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00038
     BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION
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                          COMMISSION
   WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND
   TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,
 4
                   Complainant,
 5
              vs.
                                  )
                                       DOCKET NO. UE-991832
 6
                                       VOLUME 2
                                  )
   PACIFICORP, d/b/a
                                      Pages 38 - 83
                                   )
   PACIFIC LIGHT AND POWER,
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              Respondent. )
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              A prehearing conference in the above matter
11 was held on April 21, 2000, at 1:30 p.m., at 1300 South
12 Evergreen Park Drive Southwest, Olympia, Washington,
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   before Administrative Law Judge DENNIS J. MOSS.
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15
              The parties were present as follows:
16
              PACIFICORP by JAMES M. VAN NOSTRAND, Attorney
    at Law, Stoel Rives, 600 University Street, Suite 3600,
   Seattle, Washington 98101-3197.
17
18
              INDUSTRIAL CUSTOMERS OF NORTHWEST UTILITIES,
    by MELINDA J. DAVISON, Attorney at Law, Duncan,
   Weinberg, Genzer and Pembroke, 1300 Southwest Fifth
19
    Avenue, Suite 2915, Portland, Oregon 97201.
20
              NORTHWEST ENERGY COALITION, by DANIELLE
   DIXON, Policy Associate, 219 First Avenue South, Suite
    100, Seattle, Washington 98104.
22
   THE ENERGY PROJECT, YAKIMA OIC, and VALLEY FARM WORKERS CLINIC, by CHUCK EBERDT (via bridge line),
    314 East Holly Street, Bellingham, Washington 98225.
24
              PUBLIC COUNSEL, by ROBERT W. CROMWELL, JR.,
   Assistant Attorney General, 900 Fourth Avenue, Suite
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2000, Seattle, Washington 98164-1012.

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00039
              WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION
    COMMISSION, by ANN E. RENDAHL and ROBERT W. CEDARBAUM,
   Assistant Attorneys General, 1400 South Evergreen Park
   Drive Southwest, Post Office Box 41028, Olympia,
   Washington 98504-0128.
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24 Kathryn T. Wilson, CCR

25 Court Reporter

PROCEEDINGS

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JUDGE MOSS: Good afternoon, everyone. This is Dennis Moss speaking. We are convened in the matter 5 styled, Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission V PacifiCorp d/b/a Pacific Power And Light, Docket No. UE-991832. This is a prehearing conference. The basic agenda today will be to take appearances, as per usual. A late issue has arisen that I was advised 9 10 of by correspondence dated yesterday concerning some 11 revised direct testimony and the implications that may 12 have for the case. Assuming we get beyond that, we 13 will take up the matter of the order of the witness 14 presentation, the cross-examination time estimates by 15 counsel. We'll premark our exhibits, and we'll take up 16 any other business that may come up during the course 17 of the conference.

With me on the bench today are the support staff for myself and for the commissioners, and part of our goal today is to organize our materials so we can proceed in an efficient fashion with the first round of cross-examination, but let us first turn to the matter of appearances, and I think it appropriate to begin with the Company.

MR. VAN NOSTRAND: Thank you, Your Honor. On

1 behalf of PacifiCorp, James M. Van Nostrand with the 2 law firm of Stoel Rives in Seattle.

JUDGE MOSS: Mr. Van Nostrand knows the convention, but I will remind anyone who does not that if you previously have entered an appearance, you need only state your name, your affiliation, and whom you represent. Go ahead.

8 MS. DIXON: Danielle Dixon with the Northwest 9 Energy Coalition.

MS. DAVISON: I'm Melinda Davison, and I'm here representing the Industrial Customers of Northwest Utilities for law the firm of Duncan Weinberg.

13 MR. CROMWELL: Robert Cromwell with Public 14 Counsel.

MR. CEDARBAUM: Robert Cedarbaum and Ann Rendahl, assistant attorneys general for Commission staff. Neither I nor Ms. Rendahl have appeared other than through a substitution of counsel in this case, so if you would like us to give all our vital statistics, we can do that.

JUDGE MOSS: I think it would be best if we do flesh the record out with the telephone numbers and e-mail at least so people will have something to refer to.

MR. CEDARBAUM: I'll give mine and then

Ms. Rendahl will do her own. Our business address is the Heritage Plaza Building, 1400 South Evergreen Park Drive Southwest, Olympia, Washington, 98504. My own phone number is area code (360) 664-1188. Both of our 5 fax number is area code (360) 586-5522, and my e-mail is bcedarba@wutc.wa.gov. MS. RENDAHL: This is Ann Rendahl. number is area code (360) 664-1189, and my e-mail 9 address is arendahl@wutc.wa.gov. 10 JUDGE MOSS: I had a telephone message from 11 Mr. Eberdt who said he would not be able to attend 12 today. I was unfortunately not able to return that 13 call, but are you on the line, Mr. Eberdt? 14 MR. EBERDT: Yes, I am. 15 JUDGE MOSS: Would you please enter your 16 appearance? 17 MR. EBERDT: Charles Eberdt from the Energy 18 Project. 19 JUDGE MOSS: Do we have anyone else on the 20 bridge? It appears we do not. 21 The matter that was brought to my attention 22 by e-mail correspondence dated yesterday at 10:27 a.m.

was to advise me that there were some revisions to the

24 Company's filing and that that might have some

25 implications for our proceedings, so I'll ask

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Mr. Cedarbaum to address that. MR. CEDARBAUM: Thank you, Your Honor, and I'll apologize if it takes me a couple of minutes, but I just want to advise you of the sequence of events so 5 you will have a full picture of what happened, and just to start off, and I quess to correct the record on your point, the Company has not revised its case before the Commission. Nothing has been filed with the Commission 9 to revise the direct testimony and exhibits of 10 PacifiCorp. It has provided through some e-mail, which 11 we started to receive at 6:50 p.m. on this past 12 Wednesday, is provide documentation to Staff of some 13 revised adjustments it intends to make, but whether 14 that material has been provided to anyone other than 15 Staff, I'll let other parties state. 16 That material has now been filed or provided 17 with the Commission, and the Company has not actually 18 revised its case with it yet, so to the extent that 19

with the Commission, and the Company has not actually revised its case with it yet, so to the extent that Staff is prejudiced by what's going on today, I would imagine that the other parties and the commissioners are even worse off than we are, and we already feel quite prejudiced to begin with, as I'll explain in more detail.

