

**Report on Sanitation, Environmental Health and
General Safety Conditions Provided to Death Row
Inmates at the Mississippi State Penitentiary,
Parchman, Mississippi**

**A Report by James Balsamo
For the American Civil Liberties Union's
National Prison Project**

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Introduction

I have been retained as a private consultant by the National Prison Project of the ACLU to evaluate the sanitation, environmental health and general safety conditions provided to Death Row inmates at the Mississippi State Penitentiary, Parchman, Mississippi.

My inspection tour took place on August 8, 2002, from 9 AM to 10:30 PM.¹ I inspected Unit 32-C, the housing unit where all the Death Row inmates are housed. I inspected Tiers 1, 2, and 3, including the cells, showers, clean supply storage room, unit satellite kitchen, pipe chases, ventilation system, outdoor exercise pens, building exterior, lighting and electrical systems, fire exits, fire alarm system, and sprinkler system. I had inspected the laundry facility and main preparation kitchens for Unit 32 during an earlier tour for the National Prison Project, in August 2001.

The opinions in this report are based on my August 8 site visit and inspection; my review of a January 2001 drinking water inspection, and twelve months of water sample reports of the potable water system at Parchman; and Mississippi Health Department inspections of Unit 32-C for the past 12 years. I also relied on my tests and observations of the inmate cells and contents, ambient temperature, relative humidity, and air volume readings in the cells, and plumbing, lighting, electrical, fire alarm, fire suppression (sprinkler), and ventilation systems, as well as conversations with prison personnel and inmates. I checked noise levels in various units at different times of the day and night.

My conclusion, in summary fashion, is as follows: Conditions in this facility, including excessive heat, filth, uncontrolled insect and mosquito infestations with attendant risk of West Nile infection, inadequate water supply, water leaks, impaired ventilation, uncontrolled water temperatures, malfunctioning toilets, the apparent lack of adequate cleaning supplies, food being held and served at unsafe temperatures, unsanitary laundry, broken automatic fire detection and alarm system, excessive noise, and extremely poor lighting, all combine to seriously jeopardize the health and safety of the inmates and the correctional officers who live and work in Unit C-32, Death Row.

Inadequate Sewage Disposal System: Ping-Pong Toilets

All the cells in Death Row have “ping-pong” toilets: Sewage from one cell backs up in the toilet in the adjoining cell.² This plumbing defect presents a serious health hazard. It causes fecal material and

¹I want to thank all prison officials for their assistance in this trying effort. I have respect for the job they are doing and I feel that I was treated in a most cordial and respectful manner. This I appreciate very much.

²I observed examples of this problem in every cell I inspected, including for example cells #3 and 4, 11 and 12, 45 and 46, 206 and 207, 203 and 204, and 45 and 46.

micro-organisms from the sewerage disposal system to bubble up in the toilet of other cells, creating a hazard that the toilet will overflow, and fecal materials and microbiological agents will be released into the air. Prisoners and correctional staff then must breathe this air filled with aerosolized fecal matter.³ The problem occurs because of faulty installation of the piping in the pipe chase between cells). To remedy this problem will require extensive plumbing work. However, it should be noted that MDOC has had many years to fix this problem: The Health Department has documented this problem in their annual inspections of Unit 32 for eleven years, since 1991. It is exceedingly urgent that it be fixed.

Inadequate Water Supply

The water supply for the Unit 32 is inadequate, presenting very serious health risks. Health Department inspection reports indicate, and the facility engineer confirms, a low water pressure problem. The lack of an adequate water supply in combination with high ambient air temperatures during the summer present an especially significant health risk to the prisoners.⁴ MDOC has known for a long time that the existing wells are not capable of maintaining the water pressure at the level necessary for good operation. The health department reports point this out year after year as they have cited low pressure in shower, lavatories, and toilets over many years of inspecting this facility. It could affect the boilers and fire systems as well as other water pressure dependent equipment.

