

**Docket Nos. UE-220066, UG-22067 and UG-210918
(Consolidated) - Vol IV**

**WUTC v. Puget Sound Energy / In the Matter of the
Petition of Puget Sound Energy**

October 3, 2022



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BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,) DOCKETS UE-220066,) UG-220067, and) UG-210918) (Consolidated)) vs.) PUGET SOUND ENERGY,) Respondent.)

VIRTUAL SETTLEMENT HEARING

VOLUME IV

Pages 241 - 500

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE MICHAEL HOWARD

(All participants appeared via videoconference.)

DATE TAKEN: OCTOBER 3, 2022
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Page 246

1 VIDEOCONFERENCE SETTLEMENT HEARING

2 INDEX

3 October 3, 2022

4 EXAMINATION	PAGE	
5 Bench Questions	279	
6 Cross of Justin Bieber by Mr. Hansen	293	
7 Cross of Alex Kronauer by Mr. Hansen	298	
8 Cross of Kevin Higgins by Mr. Hansen	301	
9 Cross of Bradley Mullins by Mr. Hansen	305	
10 Cross of Bradley Cebulko by Mr. Hansen	308	
11 Cross of Ali Al-Jabir by Mr. Hansen	310	
12 Cross of Lauren McCloy by Mr. Hansen	311	
13 Cross of Joel Nightingale by Mr. Hansen	363	
14 Cross of Betty Erdahl by Mr. Hansen	381	
15 Redirect of Betty Erdahl by Mr. Roberson	385	
16 Cross of Dan Koch by Mr. Hansen	386	
17 Redirect of Dan Koch by Ms. Carson	403	
18 Cross of Ron Roberts by Mr. Fuller	415	
19 Bench questions	426	
20 Closing by Ms. Carson	445	
21 Closing statements by Mr. Roberson	450	
22 Closing by Mr. Zakai	455	
23 Closing by Ms. Parekh	456	
24 Closing by Ms. Carson on Green Direct Settlement	459	
25 Closing by Mr. Roberson	461	
Closing by Ms. Gafken	462	
Closing by Mr. Mayer	465	
Closing by Ms. Moser	468	
Closing by Ms. Carson	471	
Closing by Mr. Roberson	476	
Closing argument in opposition by Ms. Gafken	478	
Closing by Mr. Thomas	485	
Closing by Mr. Hansen	488	
Closing by Mr. Zakai	490	

Page 247

1 LACEY, WASHINGTON; OCTOBER 3, 2022

2 9:00 a.m.

3 -o0o-

4 JUDGE HOWARD: Good morning. Today is

5 Monday, October 3rd, and the time is 9 a.m. We're here

6 today for a settlement hearing in consolidated Dockets

7 UG-220066, UG-220067, and UG-210918.

8 These dockets are captioned, respectively,

9 Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission

10 versus Puget Sound Energy, and in the matter of the

11 Petition of Puget Sound Energy for an order authorizing

12 deferred accounting treatment.

13 This is a general right case filed by Puget

14 Sound Energy, or "PSE," consolidated with an accounting

15 petition.

16 The Commission is here today for purposes of

17 considering three multi-party settlements that together

18 dispose of all issues of the case if they are accepted.

19 We will be referring to these as the Green

20 Direct settlement, the revenue requirement settlement,

21 and the Tacoma LNG settlement.

22 My name is Michael Howard. I'm an

23 Administrative Law Judge with the Commission. We'll be

24 joined shortly by the Commissioners themselves, Chair

25 Danner, Commissioner Rendahl, and Commissioner Doumit.

Page 248

1 We are proceeding with this as a virtual

2 hearing over the Zoom platform. We ask that you please

3 keep yourself on mute unless it is your turn to speak

4 and that witnesses only turn their cameras on when they

5 are testifying. Similar rules would apply for

6 representatives.

7 I'm also going to expect that any observers

8 please keep their microphones muted and cameras off.

9 Let's start by taking appearances beginning

10 with PSE. If there is more than one representative for

11 a party, feel free to give each of your names.

12 MS. CARSON: Good morning, Your Honor.

13 I'm Sheree Strom Carson with Perkins Coie

14 representing PSE.

