| 1  | BEFORE THE WASHIN  | IGTON STATE                |
|----|--|----------------------------|
| 2  | UTILITIES AND TRANSPORT  | TATION COMMISSION          |
| 3  | In re )<br>Application No. D-079294 of )   |                            |
| 4  | )<br>PENNCO TRANSPORTATION, INC. )   | Volume I                   |
| 5  | )  | Pages 1 to 23              |
| 6  | For Extension of Authority )<br>Under Certificate No. C-01054,)<br>For a Certificate of Public ) |                            |
| 7  | Convenience and Necessity to )<br>Operate Motor Vehicles in )                                    |                            |
| 8  | Furnishing Passenger and )<br>Express Service as an Auto )                                       |                            |
| 9  | Transportation Company. )  |                            |
| 10 | In re  |                            |
| 11 | Application No. D-079302 of )  | DOCKET NO. TC-041593       |
| 12 | HECKMAN MOTORS, INC., d/b/a )<br>OLYMPIC BUS LINES )   |                            |
|    | )  |                            |
| 13 | For Extension of Authority )<br>Under Certificate No. C-992, )                                   |                            |
| 14 | For a Certificate of Public )<br>Convenience and Necessity to )                                  |                            |
| 15 | Operate Motor Vehicles in )  |                            |
| 16 | Furnishing Passenger and )<br>Express Service as an Auto )                                       |                            |
| 17 | Transportation Company. )  |                            |
| 18 |  |                            |
|    |  |                            |
| 19 | A prehearing confere   | ence in the above matter   |
| 20 | was held on December 16, 2004,   | from 1:30 p.m to 2:20      |
| 21 | p.m., at 1300 South Evergreen P  | Park Drive Southwest, Room |
| 22 | 108, Olympia, Washington, before Administrative Law  |                            |
| 23 | Judge THEODORA MACE.   |                            |
| 24 | Joan E. Kinn, CCR, RPR   |                            |
| 25 | Court Reporter   |                            |

1 The parties were present as follows: 2 THE COMMISSION, by JONATHAN THOMPSON, Assistant Attorney General, 1400 South Evergreen Park 3 Drive Southwest, Olympia, Washington 98504-0128, Telephone (360) 664-1225, Fax (360) 586-5522, E-Mail 4 jthompso@wutc.wa.gov. HECKMAN MOTORS, INC. d/b/a OLYMPIC BUS LINES, 5 by JACK HECKMAN, President, 111 East Front Street, Port Angeles, Washington 98362, Telephone (360) 417-0700, Fax б (360) 452-1460, E-Mail jackheckman@olypen.com. 7 PENNCO TRANSPORTATION, INC., by KEVIN HARRIS, 8 President, 933 Carlsborg Road, Sequim, Washington 98382, Telephone (360) 582-3736, E-Mail 9 kevinh@macrosystems.com. BREMERTON-KITSAP AIRPORTER, INC., by RICHARD 10 E. ASCHE, President, P.O. Box 1255, Port Orchard, Washington 98366, Telephone (360) 876-1737, Fax (360) 11 876-5521, E-Mail reasche@aol.com. 12 EVERGREEN TRAILS, INC.  $d/b/a\ \mbox{GRAY}\ \mbox{LINE}\ \mbox{OF}$ SEATTLE AND SHUTTLE EXPRESS, INC., by DAVID L. RICE, 13 Attorney at Law, Miller Nash LLP, 601 Union Street, Suite 4400, Seattle, Washington 98101, Telephone (206) 14 777-7424, Fax (206) 622-7485, E-Mail david.rice@millernash.com. 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25