An example of how serious this risk is occurred very recently, in June of this year, when all of Unit 32 was without water for an entire week, during very hot weather. This occurred because two wells were broken, and at the same time the waste water system lift station also broke. There was no water in the cells to flush toilets, perform personal hygiene tasks, take showers, or clean the Unit. Toilets were flushed only once a day, using water and hoses from a fire truck. Staff said that they provided drinking water to the prisoners three times per day in coolers. Inmates said that they got water only with their meals if they were lucky.

If there had been an adequate inventory of parts and supplies, the lift station problem might have been repaired promptly. Indeed, the facility engineer said that the problem probably could have been repaired in one day if the maintenance employees had simply gone out and purchased the proper parts and materials. If there were a functional preventive maintenance program, the problem might have been discovered and perhaps the needed repairs could have been performed before the system malfunctioned.

³When both connected toilets are flushed simultaneously, this doesn't happen, but not all inmates cooperate (especially not the ones with serious mental illness).

⁴Some inmates expressed concern to counsel about the distinctly brown color of the water in Unit 32. Water samples collected from July 2001 to June 2002 and analyzed by the Health Department showed no coliform bacteria were present, and free chlorine residuals were demonstrated (showing that the water is adequately chlorinated to destroy dangerous bacteria). The water still needs to be tested chemically to make sure it has no other pollutants.

See section on Preventive Maintenance.

Inadequate Insect and Pest Control

The lack of an appropriate insect and pest control program causes very serious health and safety risks for all of the inmates in Unit 32-C. The infestation of mosquitoes and other biting and stinging insects is so severe that it forces inmates to keep their windows closed and their bodies completely covered even in the hottest weather, cutting off all cross-ventilation to their cells and creating the conditions for heat stroke and heat death. Furthermore, West Nile Virus is a serious health risk. Many cases of West Nile infection and at least one death have occurred in Mississippi so far this summer, and emergency Health Alerts have been issued by the health departments for Mississippi and neighboring Louisiana.

It is apparent that regular spraying is not taking place. I suspect that the facility had been sprayed the morning of the tour, just before we arrived, yet the problem was still not under control. I noted live mosquitoes in the dietary sub-kitchen in C-32, near the control center in C-32, and in hallways and cells (examples 31 and 37). There were other live bugs and spiders in a number of cells that I checked, such as 31 and 37. The inside (cell side) area of the windows in most cells that I checked had layers of dead bugs in them. Inmates complained of getting bitten by these insects.

Pest control records indicate cells are sprayed -- yet correctional officers told me that they spray only in the hallways and equipment chases, not in the cells. Inmates overwhelmingly stated that their cells are not sprayed. One inmate said that the pest control man who comes by once a month gave him the hose to spray inside his cell. All interior areas including the cbsets, equipment chases, hallways, metal door railings, showers and cells themselves need to be treated with an effective product.

It is also essential that properly sized air curtains should be placed above the building entrance doors, or else insecticide misters placed in the alcoves, since no amount of spraying can control the problem if mosquitoes enter the Unit every time someone enters or exits the Unit. The outside of the facility needs to be sprayed routinely --not just on the day when someone from the outside shows up for a tour. Grass must be kept cut, and no stagnant or standing water should be allowed anywhere.

I noted several window screens that had big holes in them, such as cell # 43. Furthermore, broken seals around the window frames in some cells may be allowing mosquitoes and other insects to enter even when window screens are intact. The mesh appeared to be too coarse in some cells, allowing small insects to enter. Insect screening with small enough to keep out small biting insects should be installed outside the security screens; broken screens must be replaced, and broken, poorly sealed window frames must be repaired.

Heat, Humidity and Ventilation Issues

The ambient air temperatures and humidity in the cells on August 8 were unacceptably high, posing serious health hazards for all occupants of Unit 32-C but especially for older inmates and those with medical conditions.

ANSI (American National Standards Institute) Standards for primarily sedentary activity with minimal clothing during the summer, allows for a range from 79 to 84 degrees F. (Standard 55-1992, Thermal Environmental Conditions for Human Occupancy). The temperatures I measured on August 8 were uniformly higher than this standard, and there is no mechanical system in the Unit capable of adjusting the temperature and humidity.

