Docket No. UG-210755 - Vol. II

WUTC v. Cascade Natural Gas Corporation

March 10, 2022



206.287.9066 | 800.846.6989

1325 Fourth Avenue, Suite 1840, Seattle, Washington 98101 <u>www.buellrealtime.com</u>

email: info@buellrealtime.com



| Page 25 | Page 27 |
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| BEFORE THE WASHINGTON LITILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION | 1 APPEARANCES (Cont.) |
| UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND DOCKET No. UG-210755 TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION, DOCKET NO. UG-210755 TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION | FOR ALLIANCE OF WESTERN ENERGY CONSUMERS: CHAD STOKES Cable Huston 1455 Southwest Broadway Suite 1500 Portland, Oregon 97201 503-224-3092 cstokes@cablehuston.com FOR THE ENERGY PROJECT: YOCHI ZAKAI Shute Mihaly & Weinberger LLP 396 Hayes Street San Francisco, California 94102 11 415-552-7272 yzakai@smwlaw.com ** * * * * * 14 15 16 17 18 19 |
| (All participants appeared via videoconference.) DATE TAKEN: MARCH 10, 2022 REPORTED BY: ROSE DETLOFF, RPR, CCR #21036100 | 20 21 22 23 24 25 |
| Page 26 | Page 28 |
| 1 APPEARANCES | 1 LACEY, WASHINGTON; MARCH 10, 2022 |
| ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGES: RAYNE PEARSON SAMANTHA DOYLE FOR COMMISSION STAFF: NASH CALLAGHAN Assistant Attorneys General Office of the Attorney General P.O. Box 40128 Olympia, Washington 98504 Office of the Attorney General P.O. Box 40128 Olympia, Washington 98504 Office of the Attorney General FOR CASCADE NATURAL GAS CORPORATION: DONNA BARNETT MEGAN LIN Perkin Coie LLP 10885 Northeast Fourth Street Suite 700 Bellevue, Washington 98004 425-635-1419 dbarnett@perkinscoie.com mlin@perkinscoie.com FOR PUBLIC COUNSEL: ANN PAISNER Washington Attorney General's Office Public Counsel Unit Suite 2000 Seattle, Washington 98104 206-521-3211 ann.paisner@atg.wa.gov | 9:01 a.mo0o- PROCEEDINGS JUDGE PEARSON: We'll be on the record. Good morning. We're here today for a status conference in Docket UG-210755, which is captioned Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission v. Cascade Natural Gas Corporation. Today is Thursday, March 10th, 2022, and the time is approximately 9:00 a.m. My name is Rayne Pearson. I use she/her pronouns. And with me is Samantha Doyle, who uses she/her or they/them pronouns. We are administrative law judges in the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission, and we are co-presiding in this matter along with the Commissioners. So let's start by taking appearances, and then we'll address the status of the settlement in principal. Let's begin with Cascade. Please state your name and feel free to provide your pronouns as well. MS. BARNETT: This is sorry, you said starting with the Company, correct? JUDGE PEARSON: Correct. |

