## Docket No. TP-190976 - Vol. II

## Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission v. Puget Sound Pilots

March 30, 2020



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## BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,	)DOCKET TP-190976 ) )
Complainant,	) )
vs.	)
PUGET SOUND PILOTS,	) )
Respondent.	)

TELEPHONIC STATUS CONFERENCE, VOLUME II

Pages 28-54

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE RAYNE PEARSON

March 30, 2020

11:00 a.m.

Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission 621 Woodland Square Loop Southeast Lacey, Washington 98503

REPORTED BY: TAYLER GARLINGHOUSE, CCR 3358

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1	LACEY, WASHINGTON; MARCH 30, 2020
2	11:00 A.M.
3	000
4	PROCEEDINGS
5	
6	JUDGE PEARSON: So let's be on the record.
7	Good morning. We're here today for a telephonic status
8	conference in Docket TP-190976 in response to the joint
9	motion filed by Puget Sound Pilots, Staff, and Pacific
10	Yacht Management and Pacific Merchant Shipping
11	Association's response thereto.
12	My name is Rayne Pearson. I'm the
13	administrative law judge presiding with the
14	Commissioners over this matter.
15	So let's just start by taking short
16	appearances beginning with Puget Sound Pilots.
17	MR. WILEY: Yes, Your Honor. Good morning.
18	Dave Wiley and Blair Fassburg for Puget Sound Pilots.
19	JUDGE PEARSON: Thank you.
20	And for Commission Staff?
21	MR. FUKANO: Good morning, Judge Pearson.
22	This is Harry Fukano, Assistant Attorney General, here
23	with Sally Brown on behalf of Commission Staff.
24	JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. And for PMSA?
25	MR. BLOCK: Good morning, Your Honor. Steve

- 1 Block, Foster Garvey, filling in for PMSA.
- 2 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. And for Pacific Yacht
- 3 Management?
- 4 MS. WEBBER: This is Monique Webber for
- 5 Pacific Yacht Management.
- JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. Thank you.
- 7 So first I'd like to, Mr. Block, just ask
- 8 you about your response that indicated that there's some
- 9 ongoing discovery disputes that might be hindering your
- 10 ability to complete your responsive testimony. Did you
- 11 want to discuss that at all?
- MR. BLOCK: Well, I can, Your Honor, and
- 13 that does play into the general stepping stance that
- 14 we'd like adjusted in how the matter is scheduled. You
- 15 know, we have quite a few data requests out to which we
- 16 received what we believe are inadequate or inappropriate
- 17 responses. And counsel are working pretty, you know,
- 18 extensively on it. We've -- we've had a very lengthy
- 19 phone call, go to meetings where we're looking at
- 20 documents, and I would assume we would exchange
- 21 correspondence that goes to each of the concerns.
- You know, I believe we are on a path to
- 23 getting some or all of the disputes resolved, but I
- 24 don't know how long it's going to take, and I don't know
- 25 whether it's going to completely resolve all of the

- 1 issues.
- 2 The documents and information we need and we
- 3 requested are -- are data requests, are essential for
- 4 our witnesses to, you know, derive their -- their
- 5 testimony. And, you know, my hope is that we could get
- 6 it resolved. I did think we had a productive phone
- 7 call, but if can't, then that -- we would necessitate
- 8 motion practice that we would have to file with Your
- 9 Honor to either have this -- the issue resolved.
- 10 So I don't know how long that process will
- 11 take, and regardless of the situation and the
- 12 implications with the pandemic and the lockdown, you
- 13 know, that will play into when we can get our -- our
- 14 testimony prepared.
- JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. Thank you.
- 16 And I forgot to ask the parties, if -- if I
- 17 don't address you by name and you do start speaking,
- 18 please just identify yourself for the court reporter's
- 19 benefit.
- 20 So as you're all aware, the Commission
- 21 strongly prefers that the parties work together
- 22 cooperatively to resolve any discovery disputes. I'd
- 23 like to strongly encourage the parties to do their best
- 24 to continue working together and avoid bringing those
- 25 disputes to me to the best of their abilities.