The second introductory point I would like to make is if we get to the point either next week or at a

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later time at hearing where the Company makes these revisions and the impact on revenue requirement is shown in total to be above what the Company has requested in its filed tariffs, and we don't know the 5 answer to that question because, as I will discuss later, we have just been given the adjustments and not the impact on revenue requirement, but if that is the case, it's our position as a matter of law that the Commission cannot authorize tariffs that would produce 9 10 more revenue than what was filed in this case to begin 11 with, so we wanted to put the Company on notice of that 12 so they would understand our position in that issue 13 when it comes up later on. 14

Getting to the sequence of events, as I discussed in the e-mail, the problem that we have encountered is the Company, as I understand it from discussions with Staff, just this past Tuesday indicated to Staff that the Company intended on making some revisions to some adjustments in its direct case. That, as I understand it, came as just a verbal communication. There was no indication specifically what the adjustments were, the numbers that were involved, the impact on revenue requirement, support for those adjustments, anything, so at that point, there was really nothing, nothing before us, other than

that indication. Wednesday, we received an e-mail at 6:52 p.m. which all it contained was a list of 19 adjustments, and I have copies if you would like them, but a list of 5 19 adjustments that the Company said would be revisions to Mr. Larsen's Exhibit JKL-2 and that it would provide 7 a revenue requirement impact of those to us the following morning, which would have been Thursday morning, so again, Wednesday after work, we received 9 10 only a list of adjustments; no support, no numbers, no revenue requirement impact, just a list. 11 12 Thursday morning, we received another e-mail 13 with an attachment that had a spreadsheet, which just 14 has column after column of 19 adjustments, which 15 presumably are the revisions. That was followed by a 16 calculation of each adjustment for those 19 columns. 17 Again, however, we weren't given any basis for the 18 adjustments, any support for the numbers. numbers were essentially unaudited, no work papers. 19 20 All we received were the adjustments themselves and how 21 they were calculated. 22 The final message we got was an e-mail that 23 came in -- and again, I should also emphasize that 24 throughout all of this, we have yet to see any 25 revisions to Mr. Larsen's exhibit or the impact that

any of these revisions might have, other witnesses, for example, cost of service or rate design, so not only do we not have support for the adjustments, we don't know what the impact is on revenue requirement of any 5 specific adjustment or the total impact. The final e-mail we got was yesterday 7 afternoon, and that was simply a chart, again, listing the 19 adjustments and providing us a reference to 9 either errors identified in the Utah proceeding or 10 responses to Staff data requests. There is also a note 11 that some of these revisions were formally provided to 12 Merton Lott of Commission staff. It's my understanding 13 from Mr. Lott that those revisions were never provided to Mr. Lott. These are just a list of the adjustments, 14 a description of where these adjustments may have been 15 16 derived, no support, no numbers, no analysis. Again, 17 numbers that Staff may or may not have audited 18 whatsoever, and certainly no further discovery on these late-filed revisions, and the Company may argue, 19 20 perhaps, that while we directed you to exactly what 21 data request responses these revisions were prompted by, at least on a number of them, and so we're really 22 23 not prejudiced because we know where we can find the 24 information. That just doesn't hold water with us for 25 the basic reason that looking at the data request

response doesn't mean that we have yet had time to verify the numbers, search for additional discovery and work papers on those numbers, and audit those numbers to make sure these new adjustments are accurate, and just as an example, one of the adjustments that is being made concerns depreciation expense, and the data request that we were referenced by the Company that we asked was our Data Request 386. That shows a total amount of depreciable plant of 10 million 999 thousand and some change.

In response to the Commission's Bench

In response to the Commission's Bench request, which was Bench Request No. 1, that same figure is shown to be 10.797 million, and in Adjustment 6, which is the sixth revised adjustment we received, the amount is a different amount. It's 10 million 954 thousand. There is a lack of support not only for the adjustments, but there is a discrepancy in the support we've been given on these adjustments.

only for the adjustments, but there is a discrepancy in the support we've been given on these adjustments.

So that's the sequence of events that Staff has experienced. Ms. Davison is just shaking her head over there because she is completely confused as to what I'm talking about because she hasn't seen this stuff, and I don't know about Public Counsel whatsoever and the other intervenors. The bottom line is that we can't go forward on Monday cross examining the

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Company's revenue requirements case and to the extent it impacts cost of service, rate design, and rate spread until we are allowed to do a thorough audit and discovery on these revised adjustments, and our 5 suggestion is -- it's a request of the Company, essentially, and that is that the Company withdraw its 7 case, ask the Commission to allow its tariffs to be -the suspension order to be lifted and tariffs to be 9 removed. That's what should happen here. Absent that, 10 if the Company is not willing to do the right thing, 11 what we should do is have a delay in this case, and we 12 have a proposal on what this could be, not having 13 reference to the Commission's calendar, so it's 14 probably useless, but we have a proposal, but that will 15 require a waiver of a suspension period for a 16 sufficient amount of time for a delay, and if the 17 Company is not willing to do that, then we believe the case should be dismissed because of the prejudice that 18 19 is brought not only to Staff and the other parties but 20 to the Commission itself. 21 I think that's essentially my summary of the 22 circumstances. That, again, has only happened since 23 Wednesday evening, and it's Friday morning with hearing 24 on Monday, so we think we have got a real bind here for

the hearings. We think the burden is really on the

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Company to correct this, but absent that, there are ramifications to that, and we have a suggestion for a delay in the schedule which we can get to, if need be. JUDGE MOSS: Has there been any informal 5 discussion between counsel on this? 6 MR. CEDARBAUM: I've had discussions with 7 Mr. Cromwell and Ms. Davison, just essentially all of us just reacting to what's going on. 9 JUDGE MOSS: I really meant with counsel for 10 the Company. 11 MR. CEDARBAUM: Nothing really of substance. 12 Nothing that would add to this discussion. 13 JUDGE MOSS: The gauntlet has been cast down. Before we turn to the Company, I'll hear from the other 14 15 parties as to anything they might wish to add so the 16 Company can respond fully. Mr. Cromwell, go ahead. 17 MR. CROMWELL: Your Honor, as to the sequence 18 of events, my first notice of this issue formally came through the e-mail that Mr. Cedarbaum sent to you and 19 20 CC'd to counsel of various parties afterwards. 21 believe he sent his e-mail to you at 10:27 a.m. 22 Thursday the 20th, yesterday. I received a CC of it 11 23 minutes later at 10:38. That was the first formal 24 indication I had of this issue.