PROCEEDINGS 1 2 JUDGE MACE: Let's be on the record today in 3 Docket Numbers TC-041340, this is an application filed 4 by Pennco Transportation, Inc., and in docket TC-041593, an application filed by Olympic Bus Lines, Inc. 5 6 The Pennco Transportation application was 7 filed for an extension of authority under Certificate 8 Number C-01054 for a Certificate of Public Convenience 9 and Necessity to provide door-to-door passenger service 10 by reservation only between Clallam and Jefferson 11 Counties and Seattle and Tacoma hotels and cruise 12 terminals, between Clallam and Jefferson Counties and 13 Kingston and Bainbridge ferry terminals, between Kitsap 14 County and Seattle and Tacoma hospitals, Amtrak 15 stations, Greyhound stations, cruise terminals, hotels, 16 and the Seattle Tacoma International Airport with closed door service between Kitsap County and the indicated 17 18 points in King and Pierce County and between Kitsap 19 County and Kingston and Bainbridge ferry terminals. The 20 applicant is also requesting that its authority be 21 revised to remove a restriction related to providing 22 service to passengers from any point served by Heckman 23 Motors, Inc. d/b/a Olympic Bus Lines.

In the Olympic Bus Lines application, theapplicant is seeking authority or an extension of its

current authority to conduct passenger service between 1 2 Port Angeles, Sequim, Discovery Bay, Kingston, Edmonds, 3 Silverdale, and Seattle Tacoma International Airport and 4 between Port Angeles, Sequim, Discovery Bay, Kingston, Edmonds, Silverdale, and Seattle restricted against 5 б service between Seattle and Seattle Tacoma International 7 Airport, Silverdale and Seattle, and Silverdale and 8 Seattle Tacoma International Airport.

9 Having said that, we are conducting this 10 prehearing conference today on these two applications 11 because they were filed contemporaneously and request 12 overlapping authority. Under the Commission's rule WAC 13 480-30-032, the Commission may consolidate overlapping 14 applications for joint consideration. These 15 applications have not yet been consolidated, and I will 16 address that issue as we go through the items we need to address during the prehearing conference. 17

18 My name is Theodora Mace, I am the 19 Administrative Law Judge who has been assigned to hold 20 hearings in this case, and I'm going to ask now for oral 21 appearances of those who are present representing 22 parties in this case. I am going to ask you to give 23 what we call a long form of your appearance. That means 24 I need to have you state your full name, who you represent, your full address, phone number, fax number, 25

and E-Mail address. Please speak slowly and clearly so 1 that the reporter can record your information 2 3 accurately. 4 I will begin with Pennco, I would like to know who is representing Pennco here. 5 6 Yes, go ahead. MR. HARRIS: Kevin Harris. 7 JUDGE MACE: Hold on here, let me make sure 8 I've got your name, Kevin Harris, okay, and what is your 9 10 position with Pennco? 11 MR. HARRIS: President. 12 JUDGE MACE: All right, go ahead. 13 MR. HARRIS: Address is 1819 - 31st Street. 14 JUDGE MACE: The address we have for you is 15 933 Carlsborg Road. 16 MR. HARRIS: That's a business address, yes, 17 that's fine. JUDGE MACE: That address is okay? 18 MR. HARRIS: Yes. 19 20 JUDGE MACE: That's the address for Pennco 21 Transportation? 22 MR. HARRIS: Correct. 23 JUDGE MACE: All right, why don't we use that 24 address. 25 MR. HARRIS: Okay.