- 1 So that brings us to the proposed schedule
- 2 changes. Have the parties had the opportunity to
- 3 discuss at all? I know it was only on Friday that I
- 4 mentioned the only available hearing dates in August
- 5 right now were August 12th and 13th. If we want to --
- 6 why don't we just go around starting with the Puget
- 7 Sound Pilots, and if you could let me know if you had an
- 8 opportunity to discuss those dates and whether those
- 9 work for you.
- 10 MR. WILEY: Yes, Your Honor. Dave Wiley. I
- 11 wanted to indicate that I had talked -- we talked over
- 12 the weekend to our clients, and we -- we want to
- 13 understand what you said, which is that August 12th full
- 14 day and August 13th, which is an open meeting date,
- 15 would be the only two days available around that window.
- 16 We -- and this is just, you know, kind of how our wheels
- 17 have been turning, we're willing to consider something
- 18 somewhat shorter than the six-week interval to schedule
- 19 that hearing if you have dates available --
- JUDGE PEARSON: I don't, that's the problem.
- 21 Literally for the month of August, that is it, and July
- 22 is a complete mess so we've --
- MR. WILEY: Wow.
- 24 JUDGE PEARSON: -- got NARUC and conferences
- 25 and the Commissioners gone for most of July and other

- 1 hearings already scheduled.
- MR. WILEY: So we do have some concern, Your
- 3 Honor, and I think you probably foresaw this, with -- we
- 4 have 11 witnesses on our own. We don't know how many
- 5 PMSA and PYM are going to have, but, you know, it's --
- 6 it's a concern that -- that one and three-quarters day
- 7 might be a problem. So, you know, we've got logistical
- 8 issues obviously and we wanted to talk about those
- 9 today.
- Sorry, my dog, once again, is screwing up a
- 11 call. I'll try to get him out of here.
- JUDGE PEARSON: My dog may do the same. I'm
- 13 just forewarning you all.
- So I just -- I just wanted to say, I don't
- 15 know if this eases your concerns at all, but the -- the
- 16 open meeting should be short. I think probably we could
- 17 go long on the first day or the second day if we needed
- 18 to. There's also a possibility -- I -- I have to figure
- 19 it out with the Commissioners' calendars, there's a
- 20 possibility we could carry over for a couple of hours on
- 21 Friday, the 14th, if we needed to. It's just that one
- 22 of the Commissioners has their calendar completely
- 23 blocked out that day, so I need to figure out what's
- 24 going on with that.
- 25 But I do think that it's likely to be a

- 1 short open meeting. I mean, we can also -- we have the
- 2 option to convene early on the 12th, we could start at
- 3 8:30 if we wanted to. I think we have options to work
- 4 around making sure that we get two full hearing days'
- 5 worth of time given those date restrictions.
- 6 MR. WILEY: Okay. Your Honor, I mean, from
- 7 our standpoint, the improvisation would be helpful. We
- 8 just, you know, are worried because of the volume of the
- 9 case.
- 10 JUDGE PEARSON: And -- and I totally
- 11 understand that. So we -- we would definitely work to
- 12 accommodate that. If we had to stay late, we -- like I
- 13 said, we could stay late. We've certainly done that
- 14 before, and I know these are unprecedented times and
- it's -- it's very hard to figure out how to manage
- 16 everything right now, but I think that most likely we
- 17 can -- we can work it out. I mean, you know me, I've
- 18 stayed in the hearing room for -- for ten hours before,
- 19 so I think we can -- we can probably figure out a way to
- 20 get it done.
- 21 So let's hear now from Staff about those
- 22 dates.
- 23 MR. FUKANO: And this is Harry Fukano for
- 24 Commission Staff. Commission Staff is available for
- 25 August 12th and 13th, and I'm currently trying to