I had received from my co-counsel,

Mr. ffitch, a voice mail message -- I correct that. He called me on his cell phone earlier and said that he had spoken to Ms. Rendahl, that there seemed to be something happening without an idea of what, firmly, so 5 my first solid indication of what was going on in writing was from Mr. Cedarbaum's e-mail. He and I did 7 speak at the end of the day Wednesday. The first indication that Public Counsel had from the Company of this was at 12:50 p.m. Thursday afternoon, the 20th, 9 10 when we received a copy of the e-mail that they sent to 11 Staff, the one that contained the spreadsheet for the 12 19 adjustments. We did not receive anything from the 13 Company previous to that and didn't hear from them on 14 this issue at all. There is other discovery issues out 15 there, but this isn't the time and place for this. 16 As to Mr. Cedarbaum's position regarding this 17 issue of Mr. Larsen's adjustments, we concur. We have 18 not had the opportunity to review the information contained in the e-mail Excel spreadsheet sent to us 19 20 yesterday. Public Counsel believes it has been 21 materially prejudiced in its ability to prepare for next week's cross-examination and would feel prejudiced 22 if the Court determined that it was appropriate to 23 24 proceed with cross-examination next week because of our lack of opportunity not only to digest the information

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we've just been given by the Company but perform any analysis, any true-up, any auditing, and fundamentally do any discovery. That's a process that as we've got in place now pursuant to the Court's order would take a 5 few weeks at a minimum. 6 We concur with counsel for Staff that if the 7 Company is willing to withdraw its filing and refile that that would be the most appropriate means of addressing this. In the first alternative, what I 9 10 would propose, knowing what little I know of the 11 Commission's calendar simply from how it's reflected on 12 my own, that the simplest way, if the Company were 13 unwilling to withdraw but was willing to waive the 14 suspension period, might be to swap out the evidentiary 15 hearings with the cross-examination hearings and flow 16 the rest of the case schedule off of that. If the 17 Company is unwilling to agree to either of those 18 proposals, then we would concur with counsel for Staff 19 that the only appropriate remedy in this case is 20 dismissal of the Company's filing. 21 JUDGE MOSS: You are thinking a three-month 22 delay is required? 23 MR. CROMWELL: I don't think a three-month 24 delay is required, Your Honor. I was simply looking at

my calendar and the hearing schedules that Mr. ffitch

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and I have, which correspond to a good chunk of the Commission's calendars, and that seemed like the simplest way of dealing with it. In terms of the delay that would be appropriate for us to conduct discovery 5 on this, probably six weeks at a minimum with a 10-day turnaround. As you know, our experts in this case are 7 involved in a lot of our other cases that are still ongoing in front of the Commission. We'd need probably 9 a week or two to get discovery together and out to the 10 Company, a minimum of 10 days for them to get it back 11 up to us, another week or two for us to chew through it 12 and get cross prepared. I can't tell you that all of that would be necessary because we're shooting in the 13 14 dark right now. 15 JUDGE MOSS: We won't be shooting in the dark 16 in a moment. Mr. Cedarbaum, did you indicate that you 17

had copies of these various things from the Company for the Bench?

MR. CEDARBAUM: Yes.

JUDGE MOSS: Could you provide me with a copy and please provide Mr. Damron as well. He's our accounting adviser in this case. Let's hear from you, Ms. Davison, if you have anything to say on this.

MS. DAVISON: Thank you, Your Honor. At the moment, I'm sort of stunned by all this. I was

certainly aware that this issue was floating around by the courtesies of Mr. Cedarbaum. I am stunned that the Company did not contact all parties. I have some very very significant concerns about the process that has 5 been followed by the Company. I do not believe that it is appropriate to be distributing information of this significance to select parties in this case. We are a party in this case. We are a very active party in this 9 case. We have retained four separate technical 10 consultants to represent and provide testimony in this 11 case, and I think to basically leave us out of the 12 e-mail correspondence is shocking, to say the least. 13 In terms of where we go from here, just 14 perusing the information that has just been handed to 15 me by Public Counsel, these numbers are significant. 16 These are 19 adjustments. They cover a broad range of 17 issues. The dollar amounts are, in several cases, 18 millions of dollars. This is not a minor correction to mathematical errors. These are very significant 19 20 adjustments that are being proposed, I assume, by the 21 Company; although, it's not clear to me what the 22 Company is proposing we do with this data that's been given to us. 23 24

I believe that given the significance of what has been proposed here that I don't see how this rate

case can go forward as it has been filed. I believe as a matter of procedure this rate case has to be refiled, new tariffs have to be provided, and we start all over again. Hopefully, we can get some benefit from the extensive work that has already gone into this case, 5 which is another issue altogether, but I just want to 7 state my very strong reaction to this coming two days before cross-examination. JUDGE MOSS: We'll get some clarification on 9 10 this momentarily, but we will proceed as we are, and 11 I'll hear from Ms. Dixon. 12 MS. DIXON: This is the first time I've seen 13 any of these materials, and although our issues are 14 certainly narrower in scope than those of Staff and 15 Public Counsel and even ICNU, I do see at least one or 16 two adjustments that may influence our 17 cross-examination as well, so I quess I would sort of 18 repeat what Melinda would say and just add a little 19 concern that we weren't included in the messages that 20 went around and a little surprised that this is coming 21 so late in the process. 22 JUDGE MOSS: Mr. Eberdt, do you have anything 23 to add? 24 MR. EBERDT: No, Judge, I really don't.