| | Page 29 | | Page 31 |
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| 1 | MS. BARNETT: Okay. I'm trying to work on | 1 | MR. STOKES: There are. |
| 2 | my video here, sorry. | 2 | JUDGE PEARSON: I thought that this was an |
| 3 | Donna Barnett for Cascade. I'm with Perkins | 3 | all-party proposal. |
| 4 | Coie. And with me is Megan Lin. And I use she/her | 4 | MS. BARNETT: No. |
| 5 | pronouns. | 5 | JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. So then with that in |
| 6 | MS. LIN: As do I. | 6 | mind, the parties will definitely not be asking to |
| 7 | JUDGE PEARSON: Thank you so much. | 7 | change the hearing date, correct? |
| 8 | And for Staff? | 8 | MR. CALLAGHAN: 1 |
| 9 | MR. CALLAGHAN: Good morning, Your Honor. | 9 | MS. BARNETT: Yeah. |
| 10 | This is Nash Callaghan, Assistant Attorney General on | 10 | MR. CALLAGHAN: Sorry, go ahead, Donna. |
| 11 | behalf of Commission Staff. My pronouns are he/him. | 11 | MS. BARNETT: Yeah, I think we have we |
| 12 | Thank you. | 12 | haven't filed obviously we haven't filed the |
| 13 | JUDGE PEARSON: Thank you. | 13 | stipulation and the supporting testimony yet, but we |
| 14 | And for Public Counsel? | 14 | don't anticipate needing to wait until the original |
| 15 | MS. PAISNER: Good morning, Judge Pearson. | 15 | hearing date for a settlement hearing. |
| 16 | This is Ann Paisner, Assistant Attorney General with the | 16 | So, yeah, we will likely propose a June 1st |
| 17 | Public Counsel Unit of the Washington State Attorney | 17 | effective date pursuant with the rules and wanting 60 |
| 18 | General's Office, and I use she/her pronouns. | 18 | days from the day of filing for the Commission to review |
| 19 | JUDGE PEARSON: Thank you. Good morning. | 19 | that. So that would still allow time, I think, for a |
| 20 | And for AWEC? | 20 | settlement hearing before that. |
| 21 | | 21 | But there's I don't think any reason to |
| 22 | MR. STOKES: Good morning. Chad Stokes for the Alliance of Western Energy Consumers with Cable | 22 | wait until June for a settlement hearing in this. |
| 23 | Huston Law Firm. I use he/him as well. Thank you. | 23 | · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · |
| | • | | JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. I wanted to clarify |
| 24 | JUDGE PEARSON: Thank you. | 24 | that because we are actually not going to be able to |
| 25 | And for The Energy Project? | 25 | move the hearing date due to Commissioner's schedules |
| | | | |
| | Page 30 | | Page 32 |
| 1 | Page 30 MR. ZAKAI: Good morning. Yochi Zakai with | 1 | Page 32 and our other competing priorities. So please keep that |
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| 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 | MR. ZAKAI: Good morning. Yochi Zakai with Shute Mihaly & Weinberger for The Energy Product, and I use he/him pronouns. JUDGE PEARSON: Thank you. Okay. So we received Staff's motion to suspend the procedural schedule and a request for this status conference. And before we discuss modifications to the procedural schedule, I understand that the parties have not been able to come to an agreement; is that correct? MS. BARNETT: That's correct, yeah. This is Donna Barnett. And we haven't done just coming up with something. So I think that we're open to hearing proposals, but we didn't decide on anything. JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. Were there points of contention between the parties? MS. BARNETT: No, we just didn't haven't nailed down any dates other than I'm sorry, go ahead Nash or Chad. MR. STOKES: This is Chad Stokes. So we haven't been provided a schedule. So | 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 | and our other competing priorities. So please keep that in mind when we break for you all to discuss modifications to the procedural schedule. So at this point, then, should we take a break so the parties can discuss? Keeping in mind that we will be keeping the hearing date. MR. STOKES: Sounds good. JUDGE PEARSON: All right. So I am going to we can go ahead and be in recess. (A recess was taken from 9:06 a.m. to 9:57 a.m.) JUDGE PEARSON: We will be back on the record following a brief recess. And who would like to speak first? MR. CALLAGHAN: Go ahead, Donna. MS. BARNETT: No, that's not me. MS. PAISNER: That was me. MS. BARNETT: Go ahead. JUDGE PEARSON: Go ahead, Nash. MR. CALLAGHAN: Oh, sorry. Sorry, I'm |
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Docket No. UG-210755 - Vol. II - 3/10/2022 Page 33 Page 35 1 is crunched for time, so every little bit counts. And 1 MR. CALLAGHAN: Thank you, Your Honor. 2 we couldn't agree exactly on the dates. 2 So Staff has just received Cascade's copy. We 3 But the settling parties are asking for filing 3 need time to review it and edit it, which, you know, I 4 the settlement and supporting testimony March 24th, 4 mean, obviously any deadline that the Commission sets 5 response testimony April 22nd, and rebuttal and 5 for us, we will make. 6 cross-answering May 2nd. I let everyone know that the 6 But I just don't feel comfortable -- given the 7 deadline from policy's perspective was May 1, but that's 7 amount of review and back and forth that we may need to 8 a Sunday, so we changed it to May 2nd. 8 do, I don't feel comfortable agreeing to anything that 9 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. Oh, sorry, go ahead. 9 is shorter than two weeks. MR. CALLAGHAN: And then the settling 10 10 MS. BARNETT: And Cascade -- I don't think parties would also prefer to leave the briefings, if we 11 11 we have anything to add to that. We'll work as quickly 12 need any, after the hearing to just be set at the 12 as possible. But, yeah, I think Nash said it well. 13 evidentiary hearing. JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. Thank you. All 13 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. Thank you. 14 14 right. 15 MR. CALLAGHAN: Thank you. 15 Well, I appreciate both of the parties' JUDGE PEARSON: And then would one of the 16 16 proposals. I will take it under advisement and issue an 17 other parties like to present the alternative? 17 order before the end of the week with the revised 18 MS. PAISNER: Yes, your Honor. This is Ann 18 procedural schedule. 19 Paisner with Public Counsel. 19 Is there anything else that we need to address 20 So the non-settling parties have been waiting 20 today while we're here? 21 to see the terms sheet for about five weeks now. It's 21 MR. STOKES: Your Honor, there's actually 22 been described as fairly simple. While we've been 22 one more thing. 23 discussing what it might be, we have not had a chance to 23 So on the schedule, we'd like to propose a date 24 see it. to file a notice of intent for intervenor funding in 2.4 25 So we're looking at the schedule, and really 25 case certification on March 18th. Page 34 Page 36 1 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. Thank you. 1 one area where it seems like there is some wiggle room 2 is where to file -- which date to file the testimony, 2 MR. ZAKAI: One more thing, Your Honor. 3 the joint testimony, by the settling parties. So we are 3 JUDGE PEARSON: Sure. 4 proposing a March 17th settlement filing -- settlement 4 MR. ZAKAI: This is Yochi Zakai for TEP. 5 stipulation filing along with the joint testimony. 5 I just want the record to reflect that TEP, 6 And for the opposition or response testimony, 6 AWEC, and Public Counsel are the non-settling parties. 7 7 we would propose April 25th. For rebuttal, May 2nd. Thank you. 8 And following that date, we've been -- we've looked to 8 JUDGE PEARSON: Thank you for clarifying 9 the old schedule that was suspended on February 24th, 9 that. Okay. 10 which has a discovery deadline of May 11th, cross 10 Anything else? 11 exhibits witness list, cross-exam estimates on May 25th. MS. PAISNER: If I may -- this is Ann for 11 12 12 We also have the Public Comment Hearing that's Public Counsel. 13 13 been scheduled for May 25th, I think at 6:00 p.m. And I'm looking at the WAC 480-07-740 and the first 14 subsection. All of these -- you know, to be able to --14 then the same June 1st through 2nd hearing dates, a 15 posthearing brief of June 21st, and a reply briefing 15 the Commission should be able to consider evidence and 16 date of July 5th. And I sent these dates to all the 16 have there be a developed record in this case. 17 parties and to you just a minute ago. 17 And we would just ask -- you know, it sounds 18 JUDGE PEARSON: I appreciate that. Thank like the Staff is, you know, just now in receipt of 18 something they've been working on for five weeks. So I 19 19 you.