15 And also here with me representing PSE is

16 David Steele.

17 JUDGE HOWARD: Thank you.

18 Do we have an appearance for staff?

19 MR. ROBERSON: Good morning, Judge Howard.

20 Jeff Roberts, AAG on behalf of staff.

21 Appearing with me this morning is Nash

22 Callahan.

23 JUDGE HOWARD: Thank you.

24 Could we hear from Public Counsel?

25 MS. GAFKEN: Good morning. This is Lisa

Page 249	Page 251
<p>1 Gafken, Assistant Attorney General, appearing on behalf 2 of Public Counsel. 3 And also here with me this morning Ann 4 Paisner, Assistant Attorney General. 5 JUDGE HOWARD: Thank you. 6 Could we hear from Alliance of Western 7 Energy Consumers or "AWEC"? 8 MS. MOSER: Good morning, your Honor. 9 Sommer Moser with Davison Van Cleve on 10 behalf of AWEC. 11 JUDGE HOWARD: Thank you. 12 Could we hear from The Energy Project? 13 MR. ZAKAI: Good morning, you Honor. 14 Yochi Zakai with Shute, Mihaly & Weinberger 15 on behalf of The Energy Project. 16 And here with me today is Simon ffitich as 17 well. 18 JUDGE HOWARD: Could we have an appearance 19 with the Federal Executive Agencies? 20 MS. LIOTTA: Good morning. 21 Rita Liotta with the Federal Executive 22 Agencies. 23 JUDGE HOWARD: Thank you. 24 How about Nucor Steel Seattle? 25 MR. XENOPOULOS: Good morning, Your Honor.</p>	<p>1 Energy Project -- sorry, Northwest Energy Coalition, 2 Front and Centered, and Sierra Club. 3 JUDGE HOWARD: Thank you. 4 Could we have an appearance for King County? 5 MR. MAYER: Yes. Good morning, Your Honor. 6 This is Ben Mayer of K&L Gates for King County. 7 I'm also joined today by Senior Deputy 8 Prosecuting Attorney, Raul Martinez. 9 JUDGE HOWARD: Thank you. Could we have an 10 appearance for Coalition of Eastside Neighborhoods for 11 Sensible Energy or CENSE. 12 MR. HANSEN: Good morning, Your Honor. 13 Norm Hansen representing CENSE, as I'm the 14 president of CENSE. Thank -- 15 JUDGE HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. -- thank you, 16 Mr. Hansen. Sorry. I cut you off a little. 17 Did you want to say anything further? 18 MR. HANSEN: No, that's all right. Thank 19 you. 20 JUDGE HOWARD: All right. Could we have an 21 appearance for the Puyallup Tribe. 22 MR. FULLER: Good morning, your Honor. 23 Andrew Fuller at Ogden Murphy Wallace appearing on 24 behalf of Puyallup Tribe. 25 I also have my colleague, Nicolas Thomas,</p>
Page 250	Page 252
<p>1 This is Damon Xenopoulos of Stone Mattheis 2 Xenopoulos & Brew appearing for Nucor Steel Seattle Inc. 3 and accompany by Laura Wynn Baker of same. 4 Thank you, Your Honor. 5 JUDGE HOWARD: Thank you. 6 Could we hear from Walmart? 7 MS. BALDWIN: Good morning, Your Honor, this 8 is Vicki Baldwin with firm of Parsons Behle & Latimer on 9 behalf of Walmart. 10 Thank you. 11 JUDGE HOWARD: Thank you. 12 Can we have an appearance for Microsoft? 13 MR. PEPPLER: Good morning, your Honor. This 14 is Tyler Pepple appearing on behalf of Microsoft. 15 JUDGE HOWARD: Thank you. 16 Could we have an appearance for Kroger? 17 MR. BOEHM: Good morning, your Honor. 18 Kurt Boehm appearing on behalf of the Kroger 19 Company. 20 JUDGE HOWARD: Thank you. 21 Could we have an appearance for the joint 22 environmental advocates, which would be Sierra Club, 23 Northwest Energy Coalition and Front and Centered. 24 MS. PAREKH: Good morning, your Honor. 25 Jaimini Parekh with Earth Justice on behalf of Northwest</p>	<p>1 from Ogden Murphy Wallace. 2 JUDGE HOWARD: All right. Thank you, all. 3 Given the number of the parties in the case, 4 I'm just going to ask. 5 Did I miss anyone? 6 All right. Hearing none. If your number 7 ends in "0656," you may want to mute yourself until you 8 intend to speak. 9 All right. Moving on. I want to give a 10 brief roadmap for today's hearing and how we're going to 11 go about it. We'll begin by addressing the objections 12 from staff and Microsoft to cross-examination by CENSE. 13 We'll also address the first issue raised 14 in PSE's objections where PSE argues that only a party 15 representative should pose questions in 16 cross-examination. 17 I'll also rule on the admissibility of the 18 majority of the pre-filed testimony and exhibits. After 19 the Commissioners join us, we will then call witnesses 20 in the order and in the manner proposed by the parties. 21 This means that we will start our testimony 22 today with a Green Direct panel. No party indicated 23 cross for the Green Direct witnesses, but we may have 24 questions from the bench. 25 After that we will continue calling</p>