| 1  | JUDGE MACE: Go ahead.                                  |  |  |
|----|--|--|--|
| 2  | MR. HARRIS: Phone number is (360) 582-3736.            |  |  |
| 3  | I don't know the fax number.                           |  |  |
| 4  | JUDGE MACE: Okay, and how about an E-mail?             |  |  |
| 5  | MR. HARRIS: E-Mail is                                  |  |  |
| б  | kevinh@macrosystems.com.                               |  |  |
| 7  | JUDGE MACE: Okay, thank you.                           |  |  |
| 8  | We have a protestant in this application from          |  |  |
| 9  | Evergreen Trails d/b/a Gray Line of Seattle, who is    |  |  |
| 10 | here?  |  |  |
| 11 | MR. RICE: Your Honor, I am here on behalf of           |  |  |
| 12 | Evergreen Trails.                                      |  |  |
| 13 | JUDGE MACE: All right.                                 |  |  |
| 14 | MR. RICE: I am David Rice, and I'm with the            |  |  |
| 15 | law firm of Miller Nash, LLP, our address is 4400 Two  |  |  |
| 16 | Union Square, 601 Union Street, Seattle, Washington    |  |  |
| 17 | 98101, my phone number is (206) 777-7424, my fax is    |  |  |
| 18 | (206) 622-7485, my E-mail address is                   |  |  |
| 19 | david.rice@millernash.com.                             |  |  |
| 20 | JUDGE MACE: We also have a protest from                |  |  |
| 21 | Bremerton-Kitsap Airporter, Inc., is there anyone here |  |  |
| 22 | on behalf of Bremerton-Kitsap Airporter?               |  |  |
| 23 | We have a protest from Heckman Motors, Inc.            |  |  |
| 24 | d/b/a Olympic Bus Lines, is there any yes.             |  |  |
| 25 | MR. HECKMAN: I'm Jack Heckman, I'm President           |  |  |

of Heckman Motors, and our business address is 111 East 1 2 Front Street, Port Angeles, and our phone number is area 3 code (360) 417-0700. 4 JUDGE MACE: Your zip code is 98362? MR. HECKMAN: That's correct. 5 JUDGE MACE: And how about a fax number? б 7 MR. HECKMAN: (360) 452-1460. JUDGE MACE: And an E-mail. 8 9 MR. HECKMAN: Jackheckman@olypen.com. 10 JUDGE MACE: And Staff. 11 MR. THOMPSON: I'm Jonathan Thompson, 12 Assistant Attorney General representing the Commission 13 Staff. My street address is 1400 South Evergreen Park 14 Drive Southwest, P.O. Box 40128, Olympia, Washington 15 98504, my phone number is (360) 664-1225, my fax is 16 (360) 586-5522, and my E-mail is jthompso@wutc.wa.gov. 17 JUDGE MACE: All right, thank you. 18 I would like to turn to the Heckman Motors 19 application now. And, Mr. Heckman, I'm assuming your 20 appearance would be the same for the Heckman Motors application. 21 22 Let me indicate for the record I just 23 received a message that Mr. Asche, who is the President 24 of Bremerton-Kitsap Airporter, Inc. and filed a protest

25 in the Pennco application is running late and is stuck

| 1  | in traffic. We'll see how we do in terms of getting      |
|----|--|
| 2  | through our items on our list of things to do in the     |
| 3  | prehearing conference, and perhaps Mr. Asche will appear |
| 4  | later during the proceeding.                             |
| 5  | Going back to the Heckman Motors application,            |
| б  | I see that there's been a protest filed by Shuttle       |
| 7  | Express, Inc. Is there anyone here on behalf of Shuttle  |
| 8  | Express?   |
| 9  | MR. RICE: Your Honor, I am here on behalf of             |
| 10 | Shuttle Express.   |
| 11 | JUDGE MACE: And that's Mr. Rice, and I'm                 |
| 12 | assuming your appearance would be the same.              |
| 13 | MR. RICE: That's correct.                                |
| 14 | JUDGE MACE: And then we also have a protest              |
| 15 | from Bremerton-Kitsap Airporter, and again Mr. Asche,    |
| 16 | who is the President of that concern, is running late.   |
| 17 | And we have an appearance on behalf of Staff,            |
| 18 | and, Mr. Thompson, your appearance would be the same for |
| 19 | this application; is that correct?                       |
| 20 | MR. THOMPSON: That's correct.                            |
| 21 | And just for clarification, it's Asche.                  |
| 22 | JUDGE MACE: Oh, Asche, thank you.                        |
| 23 | MR. HARRIS: Your Honor.                                  |
| 24 | JUDGE MACE: Yes.   |
| 25 | MR. HARRIS: A question for a point of                    |

clarification. Pennco did not object to Olympic's 1 2 application because we were under the impression that 3 our application would clear before theirs, so I would 4 like to if possible since we're considering consolidating the two, I just wanted to make sure that 5 б we can object if need be to items within their 7 application since ours will actually not clear if you 8 combine them together first.