I took temperature, humidity and air volume readings in some 15 cells in Unit 32-C at various times during the day and night on August 8. See Appendix A. The mean temperature was 87 degrees F. The cells with lower volume of air moving through them appeared to have the higher temperatures, averaging about 88 degrees F. and ranging from 87 to 90 degrees F. I measured a temperature of 90 degrees F. in one of the cells at almost 10 PM. The relative humidity levels ranged from 72 to 90% and averaged about 76%. Thus, the Heat Index inside many of the cells exceeded 100 on August 8, and was in the *Extreme Caution to Danger* levels for possible heat cramps and exhaustion. But the situation was far worse before and after the tour. On August 8, the day of our tour, the highest outdoors temperature for this area was 91 degrees F., with a relative humidity of 66%, creating a Heat Index of 101 degrees F. But the outside temperatures for the previous 5 days (August 2 through August 7) were 97, 98, 95, 96, and 97; August 9, the day after my inspection, it was 95 degrees F. This translates into corresponding Heat Index readings of 136, 140, 129, 127, 136 and 123 degrees Fahrenheit, with an average Heat Index of 132 degrees Fahrenheit, and ranging from 127 to 140 degrees F. These Heat Index levels put the inmates in the cells during these days in *Extreme Danger of Imminent Heat Stroke*.

However, these figures do not begin to give the complete picture of the dangerously high temperatures to which these inmates are routinely exposed. The cells are made even hotter by several other factors in the inmates' environment. First, I observed that even though the heat was stifling many, perhaps most, of the inmates kept their windows closed. They uniformly explained that they normally keep their windows closed in summer to protect themselves from spiders and many other kinds of biting and stinging insects, including mosquitoes, which plague the cells in such numbers that no matter how bad the heat, it is intolerable to keep the window open. Many inmates also expressed a great fear, unfortunately well-founded, of contracting West Nile virus because of the lack of adequate mosquito control.

Air movement allows for some convective cooling of the body. Electric fans in the cells are therefore a necessary, although not sufficient, safety measure during hot weather. However, many of the Death Row inmates have no access to fans. In some cells there were no electrical outlets in which to plug in a small auxiliary fan, which inmates who can afford them are allowed to purchase from the prison commissary. One 74 year old prisoner, who doesn't have a fan because he can't afford one, ingeniously created a vent by draping his T-shirt over part of the window to direct a draft of air onto his bed. He showed me that it actually directs a little air from the window onto his bed, the only relief he has from the

heat. Unfortunately, the rules prohibit him from covering any part of the window.

An additional problem is that in some parts of Unit 32-C, the afternoon sun shines directly onto the inmates' beds--the only place they have to sit in their cells-- exposing them to even hotter temperatures. While my air temperature measurements were done on the inside of the cells in the middle of the cells, I also used an infrared thermometer to measure the metal frame of the windows. The temperatures there measured from 3 to 11 degrees higher than the room air temperature (exposure to sunshine can increase Heat Index values by up to 15 degrees F, according to the National Weather Service). Heat builds up in the walls of the cells and keeps on heating the cells through radiant heating, even when the sun sets and the outside temperature may cool down a little. Shading from direct sunlight would help to lower the ambient air temperature, and many inmates told me that they partially cover the window with a towel, when they can. However, this, again, is a violation of the rules and subjects them to punishment.

Taking frequent cooling showers is one of the primary ways to cool the body and prevent lethal heat-related illness for individuals who have no access to air conditioning. Even this basic method isn't reliably available to the Death Row inmates. They have access to showers only three times a week, no matter how hot the weather. In addition, there are sometimes water outages (a recent one lasted a week). Furthermore, inmates complain that cold water isn't reliably available: they claim that sometimes only scalding hot water is available in the Death Row showers, as I noted above in the section on Water Supply.

Drinking ample amounts of water is essential when individuals are exposed to high ambient temperatures. Officials related to me with pride that they actually provided water in Igloo containers three times a day to the inmates when the water was shut down! Inmates said that they got water only with their meals and not at other times.

The ventilation system in Unit 32 is badly impaired through poor maintenance. The air return grills in the hallways are so clogged with dust and debris that the system that it may cause the fan and motor to malfunction. Ten to fifteen cubic feet per minute of fresh outside air or re-circulated filtered air per inmate is required. This amount of ventilation is provided -- but only when the windows are opened. Unfortunately, most inmates must keep their windows closed as protection against insects, spiders and other bugs, because the lack of appropriate pest control measures. When windows are closed, ventilation is inadequate and the temperature rises in the cells.