Page 253

1 witnesses in the order proposed by the parties.
2 If I rule that CENSE may cross staff witness
3 Joel Nightingale, I plan to include Nightingale on the
4 Energize Eastside panel.
5 We will address PSE's objections to specific
6 cross-exhibits for PSE witness Dan'l Koch -- and that is
7 spelled K-o-c-h -- at the time when CENSE cross-examines
8 that witness.
9 Time permitting, we will end the hearing by
10 allowing the parties to give oral closing statements.
11 The parties have estimated that they will require about
12 two hours and 35 minutes for cross-examination today.
13 I'm hopeful that we'll be able to conclude
14 this hearing today.
15 If we allow for a short break around the
16 mid-morning time, approximately 10:30 a.m. or
17 11:00 a.m., we may even be able to end by midday without
18 immediately breaking for lunch.
19 But I recognize that this is a very complex
20 case with a large number of issues. We may need to
21 break for lunch to continue in the afternoon. And if we
22 cannot finish today, we will continue tomorrow at
23 9:00 a.m.
24 We will also provide an opportunity
25 for post-hearing briefs due on October 31st.

Page 254

1 Are there any questions about how we are
2 going to proceed with the hearing today or this -- this
3 roadmap I've given?
4 MR. ROBERSON: I have one, Judge Howard,
5 which is that staff witness Erdahl is going to be
6 adopting the testimony of staff witnesses Ball and
7 Reynolds.
8 Would you prefer that she do that when she
9 sits with the first panel, which I believe is the
10 revenue requirement panel, or do you want to do that at
11 the start?
12 How do you think we should best handle that?
13 JUDGE HOWARD: Well, at this time, I'm not
14 anticipating there will be questions directed
15 specifically at Deb Reynolds' and Jason Ball's testimony
16 at the hearing today.
17 So for our purposes, I believe it will be
18 sufficient if the parties were to just stipulate to the
19 admissibility of that testimony.
20 But if -- if we -- if we would like, that
21 would -- we could also have Ms. Erdahl formally adopt
22 that testimony when she appears on the revenue
23 requirement panel.
24 Mr. Roberson, does stipulating to the
25 testimony sound sufficient to you?

Page 255

1 MR. ROBERSON: It does, if the other parties
2 will stipulate.
3 JUDGE HOWARD: All right. Again, I don't
4 anticipate there will be detailed questions or questions
5 focused on Reynolds' and Ball's testimony at the hearing
6 today.
7 All right.
8 MS. CARSON: Judge Howard, I did have one
9 question.
10 PSE filed a motion to strike CENSE's public
11 comments that were just filed last week. We filed that
12 motion on Friday.
13 Will you want to hear argument on that?
14 JUDGE HOWARD: Thank you for raising that.
15 Because PSE's motion does not directly deal
16 with how we're conducting the hearing too, I would plan
17 to give CENSE the normal five-business-day timeline for
18 a written response and then I will consider and rule on
19 the motion after that.
20 Mr. Hansen, does that sound -- does that
21 make sense to you?
22 Does that sound appropriate for you?
23 MR. HANSEN: Yes, it is very appropriate.
24 Thank you, Judge.
25 JUDGE HOWARD: Thank you.