would just -- I'd just like to request that we have

opposition testimony after the date that we are able to

point. And it's really important for us to be able to

We still have not seen the terms sheet at this

sufficient time to be able to put together our

see it for the first time.

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why not.

MS. PAISNER: You're welcome.

just like to hear from the settling parties about the

settlement filing date and whether March 17th or

anything prior to March 24th is workable, and if not,

JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. So I guess I would

Page 37 Page 39 1 1 three issues we're talking about. And the opposing do discovery and put together our opposition testimony 2 and also be able to do the briefing afterwards as well. 2 parties are aware of the revenue requirement requested 3 3 as well. So thank you. 4 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. Thank you. All 4 So I agree with Staff that this should be a 5 right. 5 very simple settlement to review. 6 MS. BARNETT: I think it's important to 6 MR. STOKES: But you can't have it both 7 correct that it hasn't been five weeks. We settled on 7 ways. If this is so simple and you need all this time 8 this on February 18th -- or 17th and notified the 8 to prepare, but the filing -- it's been three weeks. 9 9 Commission on February 18th. So it hasn't been five You need two more. But then we're not -- we need time 10 10 to review it and file a response. weeks MR. STOKES: It will be five weeks based on MR. ZAKAI: I would also like to note that 11 11 12 under the Commission's rules based on the magnitude of 12 your filing date, and that's based on the --13 the rate changed, this is classified as a general rate 13 MS. BARNETT: Got that. But we haven't been 14 sitting on it for five weeks. 14 case. 15 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. So point of 15 JUDGE PEARSON: It is. 16 16 MS. BARNETT: Correct. That's why we asked clarification, then. It sounds like this is just a 17 settlement between Staff and Cascade, correct? 17 for 60 days from the effective date for the date of filing. 18 MS. BARNETT: Correct. 18 19 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. And the parties --19 MS. PAISNER: If I may, Judge Pearson, the 20 information we have is very minimal and it hasn't been 20 the other parties, Public Counsel, AWEC, The Energy Project, are you -- you're contesting every piece of the 21 confirmed. We have not seen a terms sheet. So we're 21 22 settlement? Or you don't know what's been said yet? 22 left to make assumptions and are told that, you know, we 23 MR. ZAKAI: I have not seen the settlement, 23 know what's going on. so I can't say what I support and what I oppose. 24 24 We were also told that a proposed schedule was 25 JUDGE PEARSON: Is there any way that Staff 25 in the works, otherwise we would have taken steps to do Page 38 Page 40 1 1 and Cascade could at least provide a list of issues to it ourselves if we knew that we were going to be in this 2 the parties? I think in the interest of due process, 2 position. So it's a little hard to be told to just 3 the sooner that you do that the better, even if the 3 trust, you know, what was exchanged in a verbal 4 settlement is not ready to be filed yet. 4 conversation where there's no record. 5 MR. CALLAGHAN: Your Honor, we can do that. 5 So we still do not have -- I mean, what counsel 6 But I would say through the course of settlement 6 for Cascade has said, the June 1st date, we heard they 7 7 conferences, that the other parties -- they don't know were going to propose that. But that's all we have in 8 the exact details, but they're well aware of what the 8 an e-mail. But we also have an e-mail saying they were 9 issues were in this case. 9 going to request the suspension of the schedule. 10 10 And so if you would like us to do that, we can. So I would just like to ask that the Commission 11 But there aren't going to be any surprises in this 11 consider, you know, the rules, the WAC 480-07-740 12 stipulation and supporting testimony. 12 Subsection 1, so that we can consider developing a full 13 13 MR. STOKES: I don't think that's fair record in this case. Thank you. 14 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. Thank you. 14 because just vesterday, we learned about an early 15 implementation date. So that's something we didn't 15 I do just want to note for the record that the 16 know, and that was a surprise. 16 60-day review period would not have been logistically 17 MS. BARNETT: I forwarded you that. Chad, I 17 possible in this situation because the settlement was forwarded you that in writing before yesterday, so -contested, and there would have to be time to file 18 18 MR. STOKES: The early date? response, rebuttal, and cross-answer, and have a hearing 19 19 20 20 MS. BARNETT: Yeah, so -and do briefing, and that's impossible in 60 days. 21 21 MR. STOKES: Okay. So just for the parties to keep in mind for the 22 22 MS. BARNETT: But I will say -future. But I do appreciate the additional information. 23 MR. STOKES: I don't recall seeing that. 23 It's been very helpful. It helps me understand where