It is an urgent health and safety matter that these inmates be provided relief from high temperatures and humidity. At the very least, every inmate needs to be provided with a fan, they must be allowed to take frequent showers, they must be provided with plenty of water and ice, and they must be allowed to shade their windows from the direct sunlight even if it is done by partial awnings on the outside of the cells so as not to interfere with security. Also critically important, proper pest control measures must be implemented so that these inmates are not forced to keep their windows closed during the hot weather.

I am aware that inmates have also complained to counsel that the cells are very cold in the winter during freezing weather. I was of course not able to confirm this through measurements on my August 8 tour, but I did observe what appears to me to be a design flaw in the heating system which would explain why the cells might be very cold in the winter: the air supply and return grills, used for the provision of heat during cold weather, are installed on the same wall and at the same height just above the cell doors. This method of installation short-circuits the flow of air into the cell especially the area near the outside wall, which will be colder during the winter.

Inadequate Cell Sanitation

Most inmates with whom I spoke complained that Death Row cells are filthy, and that they aren't given the means to get the cells clean. There was plenty of evidence that the inmates' complaints are justified. It appeared that correction officials had taken unusual measures to make Death Row presentably clean for our August 8 tour (in fact, all of the cells on one tier had just been freshly painted white), yet even so many of the cells and toilets were very dirty and some were filthy.

Inmates uniformly complained that they are not being regularly provided cleaning supplies and utensils. Some said that they get mops and buckets -- with dirty, non-soapy water -- once a week, and then they may or may not get toilet brushes. Others said that they get supplies two and sometime three times per week, but toilet brushes only once a week. Almost all the inmates with whom I spoke about this issue complained that the water in the bucket is used for 20 or more cells and gets very dirty. Many inmates said that the bucket of water and mop are so filthy that they won't use it, and instead use the small bar of soap and the towel they are provided for personal grooming to clean their floors, sink and toilet. Examples of particularly filthy cells are cell number 25 (a cell with a Plexiglas door covering the metal door); brown material could have been transferred to the food when it was pushed through food port. (Photos ##1, 2, 3) In the hallways and in cell # 220, the brown staining on the walls is said to be excrement thrown by mentally unstable death row inmates. (Photo ## 4, 5)

Failing to provide these inmates with clean water, soap, mop, and other basic cleaning supplies is even more destructive because of prison staff's practice of frequently moving inmates, including severely mentally inmates, from cell to cell, without cleaning the vacated cell before moving another prisoner into it. The prisoner moving into a new cell is then compelled, without basic cleaning equipment or supplies, to clean up from the previous inhabitant -- sometimes a severely mentally ill inmate who smeared the walls with excrement.

Adding considerably to the filth in the Death Row cells is foul water leaking into the cells from flooded toilets on tiers over head, or rain water leaking through the walls or from the roof. Water leaks down on bedding and personal items, soiling and contaminating them, and possibly allowing the growth of toxigenic and allergenic molds. Cells 42, 204, and 225 serve as examples of these conditions. (Photos ## 4, 6) Flaking and peeling paint was in evidence in many cells. Examples of this include cells # 204 and

225. (Photo ## 4, 6, 7, 8) This peeling and flaking paint is probably being caused by the water leakage noted above.

Inmates must be provided adequate cleaning supplies if they are expected to clean their own cells. These supplies must include clean soap and water in buckets, mops, and toilet cleaning brushes. Inmates should never have to use their own soap for personal hygiene to mop their floors or clean their toilets. Adequate supplies must be made available so that they are available every day, including weekends and holidays. Officers providing such materials must be made to understand that one bucket of water for cleaning the cells in one tier is inadequate, and that the water and soap must be changed frequently so that dirty water is not being used to clean all the cells.