Page 256

1 MS. CARSON: Yes.
2 JUDGE HOWARD: So I believe CENSE's response
3 to that would be due this coming Friday.
4 I see Ms. Parekh has your hand raised.
5 MS. PAREKH: Yes. Good morning, Your Honor.
6 Thank you. I also had a question about it adoption of
7 testimony. We do have Eli Font and Scott Reeves from
8 the Cadeo Group who are on the -- currently on the
9 hearing right now and available to adopt the testimony
10 of Josh Killing. And we're wondering when is the best
11 time for them to do that. And also, would like to know
12 if there are any questions for them to remain in the
13 hearing.
14 JUDGE HOWARD: At this time, I don't believe
15 that there will be questions directed to those
16 witnesses. So I would -- I would plan on -- if the
17 parties are all agreeable and we stipulate to the
18 admission of -- of essentially nearly all the pre-filed
19 testimony and exhibits, then this issue would -- would
20 simply go away.
21 And then we would set aside the issues of
22 the disputed cross-exhibits, and I'll explain that more
23 soon.
24 All right. Thank you. So moving on to
25 continue discussing the evidentiary issues, obviously,

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 257</p> <p>1 Mr. Fuller has his hand raised. 2 MR. FULLER: Yes, Your Honor. I thought 3 this would be a time to inform you. And I apologize 4 that we weren't able to provide this objection to you 5 ahead of time but the Puyallup Tribe of Indians is going 6 to have an objection to one of the PSE exhibits, Exhibit 7 RJR 31, and I just wanted to notify you of that now so 8 that we can address that at the time you feel 9 appropriate. 10 JUDGE HOWARD: Thank you. Just a moment, 11 please. 12 All right. So prior to the hearing today, 13 we received written objections from Microsoft staff to 14 PSE, other parties, such as the Energy Project, 15 indicated that they reserved to object to the cross of 16 their witnesses. We will also address the Tribe's oral 17 objection in a few moments. 18 As I indicated to the parties, I will be 19 allowing CENSE an opportunity to respond to these 20 objections at the hearing today. 21 Mr. Hansen, Microsoft has objected to 22 planned cross of its witness, Irene Plenefisch. How do 23 you respond to this objection? 24 MR. HANSEN: Well, it would be -- judge, it 25 would be a benefit to us, of course, if -- and probably</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 259</p> <p>1 would advise that you mute yourself if you are having a 2 discussion for the court reporter. 3 MR. HANSEN: I will do that. Thank you, 4 Judge. 5 JUDGE HOWARD: Yes, and just be -- please do 6 be careful about speaking over me, because it is very 7 hard for the court reporter to write down what two 8 people are saying at the same time. 9 And it does tend to irk me as well. 10 All right. So Microsoft's objection is 11 granted. 12 Staff has also objected to CENSE's planned 13 cross of its witness, Joel Nightingale. 14 Mr. Hansen, does CENSE still plan to 15 cross-examine Nightingale? How do you respond to the 16 objection? 17 MR. HANSEN: Yes, we do. They did sign the 18 settlement agreement with respect to Energize Eastside. 19 JUDGE HOWARD: All right. 20 I have considered staff's objection. I've 21 also noted that CENSE proposes a cross-exhibit. I 22 believe it's marked JBN-9X or is it JGN-9X. Let me look 23 that up. 24 One moment. 25 Mr. Pepple, I see your hand is raised, and I</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 258</p> <p>1 more efficient if we had our expert witness also 2 participate so... 3 (Discussion.) 4 MR HANSEN: Yeah, but he's asking about my 5 position as -- sorry for the pause. 6 We should cross-examine these folks because 7 they were the original folks that signed the -- the 8 agreement. 9 JUDGE HOWARD: If I could turn to 10 Microsoft's counsel for a brief question. 11 Did Microsoft join the Green Direct 12 settlement? 13 MR. PEPPLER: Not the Green 14 Direct Settlement, your Honor. Microsoft joined the 15 revenue requirement settlement. 16 JUDGE HOWARD: Thank you. That is what I 17 thought. 18 Mr. Hansen, I'm going to grant Microsoft's 19 objection to the cross of its witness Irene Plenefisch, 20 in order 03 in this case. We've limited the scope of 21 CENSE's participation to the prudence of the Energize 22 Eastside issue. So I'm not seeing how crossing this 23 witness ties into that. 24 And it is perfectly fine for you to confer 25 on the side with whoever is sitting next to you, but I</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 260</p> <p>1 will return to you in just a moment here. 2 The Nightingale exhibits are labeled JBN and 3 the proposed cross-exhibit is 9X. 4 After considering staff's written objection 5 and CENSE's response and the proposed cross-exhibit, I'm 6 going to deny staff's objection. I'm going to allow 7 CENSE to cross Mr. Nightingale and we will call 8 Mr. Nightingale on the Energize Eastside panel. 9 Mr. Pepple? 10 MR. PEPPLER: Yeah. Thank you, Your Honor. 11 I just wanted to confirm whether Ms. Plenefisch needs to 12 stay on as a witness for the hearing or whether she can 13 be excused. 14 JUDGE HOWARD: Yes, we would -- the 15 Commission would like Ms. Plenefisch to participate on 16 the revenue requirement panel, if that -- unless she has 17 a pressing commitment to be elsewhere. 18 MR. PEPPLER: I don't -- I won't speak for 19 her necessarily, but I think that is fine. She was 20 planning to attend the panel anyway. So. 21 JUDGE HOWARD: All right. We should be 22 getting to that panel fairly soon this morning, and she 23 can be excused after that. 24 MR. PEPPLER: Thank you. I appreciate it. 25 JUDGE HOWARD: All right. I will address</p>