9 JUDGE MACE: I'm not sure what you mean by 10 clear.

11 MR. HARRIS: If there is some point that we 12 take exception to in their application, I would like to 13 be able to respond to that, and I did not officially 14 protest their application, because I was under the 15 impression that our application was ahead. But since 16 part of our conversation today is about consolidating the two, I would like to have the ability to take 17 18 exception to something in their application if need be. JUDGE MACE: You know, I'm not clear about 19 20 the rules about protest and whether or not you would be 21 able to in effect protest their application having not

filed a protest during the protest period. I will have to take that under advisement.

24 MR. HARRIS: Okay.

25 JUDGE MACE: I take it that you wish to

protest their application under the circumstances? 1 2 MR. HARRIS: That's correct, if in fact the 3 two applications get consolidated, then I do wish to 4 protest the application. 5 JUDGE MACE: All right. That actually is the б very next item that I want to address on the record 7 today. I wanted to ask if there was any objection to the consolidation of this application, of these 8 applications. 9 10 Mr. Harris, is that right? 11 MR. HARRIS: Yeah, I object, I feel that our 12 application was filed in a timely fashion, and I feel 13 that the authority that we have requested was in part to 14 a large extent already previously granted to Pennco, but 15 at the time it was a little ahead of the marketplace, 16 and so we weren't able to make that authority economically feasible. But because of changes in some 17 18 transportation issues in the area, we feel confident 19 that what we have requested now is economically viable. 20 We feel that it is in part to a large extent because of 21 our application that Olympic has made their application, 22 and so we feel that we would be unjustly served to have 23 the applications combined. 24 JUDGE MACE: Any response to that,

25 Mr. Heckman?

MR. HECKMAN: I have been working with Staff 1 2 on our as they call it cleaning up of our tariff. We 3 have had the tariff approximately five years, and what 4 we have added in our new application here has actually already been in our tariff, but it wasn't actually in 5 б our actual operating authority, which is why Staff when 7 they caught this asked us to clean it up and then reask 8 for the stuff that we actually already had in our tariff. So it really wasn't in response to Pennco's 9 10 application at all. I had already been dealing with 11 Staff and trying to clean this up before I ever even saw 12 Pennco's application. And I think if you look at the 13 time frames with Staff when I started working on it, you 14 will see that that was before their application. And I 15 think what Mr. Harris is referring to is the 16 Kingston-Edmonds connection, which we have been servicing since the day we got our certificate. 17

18 JUDGE MACE: Well, anyone else have anything 19 they want to say about consolidation?

20 MR. THOMPSON: I would just say I think, not 21 having the rule in front of me and actually not having 22 really anticipated this being an issue, I think the rule 23 basically provides that if competing applications seek 24 to serve overlapping authority and a second application 25 is made within 30 days, then more or less it's a matter

1 of course that they would be consolidated.

2 JUDGE MACE: That's my general recollection 3 of the rule too, but I would like to -- I will take this 4 under advisement, I will look at the rule a little more carefully. It may well be that the matters have to be 5 б consolidated just because of the convenience of the 7 Commission and a rule, et cetera, but I will consider 8 what you have said here today. 9 Let me take a moment to turn to 10 Bremerton-Kitsap Airporter, I believe Mr. Asche has 11 entered the hearing room. Would you please enter your 12 full appearance. I understand that you're a protestant 13 to both applications here today, both the Pennco and the 14 Olympic Bus Lines application, is that right? 15 MR. ASCHE: That is correct. 16 JUDGE MACE: And would you state your full name, who you represent, full address, telephone, fax, 17 18 and E-mail. MR. ASCHE: Okay, my name is Richard E. 19 20 Asche, Bremerton-Kitsap Airporter, Inc., telephone 21 number is (360) 876-1737, fax number (360) 876-5521, and 22 E-Mail address reasche@aol.com. 23 JUDGE MACE: And your address is the P.O. Box 24 1255? 25 MR. ASCHE: That's correct.