Unsanitary Bedding and Clothing

During my inspection of the cells, I noticed that the sheets looked very dirty and in many cases were very foul-smelling.⁵ Inmates said that the clothes and bedding always come back from the laundry looking and smelling worse than before. Many inmates said that they wash their own clothes in the sink in their cells, using the bar of soap they are provided for personal hygiene, because, they claim, if they send it to the laundry it is returned to them (if at all) dirtier than they sent it out. The inmates' complaints are quite justified. I happened to be present at about 2130 hours, when a bundle of sheets was being returned to the tier from the laundry. I inspected the sheets and observed that they were not only very dingy but also smelled very bad, as if soured. When a correctional officer saw this, he picked up the bundle from the tier we were on, and threw them in a cart (probably a laundry cart) in another tier. These dirty, foul-smelling sheets, supposedly "clean" from the laundry, are the result of lack of hot water, adequate soap and bleaching agent, and a souring (acidifying) agent. It should be noted that I found the very same problem when I toured Parchman a year ago, in August 2001, on behalf of the prisoners with HIV. Those inmates also use their sink to wash their clothes and bedding, because these come back so dirty and foul-smelling from the central laundry. This is an intolerably unhealthy situation. The inmates have a right to clean, sanitary clothes and bedding. Under no circumstances should they be forced by the disgraceful state of the central laundry to wash their sheets and bedding in their cells.

Inadequate Access to Showers and Lavatories for Health and Personal Hygiene

Inmates complain that they are provided showers and lavatories where the water is either scalding

⁵ Inmates should be provided the opportunity to have three complete sets of clothing per week. Bedding and towel exchange should be provided at least weekly. Corrections staff told me that clothes and bedding were picked up on the first watch and returned on the second and third watch. The frequency of laundry exchange does not seem to be in question, however the cleaning process appears to be a serious problem.

hot, or there is no hot water at all. In either case, the safety and personal hygiene of the inmate is seriously compromised. Hot and cold water in the shower and at the lavatory in the cells must be provided, both for basic hygiene purposes and for important health reasons. The hot water should be between 100 and 120 degrees F. Health Department inspections dating back to 1993, 1994, and 1995 through 1999, 2000, 2001, and June 2002 have all consistently documented the absence of hot water in showers and lavatories in unit C-32. On the day of my tour, the hot water was functioning properly at first, but then the hot water system either malfunctioned or was turned off sometime before 9 PM, when I happened to measure it again and discovered that the water at the lavatory in cell 43 registered the same as the cold water, around 78 degrees F. The maintenance supervisor said that there must have been a voltage fluctuation and the hot water heaters shut down. I asked him how does his shop know when this happens and he said that they have no way to monitor such situations and must rely on officers to tell them when such problems occur.

Inadequate Cell Lighting

Inmates complained that their cells are dimly lit. My measurements confirmed that lighting in the cells is shockingly low, drastically below minimally acceptable levels. Twenty foot-candles is the minimum permissible level for lighting cells. Older persons and others with eye problems require higher lighting levels. The lighting in the Death Row inmates' cells, however, is *under three* foot-candles; in many cells it is under two; and in some cells there is less than one foot-candle of light. **See Appendix B.** This is much too low for reading, or for grooming and cleaning purposes. Making the matter even worse, in many cells the desk and chair have been removed, leaving no place to read and write except on the bed.

Inadequate Cell Furnishings

When prisoners are confined to their cells for more than 10 hours per day, national standards require a writing surface and proximate area to sit. Not all cells in Unit 32-C meet these standards.

Inadequate Food Sanitation and Hygiene

Most of the inmates complained that their food is served to them on wet and foul-smelling trays.⁶ These complaints are justified. I observed that the trays were still wet when served. This indicates that

⁶At the time of my visit, a written policy had recently been issued whereby Death Row inmates are not allowed to keep a cup or eating utensils in their cell. Captain Harrison claimed that this policy isn't being enforced. Inmates believe that the prison has simply delayed implementation of the rule until after the August 8 tour was completed.

they were not properly air dried, and makes it doubtful that they are being properly sanitized. The trays are supposed to air dry after going through the sanitization cycle in the main kitchen dishwashing area. Adequate racks must be provided in the dishwashing area to allow the trays to air dry. I toured the main kitchen a year ago, August 2001, and found exactly the same problem, which I noted in my report as a health problem which had to be corrected. By failing to correct this problem, the facility is creating a significant hazard of severe food-borne illness.