the parties are and what their needs are. So I will

take that all into consideration.

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MS. BARNETT: This was a limited issue

filing in the first place, so there are really only

| | Page 41 | | Page 43 |
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| 1 | And if there's nothing else just one last | | CERTIFICATE |
| 2 | chance, anyone has one last thing? | 2 | |
| 3 | MR. ZAKAI: Your Honor, one thing I don't | 3 | STATE OF WASHINGTON |
| 4 | think we discussed does there need to be a discovery | 4 | COUNTY OF KING |
| 5 | timeline in the revised procedural schedule? | 5 | |
| 6 | JUDGE PEARSON: Let's see. | 6 | I, Rose Detloff, a Certified Court Reporter in |
| 7 | Was that in yours, Public Counsel? Let me see. | 7 | and for the State of Washington, do hereby certify that |
| 8 | MS. PAISNER: I did not forward that. | 8 | the foregoing transcript is true and accurate to the |
| 9 | We would request a five-day turnaround, which I | 9 | best of my knowledge, skill and ability. |
| 10 | believe is what we were what the original suspended | 10 | |
| 11 | schedule had. | 11 | |
| 12 | JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. So you would maintain | 12 | wildt var e Dilligg |
| 13 | the same? | 13 | |
| 14 | MS. PAISNER: The five-day business day | 14 | ROSE DETLOFF, RPR, CCR #21036100 |
| 15 | turnaround. | 15 | Managementation |
| 16 | JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. Do other parties have | 16 17 | My commission expires: |
| 17 | different positions on that? Or is everyone comfortable | 18 | DECEMBER 6, 2022 |
| 18 19 | with the five-day turnaround? | 19 | |
| 20 | MS. BARNETT: Cascade has no problem with that. | 20 | |
| 21 | MR. CALLAGHAN: Neither does Staff, Your | 21 | |
| 22 | Honor. | 22 | |
| 23 | JUDGE PEARSON: Okay, great. Thank you. | 23 | |
| 24 | All right. | 24 | |
| 25 | Last, last call. Okay. | 25 | |
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| | Page 42 | | |
| 1 | Hearing nothing, thank you all so much for | | |
| 2 | coming today. And, again, I will issue an order before | | |
| 3 | the end of the week. | | |
| 4 | And we are adjourned. Thank you. | | |
| 5 | (Proceedings adjourned at 10:10 a.m.) | | |
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| 17 | | | |
| 18 | | | |
| 19 | | | |
| 20 | | | |
| 21 | | | |
| 22 | | | |
| 23 | | | |
| 24 | | | |
| 25 | | | |