JUDGE MACE: Port Orchard? 2 MR. ASCHE: That's correct, 98366. 3 JUDGE MACE: Thank you. 4 I need to ask next whether the parties anticipate that they will be seeking discovery of each 5 other in this hearing or in this proceeding, any need 6 7 for me to invoke the discovery rule at this point? 8 If it becomes an issue and you need to conduct discovery, please notify me and I will indicate 9 10 that the rule is invoked. 11 All right, and let's also turn to the 12 question of a protective order. Do any of the parties 13 anticipate the need for the Commission to enter a 14 protective order because there are certain competitive 15 information they seek to have protected from public 16 disclosure? MR. HARRIS: I would say yes to that, so if 17 I'm understanding you correctly, we would reserve the 18 right that information that's disclosed within the 19 20 course of the hearing would not in total be released to 21 the public; is that correct? 22 JUDGE MACE: Well, yeah, when a protective 23 order is entered, you have the -- and you have to be 24 very careful about what you designate as confidential 25 information.

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MR. HARRIS: Right. JUDGE MACE: The information then comes into

3 the record in such a way that it's kept separate from 4 other parts of the record so that it's not immediately available to the public. The Commission wants to be 5 б very careful about what is designated as confidential. 7 MR. HARRIS: I understand. 8 JUDGE MACE: And would only allow designation as confidential those types of secret trade information 9 10 that could damage your competitive position, et cetera. 11 Do you still feel you --12 MR. HARRIS: I would like to, yes. 13 JUDGE MACE: All right, I will see that 14 there's a protective order entered. 15 MR. ASCHE: Does that mean it would go out on 16 the Web, any information goes out on the Web? 17 JUDGE MACE: No, what goes on out on the Web 18 usually is -- well, I don't want to misrepresent what goes out on the Web. My understanding of what's on the 19 20 Web I guess may be pleadings that are filed. I don't 21 know for sure whether all of the filings that are made 22 in the case appear on our Web site. I don't know that. 23 Does Staff have any information about that? 24 MR. THOMPSON: Well, I think typically if there is information that you want to have treated as 25

confidential, you would file one document that had the 1 2 confidential information in it, and that would not be 3 posted on the Internet. But then you would have to file 4 another one that had a blank essentially or a redacted area where there was confidential information, and 5 б that's what would be posted on the Internet, and people 7 wouldn't be able to see the confidential information. 8 MR. HARRIS: But whether or not we actually specify something as confidential, I mean we don't have 9

to specify anything, we just have the right to do that

11 now, correct?

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10

JUDGE MACE: Correct.

13 MR. HARRIS: Okay, just making sure.

JUDGE MACE: And the protective order gives you instruction about if there is information that you want to have deemed confidential how you have to treat it for purposes of the record.

18 All right, let's turn next to the question of 19 issues in this proceeding. These are both applications 20 for authority to do certain types of passenger 21 transportation, and I'm assuming that the issues are 22 whether or not the applicants meet the requirements of 23 the statute and the rules with regard to obtaining that 24 authority. Are there any other issues that the parties think ought to be brought to my attention at this point? 25