JUDGE MOSS: I believe that will bring us to

the Company. Let's hear about these adjustments and their nature and what you have to say in response to the comments that have been made, Mr. Van Nostrand. MR. VAN NOSTRAND: Thank you, Your Honor. 5 Indeed, I guess the number, if you count them, add up to 19. The total revenue requirement impact is a reduction of about 700 thousand dollars. These are relatively minor in amount. It's interesting to hear 9 the parties talk about the need for additional 10 discovery on these items since in almost every case, the adjustment arose from the discovery process and 11 12 represents, for all practical purposes, a compilation 13 of responses to Company data requests where we have 14 agreed and conceded to certain adjustments and certain 15 corrections that needed to be made, and this is for the 16 most part not new information which is being brought up 17 for the first time this week. 18 Virtually 13 of the 19 19 adjustments are just carry-fowards from comments that the Company made in response to Staff data requests where we agreed that certain corrections needed to be made, and the whole intent of offering it at this point

20 21 22 23 was to make the hearings easier and not harder by 24 conceding to certain adjustments rather than going through the process of admitting data requests and

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1 standing cross-examinations on the adjustments that we 2 have readily conceded.

We thought it was a more honest way to proceed in not having to play games by having parties 5 go through the process of pointing out errors and chasing our witnesses on whether or not certain adjustments would be made. The alternative for us would have been to go ahead and have our witnesses 9 sponsor and defend the testimony as filed, deny the 10 adjustments were necessary, force the parties to prove 11 them on the record through cross-examination, and I 12 guess if this type of request is granted, that's the 13 sort of behavior that will be encouraged rather than a 14 party coming forward and conceding and stipulating to 15 certain adjustments, and if that's used as a means of 16 forcing a delay in the proceedings, you will just go 17 forward and defend the case and stand firm on 18 adjustments that you would really rather go ahead and 19 concede.

It's disappointing that what we thought was a cooperative effort -- and it's curious. The Company made many offers over the course of this week to walk the Staff witnesses through these adjustments and demonstrate to them how there really wasn't anything different than what they had already seen, and

communications ceased. The Company's offers were not accepted in terms of being able to walk the Staff witnesses through the data requests that we provided Staff and illustrate where these adjustments came from, 5 and communication ceased, and it was clear we were pursuing a litigation strategy and were going to use the Company's offer to concede these adjustments as a means of proposing delay in the case. Again, the scope 9 of the adjustments is a 700-thousand-dollar reduction 10 in the revenue requirement, and the notion that that 11 would be used as a basis for getting this filing 12 dismissed is extreme, and I'm not authorized on behalf 13 of the Company to indicate whether we will dismiss the 14 filing nor agree to an extension of the suspension 15 period. 16 JUDGE MOSS: You mention that 13 of the 19 17 were effectively concessions to adjustments that seemed 18 indicated through the discovery process? 19 MR. VAN NOSTRAND: That's correct, Your 20 Honor. 21 JUDGE MOSS: What about the remaining six? 22 MR. VAN NOSTRAND: Four of them come from the 23 testimony on depreciation, for the most part. Another 24 was the PacifiCorp interjurisdictional task force. 25 There was adjustment proposed on a certain method which

Staff did not agree to, so there was an adjustment that basically took out the modified accord approach and provided it with the original accord. A couple of adjustments are true-ups based on changes from other adjustment, cash working capital and the revised true-ups. Numbers 13 and 14 are true-ups that flow from other adjustments.

MR. CEDARBAUM: Just a few points: The first is, even if we accept the fact that some of these adjustments are to correct adjustments that the Company discovered through Staff data requests, I gave you an example before where Staff data request response, the Bench request response, and the revised adjustment numbers are different. There are discrepancies between all of these figures, so there is no basis upon which to rely on these adjustment numbers just because we are told they come from a Staff data request response.

Secondly, the Company's argument really is, We filed our direct case, and you should accept everything we've got there as the gospel, but by the way, we are now going to correct 19 adjustments, and you accept all of that as the gospel. We can't do that. We have to analyze this material, have discovery on it, decide if these corrections are correct. there are other corrections that need to be made that

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flow from this, if there are other impacts that need to be made that flow from this, all of that has to happen to have valuable and credible analysis of this information, and the fact that even if Mr. Van Nostrand 5 is right, the total impact is a 700-thousand-dollar revenue requirement impact, that's again accepting all these adjustments as being valid. We need to take a look at each one, its impact on revenue requirement, 9 and maybe we will find additional mistakes; maybe we 10 will find other things that need to be corrected, but 11 we certainly can't accept this without any analysis at 12 this point.

The final point is, nobody is here trying to discourage companies or PacifiCorp from making corrections to its case. Our point is you have to do it on a timely basis, not the day before a hearing when only one party or maybe two parties out of the bunch get it, and the Commission doesn't get it at all. Some of these adjustments -- again, just taking the sheet that I gave you -- were prompted by Staff data requests that were issued a long time ago. I don't have the exact dates, but just judging from the numbers, they must have been. Errors identified in Utah. That couldn't have just happened yesterday. We are not saying don't correct your case. We are saying do it on

a timely basis, but if you are not going to, let's be fair to everybody else, and that requires either withdrawing and starting again, delaying the case, and if that requires a delay in the suspension period, so 5 be it, and if that's not going to happen, we dismiss it, because that's the only way we can be fair to 7 everybody. JUDGE MOSS: Those are three fairly drastic 9 alternatives; particularly given the difficult 10 schedules under which the commissioners are working 11 this particular year, and we are going to have to go 12 into this in somewhat more detail before we can decide 13 what, if anything, needs to be done. 14 I am curious about a comment that 15 Mr. Van Nostrand made that the Company had made offers to, as he put it, "walk Staff through these 16 17 adjustments" and that those offers apparently were --18 perhaps I should characterize it as declined by silence 19 or no response. What's the story on that? 20 MR. CEDARBAUM: I would have to ask Staff 21 about that. I'm not aware of whether those 22 conversations happened or the substance of them. If 23 you want me to take a break and find that out, I can. 24 JUDGE MOSS: We may take a break in a minute