Page 261

1 the first argument raised in PSE's objections. PSE
2 argued that only CENSE's representative, Mr. Hansen,
3 should be allowed to cross witnesses.
4 Mr. Pepple, I see your hand is still raised.
5 You may wish to lower it unless you have a further
6 question.
7 Mr. Hansen, will you agree that you will
8 pose any cross-questions on behalf of CENSE rather than
9 Mr. Lauckhart? How would you respond to this?
10 MR. HANSEN: We will plan do that, Judge.
11 JUDGE HOWARD: All right. Thank you. I --
12 I appreciate CENSE indicating that and I do agree with
13 this first line of argument and PSE's objections. It is
14 appropriate for just the representative to cross. And
15 I -- I also expect the party defending the witness to
16 only have one representative give any objections per
17 witness.
18 All right. And the tribe has objected today
19 to the admission of PSE witness Roberts Exhibit RJR 31.
20 MR. FULLER: Yes, Your Honor. RJR 31
21 consists of excerpts of the direct testimony -- written
22 testimony of a PSE witness. It was used as an exhibit
23 in the PCHB hearing regarding the air permit for the
24 Tacoma LNG facility. It's use here as an exhibit to
25 Mr. Roberts's testimony is problematic. It is a

Page 262

1 textbook example of hearsay.
2 And we feel the exhibit should be ruled
3 inadmissible under the rule of evidence 801.
4 Recently, in the Docket UT 181051 regarding
5 CenturyLink communications, the Commission issued
6 order -- 06 on July 25th, '22 -- 2022, and in that order
7 explained that the Commission rarely, if ever, allows an
8 affidavit to be filed as an exhibit to a witness's
9 testimony, because doing so can deny other parties their
10 rights to due process. And the Commission went on to
11 explain that only if the affidavit provides facts that
12 are or can be generally accepted as true should the
13 Commission accept it as evidence of those facts without
14 making the affiant available for cross-examination.
15 And there, the Commission found that even
16 though the author of that challenged affidavit, quote,
17 may be an expert on what he describes, his statements do
18 not have a sufficient inherent indicium of reliability
19 such that the Commission is willing to accept them
20 without an opportunity for cross-examination.
21 That's basically what's happening here by
22 appending the written direct testimony of a witness who
23 is not attending this hearing and who will not be
24 available for cross-examination, inclusion of that
25 exhibit would be allowing an uncalled witness's