It is also quite hazardous to hold food at improper temperatures; this leads to the rapid growth of dangerous bacteria. Hot foods must be held and served at or above 140 degrees Fahrenheit and cold foods must be held and served at or below 40 degrees Fahrenheit. The Death Row inmates are receiving food that is being held and served at unsafe temperatures. **See Appendix C.**

Excessive Noise Levels

Inmates complained of not being able to sleep or concentrate because of din created by severely mentally ill inmates and by some state inmates usually housed on Death Row who are disciplinary problems. On the day of our tour, the state inmates had all been moved out of Death Row and the severely mentally ill inmates had been medicated, resulting in a quieter environment than is usual. Nevertheless, it was very noisy on the Unit. Acceptable national standards are 70dBA in the daytime and 45 dBA at night; for every three decibel increase in noise level the noise essentially increase by 100%. Unit 32 far exceeded these standards. It was very noisy even as late as 2100+ hrs. **See Appendix D.**

Lack of Access to Prescribed Medical Diets

I was disturbed to find that the Captain in charge of Unit 32-C seemed to have no idea of the procedure for delivering special medical diets to inmates who have been prescribed these diets, and that he did not even have a list of those who have been prescribed special medical diets. Obviously, he had no way of assuring that the inmates who require these diets actually receive them ⁷

⁷ I was told that the Styrofoam single service containers in the Hobart food holding unit were snack trays for inmates on medical diets, and that the medical diet meals for inmates on special medical diets came from the main kitchen in hard plastic (Cambro) trays. When I later asked Captain Harrison whether the medical diet meal trays had ever been delivered to the sub-kitchen, Captain Harrison told me that they had been delivered after I left the sub-kitchen. I asked if they still were in the sub-kitchen because I wanted to go back to measure food temperatures. Captain Harrison replied that the trays had probably been passed out after I left the sub-kitchen. But when he asked a worker when the medical diet trays had been delivered, the worker replied that the meals in the Hobart warmer were the medical diet meals (not merely snack trays as Captain Harrison had supposed).

Nonfunctional Fire and Emergency System

The automatic smoke detection and fire alarm system in Unit C-32 is inoperative. It apparently has been in this condition for sometime, maybe even months. We tested the water-based fire sprinkler system at the inspector's test port, and water flowed through the pipes; however neither the fire alarm system, tamper alarm, water flow switch alarm nor water flow gong sounded, as they should have when water was flowing through the test port pipes. This lack of a functional fire alarm system violates fire codes and jeopardizes the life safety of everyone in Unit 32-C, including those not on Death Row.

The danger from the non-functioning alarm system is magnified by the evident inability of staff to open all cell doors efficiently. The biggest danger, should fire break out in Unit 32-C, would be suffocation by smoke inhalation. It is critically important to ensure that the prisoners can exit the cell block safely and quickly. However, when we asked a correctional officer to open the sliding bar type door to one of the cells, cell #220, the door would not open and an officer had to force it open. In case of a fire or medical emergency, this malfunctioning door would endanger the life of the prisoner in that cell. Furthermore, correctional staff had trouble opening the fire exit door on Tier 3. It took many attempts before they could open this emergency evacuation door. This could have had disastrous consequences in case of a fire.

Inadequate Preventive Maintenance and System Monitoring

There is no written preventive maintenance policy and procedure in effect at Unit 32-C. There is no written policy stating the priorities for making repairs. There is no automatic central monitoring of air, water, and mechanical systems to determine if they are working. Perhaps life safety is a high priority-- but if so, there apparently is no document stating this and the non-functioning fire alarm system in C-32 belies life safety as a priority. These deficiencies jeopardize the health and lives of the inmates.⁸

This facility is so large, with so many buildings, support shops, and crucial equipment, that without automatic monitoring of the air, water and mechanical systems, it is predictable that shutdowns will occur and these shutdowns will last for a long time instead of being short-term interruptions of services. If a fan stops, or boilers shut down, maintenance has no way of knowing until someone complains and the officers take time to write up a work request to get the work done, or until the next routine inspection, a month or two later.