- 1 confirm whether we would have a similar availability if
- 2 an extension was needed for the 14th.
- JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. Thank you.
- 4 And for PMSA?
- 5 MR. BLOCK: Yes, Judge. Steve Block for
- 6 PMSA. I am essentially stand-in counsel for sharing
- 7 running between mid March and mid June. Michelle
- 8 DeLappe is the primary counsel for PMSA in this matter.
- 9 She is on leave. I sent the email Your Honor sent
- 10 around inquiring about that date range, and I didn't
- 11 hear back from her. I don't think she's at least not
- 12 always in range of, you know, cell service so that she
- 13 can get an email.
- So I don't know for sure. I can't, you
- 15 know, go on record to say for sure that she's available
- 16 during that date range. I don't have any reason to
- 17 think she would not be, and that is, you know, a couple
- 18 of months after she requested leave. But, you know,
- 19 that's -- that's about as good as I can do right now. I
- 20 think it would probably be okay, but I can't confirm it
- 21 because I'm just not the lead.
- JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. And that makes sense.
- 23 And, Ms. Webber, how about for PYM?
- 24 MS. WEBBER: I don't have a problem with it.
- 25 The only problem is I don't have a -- a globe that

- 1 allows me to see what my August is going to be like and
- 2 what my two potential witnesses' August is going to be
- 3 like, as we are yacht agents, and with the current
- 4 situation, we could either be so busy we don't have time
- 5 off or we could be deader than a doornail.
- So as of right now, I don't have an issue
- 7 with it, I just can't foresee what this summer is going
- 8 to be like.
- 9 JUDGE PEARSON: Sure, and I think that's
- 10 probably true for all of us right now. So we'll just --
- 11 we're going to act as if the building will be back up
- 12 and running and that the -- the hearing will be able to
- 13 occur. But I do want to just emphasize that this is a
- 14 hearing that cannot be conducted telephonically or
- 15 virtually. I think everyone would agree with that just
- 16 given the -- the -- the novelty of it, the number of
- 17 witnesses, the number of parties, so we'll just do the
- 18 best that we can.
- 19 All right. So the only issue really in
- 20 dispute between the parties is the deadline for filing
- 21 responsive testimony, which three parties proposed to
- 22 extend until May 16th, and PM SA has made an alternative
- 23 request that has a couple of different versions to it.
- 24 So I just want to be up front and tell you
- 25 all my thoughts about it. I'm inclined to push the

- 1 entire schedule forward by six weeks, which aligns with
- 2 the proposed dates for rebuttal and cross-answering
- 3 testimony of July 8th, but would push the response
- 4 testimony date forward to June 3rd, and this is for a
- 5 couple of different reasons.
- 6 So first, it gives the parties additional
- 7 time to resolve discovery disputes and relieve the
- 8 pressures that PMSA and frankly all of us are facing
- 9 right now.
- 10 And second, just to be very transparent, the
- 11 Commissioners and I are not going to be able to turn our
- 12 attention to the responsive testimony on May 16th with
- 13 everything going on right now in the way in which our
- 14 schedules have already been rearranged.
- And then third, I don't believe that pushing
- 16 that forward prejudices the other parties. The current
- 17 schedule gives Puget Sound Pilots five weeks between
- 18 responsive and rebuttal testimony and pushing the date
- 19 forward to June 3rd would provide them and the other
- 20 parties with the same five-week window of time without
- 21 potentially prejudicing PMSA due to the unpredictable
- 22 circumstances that we're all facing right now.
- So I'd like to hear your thoughts on that
- 24 beginning with Mr. Wiley.
- MR. WILEY: Judge Pearson, we -- we're

- 1 certainly focused on the rebuttal and cross-answering
- 2 interval. We were always worried about that being kind
- 3 of a tight period. If there's any days that you could
- 4 extend that by, you know, bumping a few days, I think it
- 5 would help us and that also would help Staff and PMSA on
- 6 the cross-answering interval.
- 7 I did want to say in reference to your
- 8 opening comments about discovery, that we don't believe
- 9 that tying any extension, and it sounds like you're not
- 10 aligned with that either, to discovery ruling is
- 11 practical. Just so you know, Your Honor, we're up to
- 12 our third -- 334th data request to us. We have been
- 13 timely on all responses and we understand if there is
- 14 a --
- JUDGE PEARSON: Mr. Wiley, we lost you.
- 16 MR. BLOCK: Hello? Steve Block here. Is
- 17 anybody else there?
- JUDGE PEARSON: Yes, Judge Pearson is still
- 19 here. Can you hear me?
- 20 MR. BLOCK: Okay. I hear you, Judge
- 21 Pearson.
- JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. Mr. Wiley, are you
- 23 still on the line?
- 24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It seems that
- 25 Mr. Wiley accidentally disconnected himself or was