Page 263

1 testimony to come in without the opportunity for
2 cross-examination.
3 JUDGE HOWARD: All right. Thank you. I may
4 have a question for you in a moment.
5 How would PSE like to respond?
6 MS. CARSON: Well, Your Honor, I would
7 respond first that this objection is new. It was not
8 made by last Wednesday as you requested. I understand,
9 you know, you will still accept objections today, but
10 PSE has not had any notice of this objection and -- and
11 would like time to respond more formally.
12 That said, the relaxed rules of evidence
13 apply to the Commission. The Commission has never, to
14 my knowledge, prohibited or rarely prohibited evidence
15 on the grounds of hearsay.
16 This is a self-authenticating document.
17 It's sworn testimony before the pollution control
18 hearings board. It goes to an issue that has been
19 raised about air quality, which is an issue that's
20 appropriately before the pollution control hearings
21 board. The Commission is not the forum to get into the
22 details of air quality. And so it's appropriate to
23 bring that testimony forward to the commissioner's in
24 this proceeding.
25 JUDGE HOWARD: Thank you.

Page 264

1 MR. FULLER: May I briefly respond.
2 JUDGE HOWARD: Yes, Mr. Fuller. Go ahead.
3 MR. FULLER: I'd just like to also point out
4 that this is not the complete testimony of that witness.
5 This is excerpts of the direct written testimony. And
6 there's been no attempt to include cross-examination but
7 the transcript of cross-examination that occurred in
8 that hearing. So this -- while this may be appropriate
9 testimony in the right -- it had been presented
10 correctly. We feel that here, without the witness
11 present, is not appropriate.
12 MS. CARSON: And I would just add that we
13 have no objection to supplementing her testimony with
14 whatever might be appropriate.
15 But, again, in terms of the case law that's
16 cited, you know, we didn't have an opportunity to look
17 at that in advance.
18 So this is -- this is a bit of a surprise.
19 JUDGE HOWARD: Thank you, both. I -- I
20 would ask that -- I would ask that PSE file the -- the
21 full version of this testimony in RJR-31 within seven
22 days. So that would be my next Monday.
23 You know -- the Commission does not strictly
24 follow the rules of evidence. And I would also observe
25 that this objection could apply with equal force to some

Page 265

1 of the exhibits submitted by the Tribe, particularly
2 RXS-24 and RXS-26. And I have not heard any objection
3 yet to the admission of these exhibits and I'm not
4 convinced at this point, having reviewed RJR-31, that
5 there is prejudice resulting from letting in the full
6 version of this.
7 So I -- I am going to deem R -- I'm going to
8 deem that objection denied at this point.
9 MR. FULLER: Thank you, Your Honor.
10 JUDGE HOWARD: All right. I will now turn
11 to the admission of the pretrial testimony of exhibits.
12 Before the hearing, I circulated an exhibit list which
13 included all the pre-filed testimony exhibits in this
14 proceeding. This includes the three multi-party
15 settlements and most recently, the cross-examination
16 exhibits filed by September 26th.
17 I have made corrections as requested by the
18 parties.
19 Mr. ffitch?
20 MR. FFITCH: Your Honor, I apologize. I was
21 going to ask if we could return to the cross-examination
22 issues, briefly, before getting to the exhibit
23 stipulation.
24 JUDGE HOWARD: Go ahead, yes.
25 MR. FFITCH: Just requesting some additional

Page 266

1 guidance, Your Honor, on the scope of cross-examination
2 in light of your rulings. As you know, The Energy
3 Project -- and I believe some other parties indicated
4 the intention to object to a cross-examination of their
5 panel witnesses who had not provided any testimony on
6 the CENSE issue in connection with the revenue
7 requirement settlement. The witness for The Energy
8 Project in support of the settlement has not provided
9 any testimony on the Energize Eastside issue. And no
10 cross-exhibits have been identified for Mr. Cebulko on
11 that topic.
12 So it would be our intention to object to
13 cross-examination of -- Mr. Cebulko on that topic.
14 If I might make a proposal, Your Honor. If
15 CENSE does wish to cross-examine the revenue requirement
16 panel on that question, I would propose that the bench
17 limit their cross-examination to those witnesses on the
18 panel who have provided testimony on the Energize
19 Eastside issue. And I believe that includes the company
20 and staff and perhaps one or two additional parties.
21 JUDGE HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. ffitch. I am
22 going to consider -- I'm aware that the -- that there
23 are other parties who CENSE plans to cross on the
24 revenue requirement panel who have indicated they may
25 object to the cross.