to allow the opportunity for discussion. What does

appear to be the case is I think there is a problem here, and I think it's a problem of communication, and I think we are going to need to explore that and find out more about that. To the extent these adjustments 5 are essentially concessions to Staff's analysis of the case, it's hard for me to see how Staff is prejudiced 7 by that, but it's a little hard to understand sitting up here without having had an opportunity to examine all this stuff in detail, or probably couldn't 9 10 understand it if I did in this abstract way it's 11 It seems to me that would have a tendency presented. 12 to eliminate some of your cross-examination and not 13 make it more difficult for you if 13 of the 19 14 adjustments are simply concessions to Staff's position. 15 MS. RENDAHL: Your Honor, if I may, while 16 Staff understands what the Company is trying to do and 17 trying to eliminate cross-examination, at this point, 18 in order to get everything prepared for this prehearing 19 conference, to identify cross exhibits and prepare for 20 the case on Monday, Staff, at the time we received 21 notification of the corrections, was well on its way to preparing cross on this witness, and there is just not 22 23 time, even with the offer to make these corrections, 24 given -- we require time to evaluate whether these 25 corrections, in fact, do make the corrections that we

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would have asked questions about on cross, and to the extent that it would eliminate cross, we don't know 3 yet. 4 We are in an awkward position here, we 5 understand, because it does offer to make corrections

that may eliminate cross, but it may, in fact, extend cross time to evaluate, in fact, what they've submitted, so I'm not sure it's as simple as that. MR. CEDARBAUM: Your Honor, I have an answer 10 to your question before about these communications. Just in the back of the room, I asked Staff about that. My understanding is that there were some voice mail left by the Company with Staff accountant saying that 14 these materials would be provided and that then the 15 Company would be available to walk through these things, but the materials at that time had not been 17 provided, so we were waiting to be provided these 18 materials, but that only happened yesterday, and the 19 only specific area I know of that the Company made an 20 offer to walk through the adjustment was dealt with the 21 depreciation issue.

JUDGE MOSS: Let me turn back to you for a minute, Mr. Van Nostrand, and ask you, does the Company -- I would assume that you probably came prepared today with errata sheets, for lack of a better

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term, to correct the exhibits. Is that a correct assumption on my part? MR. VAN NOSTRAND: We ran the revenue requirement figures in order to show the total impact 5 on the revenue requirement, the 700-thousand-dollar figure. We're not actually proposing to change the 7 testimony. It's just rather than have a witness defend testimony which the witness feels he can't defend, we 9 are agreeing that certainly adjustments would be 10 appropriate. 11 JUDGE MOSS: So there is no intention on the 12 Company's part to actually change any exhibit or 13 testimony today? 14 MR. VAN NOSTRAND: No, there is not. 15 JUDGE MOSS: I believe Ms. Davison has a 16 point she wishes to make. 17 MS. DAVISON: The point I would like to make 18 with regard to these adjustments is that while it's not 19 entirely obvious to me in reading the chart that 20 perhaps it results in an overall revenue requirement 21 reduction of 770 thousand dollars, if you look at the 22 chart, you will see that some of these adjustments 23 result in upward adjustments, so apparently, to get to 24 the 770-thousand-dollar figure, you have to add and

subtract, and I certainty believe that to characterize

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all of these adjustments as downward adjustments, at least in my reading of this chart, suggests that that's not correct. JUDGE MOSS: Mr. Cedarbaum. 5 MR. CEDARBAUM: I'm sorry I interrupted before. I just wanted to add to what Ms. Rendahl said, and I'm sorry if I repeat it because I was just discussing with Staff. You asked what is Staff's problem with this if the Company is only conceding 9 10 issues to Staff. While I agree that's an important 11 point, I think the bigger point that we are trying to 12 make is we need the time to be able to determine if 13 that has, in fact, happened. 14 We don't know just looking at the spreadsheet 15 and the information we've been given that these numbers 16 are correct, and there are discrepancies, as I 17 indicated, between information we've received in data 18 request responses and information we received 19 yesterday, so we have no basis on which to agree with 20 the Company that all they've done is accurately and 21 completely corrected errors that Staff found or that 22 were found in a case of another jurisdiction, and to go 23 forward with cross-examination next week without the

opportunity to do that we think is prejudicial to us

and probably more prejudicial to others, but that can

be fixed in the ways that I suggested before. JUDGE MOSS: Go ahead. 3 MR. CROMWELL: Your Honor, a couple of 4 points: One, Mr. Van Nostrand said the Company made an 5 offer to Staff to walk them through it. I'd note for the record that he never called me, never called my experts. Apparently, if Ms. Dixon just found out about 7 this today and Mr. Eberdt just found out about it over 9 the bridge line, I'm assuming -- they can correct me if 10 I'm wrong -- that that offer was never made to them or 11 their experts. 12 I just wanted to note that we remain 13 prejudiced by this. Maybe Mr. Van Nostrand is correct. 14 This is a 700 thousand adjustment down and it all just 15 flows to the Staff's case. It doesn't mean it flows to 16 ours. I just don't know. We've spent all our time 17 getting the boxes you see behind me ready to deal with 18 today and getting questions together for cross. 19 don't see how you cure that prejudice unless we have 20 the opportunity to prepare for cross adequately. 21 The fact remains, and I'll admit I'm new to 22 this forum, Your Honor, but that's not how I learned to 23 practice law, and I don't know what else to say, other 24 than as things stand, we are not prepared adequately

for cross-examination beginning Monday based upon the

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actions of the Company. JUDGE MOSS: Is Larsen the only witness potentially affected? 4 MR. CEDARBAUM: No. There is the supplemental testimony of Mr. Peterson, which itself 5 only shows an increase in depreciation expense without 7 the underlying depreciation rates. We don't know anything. There is no evidence from the record on 9 that. 10 JUDGE MOSS: That's not a new problem though. 11 To the extent it's a problem at all, you had Peterson's 12 testimony for awhile. 13 MR. CEDARBAUM: No. I don't know if the 14 adjustments shown that we were given yesterday are 15 16

MR. CEDARBAUM: No. I don't know if the adjustments shown that we were given yesterday are correct, and if they are not correct or are correct how that might affect Mr. Peterson's testimony. The other issue would be cost of service for Mr. Taylor. If the Company's revenue requirement is different, you would normally crank that through the cost of service study and come up with different results, and to the extent those results are different, you might have different recommendations on rate spread and rate design. Obviously from the Company, they are not even planning

Obviously from the Company, they are not even planning on revising Mr. Larsen's exhibit, but from everybody

25 elses perspective, those are issues.