1 Staff?

MR. THOMPSON: Well, yes, there's of course 2 3 just basic fitness and so forth, but there are also 4 various issues between various parties under the certificate statute where the statute provides that, 5 б summarizing, that a certificate will not be granted 7 unless it can be shown that the existing certificate holder will not serve to the satisfaction of the 8 9 Commission, so. 10 JUDGE MACE: But that's part of what we would 11 have to consider in this proceeding. 12 MR. THOMPSON: Right. 13 JUDGE MACE: As a matter of course, because 14 it's part of the statutory requirement. 15 MR. THOMPSON: Right. 16 JUDGE MACE: So I understood those. 17 MR. THOMPSON: Okay. 18 JUDGE MACE: I just wondered if there was 19 anything out of the ordinary that I needed to know. 20 Well, then having accomplished most of the 21 items on this agenda, we need to discuss a procedural 22 schedule. You need to give me --23 MR. ASCHE: Your Honor, I have one question. 24 JUDGE MACE: Yes. MR. ASCHE: Is the matter of fitness 25

1 determined before a hearing or after the hearing or 2 during the hearing?

3 JUDGE MACE: I believe fitness is an issue at 4 the hearing, you bring evidence on fitness. Unless the 5 parties seek to handle it some other way, in which case 6 you can discuss that among yourselves. But typically as 7 I understand it, it's all part of the issues that are 8 brought into the hearing itself.

9

MR. ASCHE: Okay.

10 JUDGE MACE: All right, I will need to have 11 probably two weeks actually given the holiday period to 12 get a prehearing conference order out, and I want you to 13 consider that when you're devising your schedule. 14 Another thing I want to have you consider is that I will 15 be out of the office from January 13th to the 30th. I 16 do not believe I otherwise have hearings scheduled or vacation time planned after that. So if you will take 17 18 that into consideration when you're talking about how 19 we're going to do the hearing.

I'm assuming we would not have prefiled testimony, that's not usually the case in these types of proceedings, so you will need to devise a hearing date, and you will need to know whether we need to have more than one day for example. I would like to have you set a date by which you will advise each other and me how

many witnesses you intend to call. In terms of the 1 2 witnesses that you intend to call, you need to realize 3 that you need to prove your case. That is to say you 4 need to provide proofs on the statutory issues, but we like to avoid cumulative testimony. That is to say 100 5 witnesses testifying that you're a nice person and you 6 7 do a good job is too much unfortunately. We don't have 8 time for that, and so you need to present an appropriate number of witnesses, I can't tell you the exact number, 9 10 but not to the point where you present cumulative 11 testimony about the issues.

12 All right, I think that that's all the 13 information I need to give you, and what I will do now 14 is adjourn for 15 minutes or so, and perhaps with the 15 help of Mr. Thompson you can come up with a schedule.

16 MR. THOMPSON: It may be helpful to resolve 17 the issue of whether the cases would be consolidated so 18 we know whether there would be a single hearing or two 19 hearings.

JUDGE MACE: That's true. I think frankly that you should schedule a proceeding as if this case were going to be consolidated. The Commission encourages consolidation of matters like this, I know that about the rule, and I think that just for judicial economy that would be the best way to handle it. We

have overlapping protestants in each application, and 1 2 just to be able to do this in an efficient way, that I 3 think is what we should proceed on. If there is some 4 reason after I think about these arguments presented today that persuades me they should not be consolidated, 5 б when I issue the prehearing conference order I will take 7 that into consideration and we may have to revisit the 8 schedule, but I think we should assume that we're going 9 to go forward on a consolidated basis.

10

All right, 15 minutes.

11 (Recess taken.)

12 JUDGE MACE: The parties have discussed 13 scheduling, and it appears that February 17th and 18th 14 would work for a schedule. However, Mr. Rice is going 15 to consult with his clients and get back to me by 16 tomorrow morning to confirm that those dates are 17 acceptable. I indicated to the parties that I want to 18 have their witness lists by February 11th, that's a Friday before the hearing. I have also been advised 19 20 that the parties may be able to come to some kind of 21 accommodation, in other words to settle their 22 differences, and I hope that that would be the case. 23 The Commission encourages settlement, and of course it 24 would be less expensive for everybody concerned if that 25 happened. So I encourage that, and if there is anything