| A | Attorney 26:8,20 | 28:10,21 29:3 | consideration | 26:16 |
|---|----------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| a.m 28:2,12 32:11 | 29:10,16,17 | 35:10 37:17 38:1 | 40:25 | deadline 33:7 |
| 32:12 42:5 | Attorneys 26:8 | 40:6 41:19 | Consumers 27:2 | 34:10 35:4 |
| ability 43:9 | Avenue 26:21 | Cascade's 35:2 | 29:22 | DECEMBER |
| • | aware 38:8 39:2 | case 35:25 36:16 | Cont 27:1 | 43:17 |
| able 30:9 31:24 | AWEC 29:20 36:6 | 38:9 39:14 40:13 | contention 30:16 | decide 30:14 |
| 36:14,15,21,22,25 37:2 | 37:20 | CCR 25:25 43:14 | contested 40:18 | definitely 31:6 |
| = ' ' | | certification 35:25 | contesting 37:21 | described 33:22 |
| accurate 43:8 | B | Certified 43:6 | conversation 40:4 | details 38:8 |
| add 35:11 | back 32:13 35:7 | certify 43:7 | copy 35:2 | Detloff 25:25 43:6 |
| additional 40:22 | Barnett 26:13 | Chad 27:3 29:21 | Corporation 25:7 | 43:14 |
| address 28:20 | 28:23 29:1,3 | 30:19,20 38:17 | 26:12 28:10 | developed 36:16 |
| 35:19 | 30:10,11,17 31:4 | chance 33:23 41:2 | correct 28:24,25 | developing 40:12 |
| adjourned 42:4,5 | 31:9,11 32:17,19 | change 31:7 | 30:9,10 31:7 37:7 | different 32:25 |
| administrative | 35:10 37:6,13,18 | changed 33:8 39:13 | 37:17,18 39:16 | 41:17 |
| 25:13 26:2 28:15 | 38:17,20,22,24 | clarification 37:16 | counsel 26:18,20 | discovery 34:10 |
| advisement 35:16 | 39:16 41:19 | clarify 31:23 | 29:14,17 33:19 | 37:1 41:4 |
| ago 34:17 | based 37:11,12 | clarifying 36:8 | 36:6,12 37:20 | discuss 30:7 32:2,5 |
| agree 33:2 39:4 | 39:12 | classified 39:13 | 40:5 41:7 | discussed 41:4 |
| agreeing 35:8 | behalf 29:11 | co-presiding 28:17 | counts 33:1 | discussing 33:23 |
| agreement 30:9 | believe 41:10 | Coie 26:14 29:4 | COUNTY 43:4 | Docket 25:3 28:8 |
| ahead 30:18 31:10 | Bellevue 26:15 | come 30:9 32:23 | course 38:6 | Donna 26:13 29:3 |
| 32:9,16,19,20 33:9 | best 43:9 | comfortable 35:6,8 | Court 43:6 | 30:11 31:10 32:16 |
| | better 38:3 | 41:17 | cross 34:10 | Doyle 25:13 26:4 |
| all-party 31:3 Alliance 27:2 29:22 | bit 33:1 | coming 30:12 42:2 | cross-answer 40:19 | 28:14 |
| allow 31:19 | Box 26:9 | Comment 34:12 | cross-answering | draft 30:22 |
| alternative 33:17 | break 32:2,4 | commission 25:2,4 | 33:6 | due 31:25 38:2 |
| amount 35:7 | brief 32:14 34:15 | 25:16 26:6 28:9 | cross-exam 34:11 | |
| Ann 26:19 29:16 | briefing 34:15 37:2 | 28:17 29:11 31:18 | crunched 33:1 | E |
| 33:18 36:11 | 40:20 | 35:4 36:15 37:9 | cstokes@cablehu | E 26:1,1 27:1,1 |
| ann.paisner@atg | briefings 33:11 | 40:10 43:16 | 27:6 | 28:4,4 43:1,1 |
| 26:23 | Broadway 27:4 | Commission's | | e-mail 40:8,8 |
| anticipate 31:14 | business 41:14 | 39:12 | D | early 38:14,19 |
| appearances 28:19 | | Commissioner's | D 28:4 | edit 35:3 |
| appeared 25:20 | <u> </u> | 31:25 | date 25:24 31:7,15 | effective 31:17 |
| appreciate 34:18 | C 26:1 27:1 28:4 | Commissioners | 31:17,25 32:6 | 39:17 |
| 35:15 40:22 | 43:1,1 | 28:18 | 34:2,8,16,23 | Energy 27:2,8 |
| approximately | Cable 27:4 29:22 | Company 28:24 | 35:23 36:22 37:12 | 29:22,25 30:2 |
| 28:11 | California 27:10 | competing 32:1,24 | 38:15,19 39:17,17 | 37:20 |
| April 33:5 34:7 | call 41:25 | Complainant 25:5 | 40:6 | estimates 34:11 |
| area 34:1 | Callaghan 26:7 | conference 25:10 | dates 30:18 33:2 | evidence 36:15 |
| asked 39:16 | 29:9,10 31:8,10 | 28:8 30:7 | 34:14,16 | evidentiary 33:13 |
| asking 31:6 33:3 | 32:16,21 33:10,15 | conferences 38:7 | day 31:18 41:14 | exact 38:8 |
| Assistant 26:8 | 35:1 38:5 41:21 | confirmed 39:21 | days 31:18 39:17 | exactly 33:2 |
| 29:10,16 | captioned 28:8 | consider 36:15 | 40:20 | exchanged 40:3 |
| assumptions 39:22 | Cascade 25:7 26:12 | 40:11,12 | dbarnett@perki | exhibits 34:11 |
| assumptions 57.22 | | | | |
| | | | | |