Page 267

1 I'm going to consider all these objections
2 as we go through the cross and we see where the
3 questions lead.
4 I do know that the energy project has not
5 joined -- has not given testimony, excuse me, with --
6 specifically on that aspect of the settlement. But the
7 Energy Project has indicated will oppose -- I'm sorry.
8 I'm getting my issues confused.
9 The Energy Project has joined the revenue
10 requirement settlement. I will allow brief questioning
11 and we will see where it goes, and I will consider the
12 objections at that time.
13 MR. FFITCH: Thank you, Your Honor.
14 JUDGE HOWARD: So as I was indicating, I
15 have circulated an exhibit list. I'm going set aside
16 the issue of admitting CENSE's cross exhibits for Dan'l
17 Koch. And these were filed as cross-exhibits DRK-28X
18 through DRK-34X. And the Commission has re-labeled
19 those -- these exhibits and posted them again to our
20 cases application. And they are now re-labeled as
21 DRK-29X through DRK-35X.
22 And we also have a CENSE cross-exhibit,
23 JBN-9X.
24 Aside from these CENSE cross-exhibits I have
25 just mentioned, are the parties willing to stipulate to

Page 268

1 the admissibility of all the pre-file testimony and
2 exhibits as I have described?
3 I turn first to the company.
4 MS. CARSON: Yes, Your Honor, PSE is willing
5 to stipulate to those exhibits being admitted into the
6 record.
7 JUDGE HOWARD: Can I -- would any other
8 party raise any concerns or objections to that proposal?
9 To my proposal?
10 All right. Hearing -- hearing none. All
11 the pre-filed testimony and exhibits are admitted as
12 shown on the exhibit list with the exception of JBN-9X
13 and DRK-29X through DRK-35X. And as I've already
14 indicated the Tribe's objection to RJR-31 is denied.
15 I will provide a copy of the exhibit list to
16 the court reporter so it may be made part of the record.
17 I'd also like to speak to Public Counsel
18 about the public comment exhibit. We had the public
19 comment hearing on September 28th. Would one week from
20 today be sufficient to compile and submit the public
21 comment exhibit, or would we require a bit more time
22 given the nature of this case?
23 MS. GAFKEN: I believe the standard one week
24 should be sufficient. We will get in contact with the
25 Commission representatives and gather those comments up.

Page 269

1 I'm not anticipating any problems at this time, but, you
2 know, if we do run into problems we will contact the
3 Commission and figure a solution. But at this time I
4 think the one week should be just fine.
5 JUDGE HOWARD: All right. Thank you. And
6 Ms. Gafken, there is -- I am able to hear you, but there
7 is a slight lag between -- I'm -- your video and your
8 audio. So I would just -- we'll just be aware of that.
9 You might -- you may need to call in for the audio
10 portion of your -- of any remarks.
11 MS. GAFKEN: Okay. I'll keep an eye on
12 that.
13 JUDGE HOWARD: All right. Let's -- please
14 give me one moment. I'm asking the Commissioners to
15 join us in our virtual hearing space.
16 MS. CARSON: And, Your Honor, I'll be off
17 for just a minute as I get the panel ready to start.
18 JUDGE HOWARD: Certainly.
19 I see we have Commissioner Doumit.
20 Commissioner Doumit, can you hear and see
21 everyone?
22 COMMISSIONER DOUMIT: Sure.
23 JUDGE HOWARD: I'm sorry. I spoke over you
24 there.
25 COMMISSIONER DOUMIT: No. I didn't let you

Page 270

1 finish your question. I apologize for that.
2 JUDGE HOWARD: All right. I see we have
3 Commissioner Rendahl.
4 Commissioner Rendahl, can you hear me?
5 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Yes, I can. Can you
6 hear me?
7 JUDGE HOWARD: Yes.
8 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Thank you, Judge.
9 JUDGE HOWARD: And I see we have Chair
10 Danner.
11 CHAIR DANNER: Good morning.
12 JUDGE HOWARD: Good morning.
13 All right. Ms. Carson for PSE has indicated
14 she's going to be off camera for a moment readying some
15 witnesses for the Green Direct panel.
16 Could one of the co-representatives for PSE
17 give a brief appearance for the Commissioners, and then
18 we will go down and have one representative from each
19 party give an appearance.
20 Sorry. I didn't catch -- I didn't catch who
21 was speaking there.
22 MS. CARSON: Good morning, Your Honor. This
23 is Sheree Carson. Can you hear me?
24 JUDGE HOWARD: Yes.
25 MS. CARSON: Okay. Sheree Carson with