JUDGE MOSS: So we've got three witnesses it appears, Larsen, Taylor, and Peterson, who you would feel unprepared to cross-examine on the basis of these adjustments. 5 MR. CEDARBAUM: Yes. From Staff's perspective -- and I don't want to blindside the other 7 parties on this. Our proposal for a delay in the schedule may not involve delaying all witnesses. Staff 9 could be prepared to go to cross on some witnesses next 10 week, but that's just us, and we think that you have to 11 take into account everybody's interest in this case. 12 JUDGE MOSS: I certainly do have to take 13 everybody's interest into account, including the 14 interests of the Bench and the Commission's 15 administrative needs, so I'm trying to balance quite a 16 few factors here. 17 MR. CEDARBAUM: I can appreciate that. 18 JUDGE MOSS: Let me ask the other parties --19 and it's fairly obvious where I'm going with the 20 question. Larsen, Taylor and Peterson, are there other 21 witnesses potentially affected in your view? 22 MR. CROMWELL: Respectfully, Your Honor, I 23 don't know, and I can't know until my expert has had 24 time to chew through this. 25 MS. DAVISON: Thank you, Your Honor. Just to

add to the pleasantness of the afternoon, I have another that should be addressed at this point in time. I was sort of holding it in reserve, and I thought it would perhaps become a moot issue. We have had some 5 difficulties in getting responses to data requests from the Company, and we had a set of data requests that the 7 responses were due, in my calculation, yesterday, but by the Company's calculation, they are due today. 9 Mr. Van Nostrand and myself have had some 10 correspondence, and two days ago I sent a letter to 11 Mr. Van Nostrand asking that I receive the responses to 12 the data requests this morning so I would have the 13 ability to quickly go through them and mark them as 14 cross-examination exhibits, if need be. I'm bringing 15 this to your attention because I did not receive copies 16 of any documents that are at all in response to our 17 data requests, and those data requests all go to 18 Mr. Widmer, and I'm very disappointed that the Company 19 did not respond to my letter if their intent was not to 20 provide me with the documents this morning. 21 MR. CROMWELL: Respectfully, Your Honor, if I 22 could interject. I have a discovery dispute issue 23 also, and I'll raise that at your convenience. 24 JUDGE MOSS: All sorts of fun today. 25 MR. VAN NOSTRAND: May I have a chance to

respond to Ms. Davison, Your Honor? JUDGE MOSS: You may go ahead. 3 MR. VAN NOSTRAND: As my e-mail to 4 Ms. Davison indicated, she sent to us by fax on April 5 10th her second set of data requests, and whether or not we're saying the case has been on file for five months, on April 10th, we received their second set of data requests with the requested response date of the 9 19th, which was only seven days after receipt. 10 days later we received another set of data requests on 11 April 12th with the requested return date on the 21st. 12 I indicated that the Company would comply within the 13 10-working-day turnaround time prescribed in the 14 Commission's rule in as much as no other arrangements 15 had been made to accelerate the response time, and 16 moreover, that at the prehearing conference in which 17 all parties were represented and all parties agreed, we 18 agreed to have a moratorium on responses during the 19 hearing so that our witnesses and rate case team would 20 not be preparing data request responses while at the 21 same time preparing the testimony. 22 I therefore indicated to Mr. Davison that her 23 April 10th set of data requests would be provided the 24 first day after the hearings in as much as that's what the rule provides and what we all agreed to at the

prehearing conference, and the April 12th set of data requests would be provided three days after the hearing in as much as that's what the time lines provided. This case has been on file for five months. 5 If you err and don't get your data requests in on time when our people are busy responding to 650 in this 7 proceeding, it gets a little busy at the end, and we frankly can't get to them all, and that's why we 9 prescribed moratoriums, and that's why we agreed to 10 abide by a 10-day turnaround time. If you can't count 11 the days on the calendar and you miss, then we do what 12 we can, but ICNU asked for 404 copies of data requests, 13 by going to our discovery room down in Portland. We 14 provided 396 of those responses 10 days earlier than we 15 required, and we think we've done a good job of 16 responding to ICNU's data request. 17 Public Counsel, by our count, has 119 data 18 requests, all of which were provided on time, and Staff 19 itself has 450 data requests responded to, most of 20 which were on time, 60 of which were early, and some, 21 admittedly, were late, but it's been a tremendous 22 amount of discovery which has gone on. I think we 23 overall have done a very good job of complying. 24 JUDGE MOSS: Thank you. I think I have some 25 sense of the dimensions of the problem, at least, and I

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think what we are going to do is two things: One, I'm going to ask you, Mr. Van Nostrand, did you have an opportunity to complete the list of witnesses that I handed you before we began? 5 MR. VAN NOSTRAND: Yes, I did. 6 JUDGE MOSS: Could you hand that up to the 7 This is simply a list that would indicate the Bench? order in which the Company intends to present its 9 witnesses, and one of our jobs today is to organize our 10 materials. Presently, I'm going to use this list and 11 distribute it to the parties for other purposes, if it 12 appears we are going to go forward at this time, which 13 is a decision that remains to be made, but for the time 14 being, at least, so I don't waste too much more of 15 these good folks time up here, I'm going to leave this 16 up here and let them at least get these notebooks 17 organized in the appropriate order while we take a very 18 brief recess, say, something in the order of seven 19 minutes, during which time I'm going to do a little 20 conferring and deliberation before we take this any 21 further, so we are off the record. 22 (Recess.) 23 JUDGE MOSS: We're back on the record. I've 24 had an opportunity to confer with the team that is

assisting in this case and also to deliberate myself on

1 how I think this conundrum should be resolved, and what I have decided we should do is as follows: I think 3 that on Monday, we will take a holiday from the hearing 4 schedule, and on that date, the parties will be 5 required to convene in this place, which is reserved 6 for that date, and see if there is something they can 7 do in terms of -- I would think of it in terms of a 8 clarification session, if you will. I will expect the 9 various witnesses to be present whose testimony is affected by this.

