a terminal lake and
20 phosphorus that is adsorbed to the soil is eroded by streambank
21 erosion, what form does that phosphorus take in lakebed
22 sediments?

23 **THE WITNESS:** It is held in place until anaerobic
24 biochemical reactions can release it out of those sediments as
25 dissolved phosphorus.

1 THE COURT: Mr. Nance, anything further?

2 MR. NANCE: Sir?

3 THE COURT: Anything further, sir?

4 MR. NANCE: No, sir. I think you've -- I think
5 you've -- I've done all I can.

6 THE COURT: All right. Mr. Todd. Hold on. I'm
7 sorry.

8 *(Discussion held off the record)*

9 THE COURT: Yes, sir.

10 MR. TODD: Your Honor, before I start, I don't
11 believe I've ever objected to a judge's question before and --

12 THE COURT: You've done it a couple times here.

13 MR. TODD: And I want to apologize to the court. I
14 meant no disrespect. I have a record to make.

15 THE COURT: Well, I mean, the first time it was
16 clear that his opinion related both to horizontal and vertical
17 transportation of phosphorus. So let's just use a little
18 judgment. Go ahead, Mr Todd.

19 MR. TODD: Your Honor, I believe there's a
20 difference between groundwater and what --

21 THE COURT: Let's proceed.

22 MR. TODD: Yes, sir.

23 **RE-CROSS-EXAMINATION**

24 **BY MR. TODD:**

25 Q. Mr. Scott, clear one thing up for us. What is a