I can do to facilitate that, just contact me. 1 2 As I said off the record, the prehearing 3 conference order, which may not come out until right 4 after -- might not come out until perhaps January 2nd or so, will confirm whether or not this case will be 5 б consolidated, confirm the schedule, and advise you of 7 any filing requirements that we have with regard to how 8 many numbers of documents you have to file and so on. 9 Is there anything else we need to address at 10 this point? 11 MR. THOMPSON: Just one question, were you 12 going to require along with witness lists that the 13 parties also file any documentary evidence they intend 14 to use on that same date or --15 JUDGE MACE: I was not going to ask them to 16 file copies of the documents. I can include with a witness list a list of the documents that you will file 17 18 that you intend to bring as evidence in the case. You 19 don't have to file the actual documents, but you have to 20 list what you're going to provide. We will call it an 21 exhibit list. We don't want to have surprises, I don't 22 want you to hold back. If it comes to that and we have 23 a hearing, I don't want any holding back about what you 24 intend to bring to the hearing to support your case. I want to know everything ahead of time. All right. 25

MR. HARRIS: May I ask a question? 1 2 JUDGE MACE: Surely. 3 MR. HARRIS: All three of us that do business 4 on the Peninsula are here without counsel, can counsel be introduced or is that --5 б JUDGE MACE: What do you mean, can counsel be 7 introduced, can you hire an attorney before the hearing? 8 MR. HARRIS: Yeah, now that we are in the 9 mix, could that happen? 10 JUDGE MACE: Well, that's an interesting 11 question, that's a good question. If it turned out, for 12 example, that one of the three of you or however many 13 decided to hire an attorney, I would appreciate it if 14 you hired that attorney as soon as possible. Because 15 oftentimes what will occur is if you go to the attorney 16 a week before the hearing and the attorney says there is no way I can represent you in this hearing with only a 17 18 week's notice, and that's legitimate, you know, you can't ask an attorney to do that. But then here we are, 19 20 we're stuck with our hearing date, and maybe everybody 21 else is prepared for the hearing, and it's really not 22 fair. 23 If you're going to hire an attorney, hire one 24 right away. If you're having a problem, I expect at

25 least by February 11 that you're going to advise me that

you're having a problem and you want to hire an attorney 1 2 and that you need more time or that your attorney needs 3 more time. Don't wait until an hour before the hearing, 4 that's really important for me and for the parties that you don't prejudice us that way. So I will expect to 5 have information about the status of your case with 6 7 regard to whether you have hired counsel by February 11 8 as well. Okay, thank you for asking that question. 9 Anything else? 10 MR. THOMPSON: I was just thinking you might 11 want to advise that the parties should, if they do get 12 to the point where they have reached an agreement, that 13 they do inform the Commission as soon as possible of 14 that. 15 JUDGE MACE: Right, I will appreciate that. 16 Again, that helps us to clear up space we have on the calendar so that we can insert some other case. 17 18 MR. THOMPSON: And I would also ask that Staff be included in the discussions, settlement 19 20 discussions, as well, so if there are any issues or 21 problems that we would see in how you all might resolve 22 an issue that we can bring that to your attention. We

24 MR. HARRIS: Does that also apply for you as 25 counsel for Staff, when we're trying to work through

would be happy to facilitate as well.

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these issues as lay persons, can you make specific --1 can you give specific guidance? 2 MR. THOMPSON: Well, I can't give you legal 3 4 advice, but I can tell you what the Commission might have problems with in terms of a settlement. 5 б JUDGE MACE: Let's be off the record for a 7 minute. (Discussion off the record.) 8 9 JUDGE MACE: I'm advised that the parties are 10 going to meet after the prehearing conference to discuss 11 this, and as Mr. Thompson points out, the sooner that 12 you can arrive at some accommodation, the better, so 13 that we have adequate notice. 14 Anything else? All right, then we are adjourned until 15 16 February 17th depending on confirmation from Mr. Rice, 17 and I hope that you are able to resolve the case. 18 Thank you. (Hearing adjourned at 2:20 p.m.) 19 20 21 22 23 24 25