Basically what we are talking about, as I understand it, the Company is not proposing to revise its case, but only is proposing to revise certain of the evidence that it hopes will support that case ultimately as we bring this proceeding to a conclusion some months from now, so I think we will provide that opportunity on Monday. I think that I would like to come in at the end of that session, and this will be off the record, but I will come in and sort of get a progress report, if you will, informally to see how things stand.

I'm hoping that much of the problem that the parties have identified as potential problems today -- and admittedly, the timing here is not good. I'm unhappy about the way that has unfolded, just as some

of the parties are unhappy about the way that unfolded, but that is the way it is, and I think we must make every effort to work with that and work with our existing schedule to the extent we can to remedy the 5 timing issue. The parties admittedly have not had an opportunity to review this material in any detail and even resolve in their own minds how big a problem, if any, actually has developed for them in the development 9 of their planned cross-examination for the various 10 witnesses, so I think the opportunity that I'm 11 providing on Monday will at least be the opportunity 12 during which that can be clarified. There may be some 13 time this afternoon even after we finish marking our 14 exhibits when some of this can be resolved. Again, I 15 think there have been some communications problems, 16 perhaps, from both sides. There is a timing problem 17 here, but perhaps this is a good way to resolve it. 18 Beyond Monday, on Tuesday, I want to begin 19 Tuesday morning with cross-examination of witnesses. 20 To the extent that proceeds and we discover that it is 21 so problematic that we are wasting hearing time, I will be mindful of the problems that have been identified 22 23 today and the source of those problems, and if I'm 24 convinced there is a need for it, we will simply release the witness from the stand subject to recall,

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and that witness will be recalled at a later date after the various parties have had an adequate opportunity to analyze the material and prepare the additional cross-examination that appears to be necessary in the 5 circumstances. This way, we will not waste the commissioner's time that has been reserved next week for this process nor will we waste anyone elses time that has been scheduled for this hearing process next 9 week.

If we find after two or three days that we have accomplished all that we can usefully accomplish at this stage, then certainly we will recess at that time, and we may establish some interim hearing dates, as necessary, to allow for the thorough development of a record. The Bench's interest, of course, is in having an accurate and complete record upon which decisions can be made. The parties' interest is, I hope, the same, to develop that record, and I want to provide every opportunity for that to occur, but I also want to do that in a fashion that is consistent with the Commission's administrative needs. I believe this will promote that goal, if not accomplish it entirely, 22 and we will proceed one step at a time as we need to. With that said, I do have a list of the 25 witnesses in the order the Company intends to present

them, and I'm going to distribute that here to you all and ask for your cross-examination estimates. Keep in mind that the Company is not revising its case, so your cross-examination may be a little more expansive or 5 less expansive knowing that, but we'll get those estimates quickly, and then we'll go off the record and get these exhibits organized and then we will mark them and I'll go back on the record and put that matter into 9 the transcript in a summary fashion, which will save a 10 lot of time and save Ms. Wilson having to sit here and 11 type all those boring numbers. Ms. Dixon, did you have 12 something?

13 MS. DIXON: I just wanted to notify the Bench 14 that I will be unable to come on Monday. I had already 15 known that we have a commitment to appear in another 16 prehearing conference in a separate forum on Monday, so 17 I realized I was not going to be able to ask questions 18 of the Company's witnesses that will be appearing on Monday and had planned for that. I'm assuming I will 19 20 be able to check in with Public Counsel at the end of 21 the day Monday to find out what the next steps are, but 22 I just wanted to at least let you know, and I'll 23 certainly check with folks at the Coalition and see if 24 anybody else is available, but I'm guessing they are 25 not at this short notice.

JUDGE MOSS: And your client's interest might tend to be somewhat more focused than some of these other parties, and you may wish to touch base with Mr. Van Nostrand before you all leave this afternoon 5 and see if there is a couple of points you want to cover and take care of it that way. MR. CEDARBAUM: Can I ask a couple of clarifying questions? On Monday, is there a time when you want us to come find you? 9 10 JUDGE MOSS: Let's set a time. When is a good time for the parties? I'll be agreeable to listening to you on that. We normally start our 11 12 13 hearings at 9:30 in the morning. 14 MR. CEDARBAUM: Maybe what we can do is check 15 in with you before lunch to see if maybe we are done by 16 then and if not, maybe we can say three o'clock. 17 JUDGE MOSS: I think you may need to confer with your staff. Ms. Dixon? 18 19 MS. DIXON: The notice we received said the 20 hearing would originally start at 1:30 on Monday. I'm 21 not sure if that had to do with room constraints at all 22 or commissioner constraints. JUDGE MOSS: No. That was commissioner 23 24 constraints. The room is available, and I suggested 25 9:30 because that's the customary hour we begin our

1 hearings, but you all could begin earlier, if you 2 choose to do so, or later.

MR. CEDARBAUM: I guess we can figure that out informally. I just wanted to make sure we coordinated with you.

JUDGE MOSS: I want you to start in the morning, and I think it's a good suggestion you make that I will get a progress report at the noon hour and then another progress report later in the day, and I will be here. Obviously, I was planning to be here that day, so I will be available, literally, on a moment's notice.

MR. CEDARBAUM: We'll touch base with you right before noon on Monday and then we can figure out the rest of the day from there.