- 1 disconnected.
- JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. So let's just give
- 3 him a second to rejoin. I just sent him an email
- 4 letting him know that we lost him, so hopefully he'll be
- 5 back on soon.
- 6 Mr. Fassburg, are you there?
- 7 MR. FASSBURG: I am.
- 8 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. And I assume that
- 9 you're not in the same physical location as Mr. Wiley.
- 10 MR. FASSBURG: No, he -- he's at home at his
- 11 home and I'm at home at my home as far as I understand.
- 12 He's -- he prefers to work in the office, but I know
- 13 he's a little concerned about Coronavirus and I think
- 14 he's working from home, and I -- I don't know if he's
- 15 got any issues with his cell phone reception or landline
- 16 or whatever he's using.
- 17 JUDGE PEARSON: Oh, it looks like --
- 18 MR. WILEY: I'm in now.
- 19 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay.
- MR. WILEY: I'm on. Sorry, folks.
- JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. So if you could
- 22 just -- I -- I don't know if you kept talking after you
- 23 were disconnected.
- MR. WILEY: I probably did. I love to hear
- 25 myself talk. So where did -- where did I leave off,

- 1 Your Honor?
- JUDGE PEARSON: Tayler, could you tell us
- 3 what's the last thing you heard, please?
- 4 (Requested section read.)
- 5 MR. WILEY: If there's -- thank you. If
- 6 there's a dispute regarding the -- the data requests and
- 7 we have to bring it before Judge Pearson, that, based on
- 8 past experience, she'll be very prompt in resolving. So
- 9 I don't believe timing -- any hearing date or any
- 10 hearing schedule to discovery disputes would be prudent.
- 11 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. Can you kind of
- 12 summarize what your overall position was, though? You
- 13 said something at the beginning about bumping the dates
- 14 and I didn't quite catch it. I'm sorry.
- MR. WILEY: I -- as I recall, I -- I was
- 16 pointing out that if we could bump or add on a few dates
- 17 to the rebuttal schedule, in other words, get --
- 18 stretching it closer to six weeks, I think it would help
- 19 Staff and PMSA on cross-answering, and it would
- 20 certainly help us in getting data requests turned around
- 21 and our rebuttal witness testimony down. Because
- 22 that -- that first period, and Jeff Goltz pointed out,
- 23 is -- is really unusually tight for rebuttal or at -- at
- 24 least on the shorter side.
- 25 JUDGE PEARSON: You mean the five weeks?

- 1 MR. WILEY: Yeah. It's -- I -- I thought I
- 2 counted 29 days originally, but, Your Honor, I don't
- 3 have the schedule from the prehearing conference order
- 4 in front of me.
- 5 JUDGE PEARSON: Yeah, the original -- the
- 6 original time frame was five weeks, and so by moving
- 7 everything forward six weeks, it would still be five
- 8 weeks.
- 9 MR. WILEY: Yeah, I mean, if -- if we could
- 10 split the difference, that would be great because any
- 11 time we can add on that would be very useful. I think
- 12 it would provide a bit more comprehensive record in
- 13 terms of cross-answering as well as rebuttal.
- JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. So and what -- what
- 15 is Staff's position?
- 16 MR. FUKANO: Staff at this point would be
- 17 comfortable or, you know, would not oppose a global
- 18 six-week extension. I think based on kind of our agreed
- 19 letter with PSP and PYM, we would not be opposed to
- 20 some -- to an additional extension as proposed by PSP to
- 21 the reply testimony as -- that's what I gathered they
- 22 were requesting.
- 23 And so Staff I think at this point is
- 24 tentatively all right with -- with the extension as
- 25 proposed by ALD and having that -- requests by PSP.

- JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. Okay. And,
- 2 Mr. Block?
- 3 MR. BLOCK: Steve Block here. I -- I
- 4 suppose with some caveats, this would be okay with PMSA.
- 5 And by that I mean we -- we don't know where we're going
- 6 to be one month, two months, three months from now. I
- 7 mean, we could still be under a lockdown order on June
- 8 3rd or later. And so what I would like to propose is
- 9 that there be some mechanism in whatever order Your
- 10 Honor issues that this can be revisited, these
- 11 deadlines, if the -- the pandemic and the lockdown
- 12 orders given by President Trump or Governor Inslee
- 13 continue in some form.
- You know, there's -- there's so much
- 15 uncertainty in this thing that, you know, by agreeing on
- 16 record that -- that two months from this week would be
- 17 adequate time, you know, it -- it -- it causes me
- 18 concerns just because of the uncertainty. That was the
- 19 first point I would like to make.
- 20 You know, it's -- it's -- under the current
- 21 schedule as it is now, April 22nd, that's three weeks
- 22 from today or three weeks from, yeah, this week, you
- 23 know, approximately. And we would be okay with that
- 24 deadline, three weeks from the time that we get
- 25 satisfactory data request responses from PSP. If that

- 1 works out fine by counsel being able to resolve their
- 2 disputes, then -- and if the lockdown is -- the lockdown
- 3 orders are rescinded in the relatively near term, we
- 4 would be fine with June 3rd.
- 5 But this is, again, so much uncertainty
- 6 that, you know, if -- if we have to file a motion to
- 7 compel because we can't resolve these issues and Your
- 8 Honor's not able to address those motions until the end
- 9 of May or something -- so my point is, is that
- 10 conceptually June 3rd and the other deadlines that Your
- 11 Honor was suggesting are fine with PMSA if we could
- 12 please have an understanding that PMSA may have to
- 13 revisit those if we remain unable to connect with our
- 14 witnesses, unable to review, you know, the many bankers
- 15 boxes of documents we have because we're in our offices,
- 16 et cetera.
- 17 I'm -- I'm not exactly sure how you would
- 18 craft that, but perhaps just have a -- a date some weeks
- 19 from now in which we will have an opportunity to submit
- 20 our positions in letters to Your Honor and Your Honor
- 21 can order another status conference, if necessary, and
- 22 just rule from, you know, circumstances that are
- 23 apparent at that time or whatever. I -- I just don't
- 24 want to be completely bound by agreement to June 3rd
- 25 come what may in the future.

- 1 JUDGE PEARSON: And I hear your concerns,
- 2 and I agree that things are completely uncertain right
- 3 now, and I would put a caveat in the order just to ease
- 4 everyone's minds this is subject to change depending on
- 5 the nature of the -- the Covid-19 shutdown and
- 6 everything that's going on. So and, you know, we always
- 7 have the ability at any point in time to modify
- 8 procedural schedules based on changing circumstances.
- 9 MR. BLOCK: Okay.
- 10 JUDGE PEARSON: As far as -- you know, I
- 11 will certainly take under advisement your request to
- 12 time it based on getting the discovery disputes
- 13 resolved. I'm not inclined to go that direction. I'd
- 14 rather just pick a date and then adjust it later if we
- 15 need to based on, you know, a number of possible things
- 16 that could come up. And so that's how I'm feeling at
- 17 this point in time.
- But, Ms. Webber, I'd like to hear from you
- 19 now.
- 20 MS. WEBBER: Good morning, Your Honor. I
- 21 don't have any issues with the dates proposed by Puget
- 22 Sound Pilots. I believe we all kind of understand that
- 23 this is influx and we're going with the best situation
- 24 forward. The only thing I would have to say, and maybe
- 25 it's just because I'm very new to UTC procedures, when I