| expires 43:16 | go 30:18 31:10 32:9 | | 36:13 | notice 35:24 |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| | 32:16,19,20 33:9 | joint 34:3,5 | Loop 25:17 | notified 37:8 |
| F | going 31:24 32:9 | Judge 28:6,25 29:7 | | |
| F 43:1 | 38:11 39:23 40:1 | 29:13,15,19,24 | M | 0 |
| fair 38:13 | 40:7,9 | 30:4,15,24 31:2,5 | magnitude 39:12 | O 28:4 |
| fairly 33:22 | good 28:7 29:9,15 | 31:23 32:8,13,20 | maintain 41:12 | o0o- 28:3 |
| February 34:9 37:8 | 29:19,21 30:1 | 33:9,14,16 34:18 | March 25:24 28:1 | obviously 31:12 |
| 37:9 | 32:7 | 34:21 35:13 36:1 | 28:11 33:4 34:4 | 35:4 |
| feel 28:22 35:6,8 | great 41:23 | 36:3,8 37:4,15,19 | 34:23,24 35:25 | Office 26:8,20 |
| Fifth 26:21 | guess 34:21 | 37:25 39:15,19 | matter 28:18 | 29:18 |
| file 34:2,2 35:24 | | 40:14 41:6,12,16 | mean 35:4 40:5 | Oh 30:24 32:21 |
| 39:10 40:18 | H | 41:23 | Megan 26:13 29:4 | 33:9 |
| filed 31:12,12 38:4 | hard 40:2 | judges 25:13 26:2 | Mihaly 27:9 30:2 | Okay 29:1 30:4,15 |
| filing 31:18 33:3 | Hayes 27:10 | 28:16 | mind 31:6 32:2,5 | 30:24,25 31:5,23 |
| 34:4,5,23 37:12 | he/him 29:11,23 | July 34:16 | 40:21 | 33:9,14 34:21 |
| 38:25 39:8,18 | 30:3 | June 31:16,22 | minimal 39:20 | 35:13 36:1,9 37:4 |
| Firm 29:23 | hear 34:22 | 34:14,15 40:6 | minute 34:17 | 37:15,19 38:21 |
| first 32:15 36:13,23 | heard 40:6 | 34.14,13 40.0 | mlin@perkinscoi | 40:14 41:12,16,23 |
| 38:25 | hearing 30:13 31:7 | K | 26:17 | 41:25 |
| five 33:21 36:19 | 31:15,15,20,22,25 | keep 32:1 40:21 | modifications 30:7 | old 34:9 |
| 37:7,9,11,14 | 32:6 33:12,13 | keeping 32:5,6 | 32:3 | Olympia 26:9 |
| five-day 41:9,14,18 | 34:12,14 40:19 | KING 43:4 | morning 28:7 29:9 | open 30:13 |
| following 32:14 | 42:1 | knew 40:1 | 29:15,19,21 30:1 | oppose 37:24 |
| 34:8 | helpful 40:23 | know 33:6 35:3 | motion 30:5 | opposing 39:1 |
| foregoing 43:8 | helps 40:23 | 36:14,17,18 37:22 | move 31:25 | opposition 34:6 |
| forth 35:7 | Honor 29:9 32:23 | 38:7,16 39:22,23 | | 36:22 37:1 |
| forward 41:8 | 33:18 35:1,21 | 40:3,11 | N | order 35:17 42:2 |
| forwarded 38:17 | 36:2 38:5 41:3,22 | knowledge 43:9 | N 26:1 27:1 28:4 | Oregon 27:5 |
| 38:18 | Huston 27:4 29:23 | Kilowicuge 43.7 | nailed 30:18 | original 31:14 |
| Fourth 26:14 | | $\overline{\mathbf{L}}$ | name 28:13,22 | 41:10 |
| Francisco 27:10 | I | Lacey 25:17 28:1 | Nash 26:7 29:10 | |
| free 28:22 | II 25:11 | lag 32:22 | 30:19 32:20 35:12 | P |
| full 40:12 | implementation | law 25:13 26:2 | nash.callaghan@ | P 26:1,1 27:1,1 |
| funding 35:24 | 38:15 | 28:16 29:23 | 26:10 | 28:4 |
| future 40:22 | important 36:25 | learned 38:14 | Natural 25:7 26:12 | p.m 34:13 |
| | 37:6 | leave 33:11 | 28:10 | P.O 26:9 |
| G | impossible 40:20 | left 39:22 | need 33:12 35:3,7 | Pages 25:11 |
| G 28:4 | information 39:20 | let's 28:19,21 41:6 | 35:19 39:7,9,9 | Paisner 26:19 |
| Gas 25:7 26:12 | 40:22 | limited 38:24 | 41:4 | 29:15,16 32:18 |
| 28:10 | intent 35:24 | Lin 26:13 29:4,6 | needing 31:14 | 33:18,19 34:20 |
| general 26:8,8 | interest 38:2 | list 34:11 38:1 | needs 40:24 | 36:11 39:19 41:8 |
| 29:10,16 39:13 | intervenor 35:24 | little 33:1 40:2 | Neither 41:21 | 41:14 |
| General's 26:20 | issue 35:16 38:24 | LLP 26:14 27:9 | non-settling 30:23 | participants 25:20 |
| 29:18 | 42:2 | logistically 40:16 | 30:25 33:20 36:6 | parties 30:8,16,23 |
| getting 32:22 | issues 38:1,9 39:1 | looked 34:8 | Northeast 26:14 | 30:25 31:6 32:5 |
| given 35:6 | | looking 33:25 | note 39:11 40:15 | 33:3,11,17,20 |
| | | g : | | |
| | • | | • | |