JUDGE MOSS: Does that work for you, 9:30?
MR. VAN NOSTRAND: We need to check because
Mr. Larsen is the key person for these discussions and
he's coming from Salt Lake City Monday morning and
wouldn't get here until mid morning. We are checking
with him now to see how soon he could get here.

21 with him now to see how soon he could get here.
22 JUDGE MOSS: There might be some other work
23 that could be accomplished during the earlier hour as
24 well. We can return to this subject presently. I
25 really want to get on at this point to getting these

exhibits marked because we've got people sitting up here who are being taken from important work to accomplish this task, and I'd really like to let them get back to their other work.

5 MR. CEDARBAUM: I appreciate that, but can I make my second clarifying point? You had indicated that this process that we are going to enter into on Monday might led to, depending on how things go, lead 9 to other hearing sessions, and I just wanted to T up 10 the issue that if that happens, or maybe even if it 11 doesn't happen, that we may be proposing delays in 12 prefiling dates as well. Right now, Staff and 13 Intervenors are to file June 12th. We may find we need 14 more time to incorporate all this new information into 15 our direct case. We'll cross that bridge when we get 16 to it, but I at least wanted to advise you of that 17 possibility.

18 JUDGE MOSS: Let's do take it one step at a 19 time. I will say in response to that that I want to 20 encourage the parties to work in good faith and to 21 conscientiously keep this procedural schedule on track. Scheduling is a difficult matter, and once we get one 22 23 of these things set and we reserve everybody's time, it 24 frankly creates a great deal of difficulty to change 25 So I want everyone to proceed with that thought in

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mind, but I do appreciate the suggestion you make, and we'll take it as we need to. MR. CEDARBAUM: My suggestion was only to change the prefiling date for Staff, Public Counsel, 5 Intervenors. That was it. 6 JUDGE MOSS: But that suggestion is 7 premature, isn't it? MR. CEDARBAUM: Yes. It's premature in the 9 sense it may not be necessary, but I wasn't talking 10 about a delay in the schedule other than that. 11 JUDGE MOSS: My experience tells me that one 12 delay tends to lead to another, so let's try to avoid 13 it if at all possible and proceed with that good 14 thought. 15 MR. CROMWELL: With that regard, and to put 16 this issue to rest, I would like to make an offer of 17 proof of the handout that Mr. Cedarbaum passed out. 18 JUDGE MOSS: An offer of proof? 19 MR. CROMWELL: Just to get his handout into 20 the record formally. 21 JUDGE MOSS: I don't want to receive that 22 into the record. I don't see that it advances the 23 record in one way or another. If some of this material 24 has some usefulness as evidence, then you can offer it

at the appropriate time. This is not the time. We are

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not receiving evidence today. MR. CROMWELL: I know, Your Honor. I was simply making an offer of proof for appellate purposes. 4 JUDGE MOSS: I'm not going to accept this 5 into the record. I don't think it's appropriate. don't think it falls within the constraints of what an 7 offer of proof is intended for. Thank you. MR. CROMWELL: 9 JUDGE MOSS: You can revisit that with me 10 later if you want. Cite me the legal authority that 11 suggests to the contrary, and I may change my mind, but 12 sitting right here today, I don't think that's 13 appropriate. 14 One more quick comment. I'm serious about 15 I want to get on with our business. 16 MS. DAVISON: I appreciate that, Your Honor, 17 and my comment will be very brief. I understand the 18 scheduling constraints that you have and what you are trying to accomplish. I just want to note for the 19 20 record that the document, which is a fairly extensive 21 document with a lot of numbers, was just given to me today. I am not competent to analyze this document and 22 23 be prepared to ask intelligent questions about it on 24 Monday. I have to send that to my experts and ask them

to review it over a Easter holiday weekend. I will do

00081 that, but I'm very pained by this schedule. JUDGE MOSS: You might want to get one of 3 your experts out here on Monday. 4 MS. DAVISON: That's my other problem. 5 will do that. 6 MR. VAN NOSTRAND: If I could note for the 7 record, the document was e-mailed to Ms. Davison yesterday morning. 9 MS. DAVISON: That is not correct, 10 Mr. Van Nostrand --11 JUDGE MOSS: Let's stop that. I don't like 12 bickering. You all know that, and I don't want to hear 13 any more of it. We're going to go off the record and 14 take up the matter of getting these exhibits organized 15 and marked. 16 (Recess.) 17 JUDGE MOSS: We're back on the record after 18 an extended time off the record to prepare our 19 cross-examination exhibit list and take care of various 20 matters. We did, while we were off the record, 21 organize and mark all the exhibits. I'm not going to recite the numbers into the record at this time. The 22 Bench will prepare an exhibit list and revise that list 23

periodically throughout the hearing and at the

25 conclusion of the hearing will provide a final exhibit

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list for use of all the parties and to be part of the permanent record, and that list will determine the numbers of exhibits as they are offered and ruled on during the course of the hearing.

5 Is there any other business we need to take up today? There is one further thing I need to 7 mention. I did, during the off-the-record session -the Bench's accounting advisor requested that certain 9 information be provided by the Company in connection 10 with the revisions that we discussed at the beginning of today, and so that lead to Bench Request No. 2, 11 12 which I served on the Company by hand and have provided 13 to all the parties in the proceeding today. 14 prepared that in some haste and did not include in it a 15 response date. I have requested the Company to respond 16 on Monday, and they have indicated that they will make 17 every effort to do so but will report back to me if for 18 some reason that proves to be impossible.

The parties will get together on Monday and conduct the sort of clarification session that we discussed earlier, and then we will commence our evidentiary hearing proceeding with cross-examination of Mr. Dalley to begin at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, April 25th, and there being no further business for us to conduct this afternoon, I appreciate you all

participating here in helping us get ready for a more efficient hearing process, and we'll look forward to kicking that off on Tuesday, and I will talk with you on Monday during the course of the day as we previously discussed. Thank you very much. We're off the record. (Prehearing conference concluded at 4:00 p.m.)