- 1 received the phone call, I did not understand that it
- 2 was PSP asking for date changes. I assumed or what I
- 3 heard was that these were date changes that UTC was
- 4 proposing to us or had decided for us.
- 5 So I -- I don't have any issue with the date
- 6 changes, I was just a little surprised when the
- 7 paperwork came and it was a PSP-driven request and not a
- 8 UTC-driven request.
- JUDGE PEARSON: Oh, okay. So just so you
- 10 know, I did have procedural conversations only with
- 11 attorneys both for PSP and for PMSA just about how to
- 12 respond to this, and they indicated that they would be
- 13 filing a motion, but it was not driven by -- by the UTC,
- 14 because the -- the Pilots had to extend their effective
- 15 date, and they're the only ones who can extend their
- 16 effective date, we can't do that. So it was really
- 17 incumbent upon them to file a motion, and that's why it
- 18 happened the way that it did.
- 19 But there were conversations notifying me
- 20 that it was coming, asking me about potential dates in
- 21 August, that information was conveyed, but those were,
- 22 like I said, procedural conversations only. So I did
- 23 have a heads-up that something was going to be filed,
- 24 but I didn't know what it was going to look like,
- 25 whether everyone would be in agreement, et cetera.

- 1 And so I responded to that by setting up
- 2 this call because I thought that would make the most
- 3 sense to just get together and have a conversation and
- 4 see if we could come to an agreement without having
- 5 to -- parties filing responses back and forth to make
- 6 less work for all of us.
- 7 MS. WEBBER: And -- and I completely
- 8 understand. I just -- I think I was thrown off because
- 9 I got the call from a UTC staffer, and so in my head, I
- 10 said, oh, well, the UTC needs to move these. But we're
- 11 fine -- we're fine with the dates because I think we all
- 12 understand these are goals and they may have to move a
- 13 little depending on world circumstances.
- 14 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. So I will take this
- 15 all under advisement, and I -- I will need to speak with
- 16 the Commissioners before I issue an order modifying the
- 17 procedural schedule. But what I want to say is that at
- 18 this point -- sorry, I just got distracted by something
- 19 and I lost my thought.
- 20 But, Ms. Webber, I did want to let you know
- 21 that you -- and I think you do know this because you and
- 22 I have had conversations before that the Administrative
- 23 Procedure Act allows parties to ask questions of the
- 24 presiding administrative law judge. So you're always
- 25 welcome to ask me procedural questions as well.

- 1 MR. WILEY: Your Honor, can I ask a
- 2 question? I just -- there was some confusion on the
- 3 part of this being an agreed continuance, and I just
- 4 wanted to underscore because some of the intervenors
- 5 seemed confused. When we talk about the Commission
- 6 negotiating, that's the Commission Staff. No one is
- 7 implying that an agreement with the Staff and PSP and
- 8 PYM is what the Commission decides. I think there was
- 9 some confusion on that score, and I wanted everybody to
- 10 understand that.
- JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. I'm not sure I
- 12 understood what you just said.
- MR. WILEY: Yes, Your Honor, apparently one
- 14 of the -- the representations I was not involved was
- 15 that the Commission had agreed to this continuance,
- 16 and -- and I just wanted to -- to distinguish that from
- 17 the Commission Staff agreeing to the continuance.
- 18 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. Thank you. Yeah,
- 19 that makes sense.
- 20 So, again, what I will do is I will -- I'll
- 21 speak to the Commissioners. One of the concerns that I
- 22 have about giving more than five weeks for responsive
- 23 testimony is that that shortens time on our end to
- 24 prepare for the hearing, and considering that we have
- other major hearings happening in July and we've got

- 1 rulemaking going on that as of right now schedules have
- 2 not been modified for those, that I'm not -- I'm not
- 3 sure, and, again, I will talk with the Commissioners,
- 4 but I -- I don't think that we can give ourselves and
- 5 our policy team fewer than five weeks between when
- 6 rebuttal testimony comes in and the actual hearing date.
- 7 It will just be too much pressure on our staff.
- 8 So with that caveat, I think the only thing
- 9 that I need to resolve are the scheduling matters, and
- 10 it sounds like everyone's okay with pushing the response
- 11 testimony deadline forward to June 3rd unless,
- 12 Mr. Wiley, you wanted to make a proposal to make that a
- 13 week earlier to give you an extra week.
- MR. WILEY: Your Honor, that's exactly --
- JUDGE PEARSON: Is that what you meant by
- 16 pushing the June 3rd date back?
- 17 MR. WILEY: Yes, it is. I --
- JUDGE PEARSON: Oh, okay.
- 19 MR. WILEY: So we -- we would like an
- 20 adjustment on that side if you can adjust it on the
- 21 other side, Your Honor, just keeping in mind that we
- 22 have -- our case has been filed since November 20th, and
- 23 we're working through a lot of data requests, but we're
- 24 on time and on schedule from our end. And -- and as you
- 25 know, these -- these -- this group has not had an