These prolonged shutdowns can lead to catastrophic consequences. If hot water is not provided

⁸ Mr. Weeks said that he does prioritize the work orders. He said there is a chart on the wall in the maintenance area that indicates what is supposed to be done routinely. This system doesn't lend itself to easy tracking and accountability, and the PM program accountability documentation is at best limited.

for dishwashing-sanitization because the boiler malfunctioned, and inadequately sanitized cooking and eating utensils are used, the perfect environment for food-borne disease outbreaks has been created. If the fan motors or compressors in the refrigeration units were to malfunction, the food in these units could be held for many hours, perhaps days, at unsafe holding temperatures. This could allow for rapid microbial growth and hence a food-borne disease outbreak. The concurrent breakdown, during very hot weather in June of this year, of two wells and a waste water lift station, caused a water outage for almost a week, creating a sanitation nightmare and leaving inmates vulnerable to disease and heat stroke. A good PM program would in all likelihood have picked up problems before the system shutdown. Most assuredly if a good parts and equipment inventory system, as part of a maintenance program, was in place, the lift station and wells could have been back on line much quicker. I was told that in fact if they had just gone and bought the right parts in the first place, this week long outage could have been avoided and the system could have been back on line in one day.

CONCLUSION

This facility needs much work to make it acceptable from a health and safety point of view. Present conditions are seriously jeopardizing the health and safety of the inmates and correctional officers who live and work in C-32, Death Row. Actions must be taken immediately to:

- A. Install either air curtains or insecticide spray misters in the alcoves of the entrances to C-32 so as to prevent the entrance of insects and mosquitoes, especially in light of the growing number of West Nile Fever cases in Mississippi; install a smaller mesh screening material on windows consistent with Health Department and building code requirements; fix broken window frames that allow mosquitoes and other insects to enter; implement a spraying program that regularly includes spraying of cells.
- B. Repair or replace malfunctioning (ping-pong) toilets, leaking pipes, leaking roof and walls.
- C. Fully implement the sanitation and safety inspection program outlined in DOC policy for cells, showers and hallways, and hold accountable those responsible for these inspections; develop ways to improve and clean the filthy and unsafe conditions that now exist in C-32; ensure that laundry is returned to inmates clean and properly sanitized (if it smells foul, it is not clean).
- D. Provide fans for all cells where indigent inmates cannot afford to buy them; the removal of fans in the summer as a means of punishment must not be allowed unless the inmate is abusing the fan in some manner so as to create a security risk.
- E. Provide a cool environment for all inmates whose medical conditions predispose them to

heat related illness, whenever the ambient air temperature or Heat Index puts these inmates at serious risk (Dr. Vassallo's report states that this occurs when the temperature or Heat Index exceeds 88 degrees Fahrenheit). Provide ice and daily showers to all inmates whenever the ambient air temperature or Heat Index rises to levels that would put sedentary individuals in normal health at risk for heat-related illness (Dr. Vassallo's report states that this occurs when the temperature or Heat Index exceeds 88 degrees Fahrenheit). If a water outage occurs during these hot days, an alternate system of providing enough water under pressure, so that showers can be taken and toilets can be flushed. More wells, properly sized pipes, more water towers, a system to provide water via some type of milk truck or large water truck, must be considered in such emergency planning.

- F. Replace or add more light fixtures with one that provide a minimum of 20 footcandles at desk and lavatory for reading and at grooming
- G. Repair or replace the automatic smoke detection and building fire alarm systems in C-32.
- H. Ensure that food is held and served at proper temperatures: hot foods must be served hot and cold foods cold.
- I. Provide a written, priority-based preventive maintenance program with an inventory component and personal accountability built into the system. Electronic monitoring of crucial equipment and systems back to a 24 hours per day monitoring station should be considered. This must include water heater/boilers, circulating pumps, well pumps, sewage lift stations, heat and ventilation fans and motors, other mechanical systems crucial to the operation of C-32. An alternate emergency plan for sewage removal and waste water disposal and for the provision of water during an emergency utility outage of water and or electricity.