| 34:3,17,22 36:6 | Project 27:8 29:25 | Reporter 43:6 | 37:22,23 38:4,6 | Suite 26:15,21 27:5 |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| 37:19,20 38:2,7 | 37:21 | request 30:6 36:20 | 39:5 40:17 | Sunday 33:8 |
| 39:2 40:21,24 | pronouns 28:14,15 | 40:9 41:9 | settling 33:3,10 | support 37:24 |
| 41:16 | 28:22 29:5,11,18 | requested 39:2 | 34:3,22 | supporting 31:13 |
| parties' 35:15 | 30:3 | requirement 39:2 | she/her 28:13,15 | 33:4 38:12 |
| Pearson 25:13 26:3 | proposal 31:3 | Respondent 25:8 | 29:4,18 | Sure 36:3 |
| 28:6,13,25 29:7 | proposals 30:14 | response 33:5 34:6 | sheet 33:21 36:24 | surprise 38:16 |
| 29:13,15,19,24 | 32:24 35:16 | 39:10 40:19 | 39:21 | surprises 38:11 |
| 30:4,15,24 31:2,5 | propose 31:16 34:7 | revenue 39:2 | shorter 35:9 | suspend 30:5 |
| 31:23 32:8,13,20 | 35:23 40:7 | review 31:18 35:3,7 | Shute 27:9 30:2 | suspended 34:9 |
| 33:9,14,16 34:18 | proposed 39:24 | 39:5,10 40:16 | simple 33:22 39:5,7 | 41:10 |
| 34:21 35:13 36:1 | proposing 34:4 | revised 35:17 41:5 | sitting 37:14 | suspension 40:9 |
| 36:3,8 37:4,15,19 | provide 28:22 38:1 | right 32:8 35:14 | situation 40:17 | |
| 37:25 39:15,19 | provided 30:21 | 37:5 41:24 | skill 43:9 | T |
| 40:14 41:6,12,16 | Public 26:18,20 | room 34:1 | sooner 38:3 | T 43:1,1 |
| 41:23 | 29:14,17 33:19 | Rose 25:25 43:6,14 | sorry 28:23 29:2 | take 32:4 35:16 |
| period 40:16 | 34:12 36:6,12 | RPR 25:25 43:14 | 30:18 31:10 32:21 | 40:25 |
| Perkin 26:14 | 37:20 41:7 | rules 31:17 39:12 | 32:21 33:9 | taken 25:24 32:11 |
| Perkins 29:3 | pursuant 31:17 | 40:11 | sounds 32:7 36:17 | 39:25 |
| perspective 33:7 | put 36:21 37:1 | | 37:16 | talking 39:1 |
| piece 37:21 | | S | Southeast 25:17 | TEP 36:4,5 |
| place 38:25 | Q | S 26:1 27:1 28:4 | Southwest 27:4 | terms 33:21 36:24 |
| please 28:21 32:1 | quickly 35:11 | Samantha 25:13 | speak 32:15 | 39:21 |
| point 30:23 32:4 | | 26:4 28:14 | Square 25:17 | testimony 31:13 |
| 36:25 37:15 | R | San 27:10 | Staff 26:6 29:8,11 | 33:4,5 34:2,3,5,6 |
| points 30:15 | R 26:1 27:1 28:4 | saying 40:8 | 35:2 36:18 37:17 | 36:22 37:1 38:12 |
| policy's 33:7 | 43:1 | schedule 30:6,8,21 | 37:25 39:4 41:21 | thank 29:7,12,13 |
| Portland 27:5 | rate 39:13,13 | 30:22 32:3,25 | Staff's 30:5 | 29:19,23,24 30:4 |
| position 40:2 | Rayne 25:13 26:3 | 33:25 34:9 35:18 | start 28:19 | 33:14,15 34:18 |
| positions 41:17 | 28:13 | 35:23 39:24 40:9 | starting 28:24 | 35:1,13 36:1,7,8 |
| possible 35:12 | ready 38:4 | 41:5,11 | state 28:21 29:17 | 37:3,4 40:13,14 |
| 40:17 | really 33:25 36:25 | scheduled 34:13 | 43:3,7 | 41:23 42:1,4 |
| posthearing 34:15 | 38:25 | schedules 31:25 | status 25:10 28:7 | they/them 28:15 |
| prefer 33:11 | reason 31:21 | Seattle 26:22 | 28:20 30:6 | thing 35:22 36:2 |
| prepare 39:8 | rebuttal 33:5 34:7 | see 33:21,24 36:23 | steps 39:25 | 41:2,3 |
| present 33:17 | 40:19 | 41:6,7 | stipulation 31:13 | think 30:13 31:11 |
| presented 30:22 | recall 38:23 | seeing 38:23 | 34:5 38:12 | 31:19,21 34:13 |
| principal 28:20 | receipt 36:18 | seen 36:24 37:23 | Stokes 27:3 29:21 | 35:10,12 37:6 |
| prior 34:24 | received 30:5 35:2 | 39:21 | 29:21 30:20,20 | 38:2,13 41:4 |
| priorities 32:1 | recess 32:10,11,14 | sent 34:16 | 31:1 32:7 35:21 | thought 31:2 |
| problem 41:19 | record 28:6 32:14 | set 33:12 | 37:11 38:13,19,21 | three 39:1,8 |
| procedural 30:6,8 | 36:5,16 40:4,13 | sets 35:4 | 38:23 39:6 | Thursday 28:10 |
| 32:3 35:18 41:5 | 40:15 | settled 37:7 | Street 26:14 27:10 | tight 32:25 |
| Proceedings 42:5 | reflect 36:5 | settlement 28:20 | subsection 36:14 | time 28:11 31:19 |
| process 38:2 | reply 34:15 | 31:15,20,22 33:4 | 40:12 | 33:1 35:3 36:21 |
| Product 30:2 | REPORTED 25:25 | 34:4,4,23 37:17 | sufficient 36:21 | 36:23 39:7,9 |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |

Page 47

| | | | | raye 41 |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|---------|
| 40.10 | 26.20.22.29.1.0 | l | | |
| 40:18 | 26:20,22 28:1,9 | 1 | 6 | |
| timeline 41:5 | 28:16 29:17 43:3 | 1 33:7 40:12 | 6 43:17 | |
| today 28:7,10 | 43:7 | 10 25:24 28:1 | 6:00 34:13 | |
| 35:20 42:2 | way 37:25 | 10:10 42:5 | 60 31:17 39:17 | |
| told 39:22,24 40:2 | ways 39:7 | 10885 26:14 | 40:20 | |
| transcript 43:8 | we'll 28:6,20 35:11 | 10th 28:11 | 60-day 40:16 | |
| Transportation | we're 28:7 30:13 | 11th 34:10 | 621 25:17 | |
| 25:2,4,16 28:9,17 | 33:25 35:20 39:1 | 1455 27:4 | | |
| true 43:8 | 39:9,21 | 1500 27:5 | 7 | |
| trust 40:3 | we've 32:23,25 | 17th 34:4,23 37:8 | 700 26:15 | |
| trying 29:1 | 33:22 34:8,8 | 18th 35:25 37:8,9 | | |
| turnaround 41:9 | week 35:17 42:3 | 1st 31:16 34:14 | 8 | |
| 41:15,18 | weeks 33:21 35:9 | 40:6 | 800 26:21 | |
| two 35:9 39:9 | 36:19 37:7,10,11 | | | |
| | 37:14 39:8 | 2 | 9 | |
| U | Weinberger 27:9 | 2000 26:21 | 9:00 28:12 | |
| UG-210755 25:3 | 30:2 | 2022 25:24 28:1,11 | 9:01 28:2 | |
| 28:8 | welcome 34:20 | 43:17 | 9:06 32:11 | |
| understand 30:8 | Western 27:2 | 206-521-3211 | 9:57 32:12 | |
| 40:23 | 29:22 | 26:22 | 94102 27:10 | |
| Unit 26:20 29:17 | wiggle 34:1 | 21036100 25:25 | 97201 27:5 | |
| use 28:13 29:4,18 | witness 34:11 | 43:14 | 98004 26:15 | |
| 29:23 30:3 | Woodland 25:17 | 21st 34:15 | 98104 26:22 | |
| uses 28:14 | work 29:1 35:11 | 22nd 33:5 | 98503 25:17 | |
| Utilities 25:2,3,16 | workable 34:24 | 24th 33:4 34:9,24 | 98504 26:9 | |
| 28:9,16 | working 36:19 | 25-43 25:11 | | |
| | works 39:25 | 25th 34:7,11,13 | | |
| V | writing 38:18 | 2nd 33:6,8 34:7,14 | | |
| v 28:9 | | | | |
| verbal 40:3 | X | 3 | | |
| video 29:2 | | 360-664-1186 | | |
| videoconference | Y | 26:10 | | |
| 25:20 | yeah 30:10 31:9,11 | 396 27:10 | | |
| VIRTUAL 25:10 | 31:16 35:12 38:20 | | | |
| VOLUME 25:11 | yesterday 38:14,18 | 4 | | |
| vs 25:6 | Yochi 27:9 30:1 | 40128 26:9 | | |
| | 36:4 | 415-552-7272 | | |
| W | yzakai@smwlaw | 27:11 | | |
| WAC 36:13 40:11 | 27:11 | 425-635-1419 | | |
| wait 31:14,22 | | 26:16 | | |
| waiting 33:20 | Z | 480-07-740 36:13 | | |
| want 36:5 40:15 | Zakai 27:9 30:1,1 | 40:11 | | |
| wanted 31:23 | 36:2,4,4 37:23 | | | |
| wanting 31:17 | 39:11 41:3 | 5 | | |
| Washington 25:1,3 | | 503-224-3092 27:6 | | |
| 25:16,17 26:9,15 | 0 | 5th 34:16 | | |
| | | | | |
| | I | | <u> </u> | |