- 1 adjustment to their rates since July 1, 2015.
- JUDGE PEARSON: So, Mr. Block, hearing that,
- 3 and -- and, again, given all of the caveats that I have
- 4 given before, which is that of course this is all
- 5 subject to change because everything is so very
- 6 uncertain right now, would you have any objection to
- 7 moving the response testimony deadline to May 27th, a
- 8 week earlier than June 3rd?
- 9 MR. BLOCK: Certainly it makes more -- it
- 10 more difficult on us, Your Honor. The ball is in our
- 11 court. We have to prepare, you know, with the next
- 12 deadline coming up while the lockdown keeps us from
- 13 working on it in earnest. It also means that we're
- 14 going to have less time to resolve the discovery
- 15 disputes and which may require a motion -- make the
- 16 motion more likely if we have less time, you know, to
- 17 have this sorted out.
- 18 On the other hand, one week is not that
- 19 much. I'm concerned about, you know, where we will be a
- 20 month from now or, you know, six weeks from now. If
- 21 we're still unable to get the work from this if it's,
- 22 you know, one week shorter before our response testimony
- is due, it makes it more likely that we're going to have
- 24 to ask for more time, but, you know, I will defer to
- 25 Your Honor on that.

- 1 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. So I will, again,
- 2 like I said, take this under advisement and speak to the
- 3 Commissioners, and then I will issue an order that -- in
- 4 the procedural schedule that also acknowledges the
- 5 extension of the suspension date until December 4th.
- 6 So is there anything else that we need to
- 7 address today or that anyone would like to address? And
- 8 just, again, with the caveat that if you're going to
- 9 speak up, please identify yourself for the court
- 10 reporter.
- 11 MR. FUKANO: And this is Harry Fukano on
- 12 behalf of Commission Staff. Commission Staff I think
- 13 would also be -- be fine or we would support a five-week
- 14 extension in lieu of a six-week extension. Your Honor,
- 15 did you have a sense of when you might have a -- any
- 16 kind of ruling on the procedural schedule?
- 17 JUDGE PEARSON: Probably by tomorrow.
- 18 MR. FUKANO: Okay. Appreciate the
- 19 clarification.
- 20 JUDGE PEARSON: It's -- it's just a matter
- 21 of connecting with the Commissioners, which I have
- 22 scheduled meetings with two of the three of them today,
- 23 so it shouldn't be a problem.
- MR. FUKANO: Thank you.
- JUDGE PEARSON: Anything else?

Page 53 Okay. Hearing nothing, I appreciate so much 1 that you all participated in this, which was our -- I 2 3 think our first foray into doing a fully telephonic 4 hearing with a court reporter, but I'm not a hundred percent sure. We'll be doing a lot more of those here 5 6 in the future, but I appreciate everyone's participation. I think it went really smoothly. 8 And, again, I will issue an order within the 9 next couple of days, and I wish you all well and thank you all for being here today, and we're adjourned. 10 11 (Adjourned at 11:34 a.m.) 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25

	Page 54
1	CERTIFICATE
2	
3	STATE OF WASHINGTON
4	COUNTY OF THURSTON
5	
6	I, Tayler Garlinghouse, a Certified Shorthand
7	Reporter in and for the State of Washington, do hereby
8	certify that the foregoing transcript is true and
9	accurate to the best of my knowledge, skill and ability.
10	Signal
11	Joyler Garlinghouse
12	Tayler Garlinghouse, CCR 3358
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