Page 271

1 Perkins Coie representing Puget Sound Energy. And I
2 have with me the Green Direct panelists for PSE.
3 JUDGE HOWARD: Great. Thank you.
4 Could we have appearance for staff.
5 MR. ROBERSON: Good morning, Judge Howard,
6 Chair Danner, Commissioners Rendahl and Doumit, Jeff
7 Roberson, AAG for staff. Appearing with me in this
8 matter is Nash Callahan.
9 JUDGE HOWARD: Thank you.
10 Could we hear from Public Counsel?
11 MS. GAFKEN: Good morning, Chair Danner,
12 Commissioners Doumit and Rendahl. This is Lisa Gafken,
13 Assistant Attorney General appearing on behalf of Public
14 Counsel. And also appearing with me is Ann Paisner,
15 Assistant Attorney General.
16 JUDGE HOWARD: Thank you. Could we hear
17 from AWEC.
18 MS. MOSER: Good morning, Chair Danner,
19 Commissioners Rendahl and Doumit.
20 My name is Sommer Moser and I'm appearing on
21 behalf of the Alliance of Western Energy Consumers this
22 morning.
23 JUDGE HOWARD: The Energy Project.
24 MR. ZAKAI: Good morning, Your Honor,
25 commissioners. My name is Yochi Zakai with Shute,

Page 272

1 Mihaly & Weinberger appearing today on behalf of The
2 Energy Project. Also with me today appearing on behalf
3 of The Energy Project is Simon ffitich.
4 JUDGE HOWARD: Thank you. Federal Executive
5 Agencies.
6 MS. LIOTTA: Good morning, Commissioners. I
7 am Rita Liotta representing the Federal Executive
8 Agencies.
9 JUDGE HOWARD: Thank you.
10 Nucor Steel Seattle.
11 MR. XENOPOULOS: Good morning, Commissions.
12 This is Damon Xenopoulos of Stone Mattheis Xenopoulos &
13 Brew appearing for Nucor Steel Seattle, accompanied by
14 Laura Wynn Baker of same.
15 JUDGE HOWARD: Mr. Xenopoulos, your phone
16 and your computer may be having some feedback right now.
17 I believe if you mute the audio on one of them. That --
18 could you -- could you please repeat your appearance.
19 Mr. Xenopoulos, could you please repeat your
20 appearance for the record just using one of your
21 connections?
22 We can -- we will return to Nucor.
23 Could we have an appearance for Walmart.
24 BALDWIN: Good morning, Your Honor, and
25 Commissioners. This is Vicki Baldwin from Parsons Behle

Page 273

1 and Latimer on behalf of Walmart.
2 JUDGE HOWARD: Thank you. Microsoft.
3 MR. PEPPLER: Good morning, Your Honor. Good
4 morning, Commissioners. This is Tyler Pepple on behalf
5 of Microsoft.
6 JUDGE HOWARD: Thank you. Kroger.
7 MR. BOEHM: Good morning, Your Honor, and
8 Commissioners. Curt Boehm appearing on behalf of the
9 Kroger Company.
10 JUDGE HOWARD: Thank you. Could we hear
11 from the joint environmental advocates, that is Sierra
12 Club, NWEA, and Front and Centered.
13 MS. PAREKH: Good morning, Your Honor,
14 Commissioners. Jaimini Parekh with Earth Justice
15 representing Northwest Energy Coalition, Front &
16 Centered, and Sierra Club, the joint environmental
17 advocates.
18 JUDGE HOWARD: Thank you. Could we hear
19 from King County.
20 MR. MAYER: Thank you, Your Honor. Good
21 morning, Commissioners. This is Ben Mayer of K&L Gates
22 for King County. Also appearing with me is
23 senior deputy prosecuting attorney Raul Martinez.
24 JUDGE HOWARD: Thank you. Could we have an
25 appearance for CENSE?

Page 274

1 MR. HANSEN: Yes. Norm Hansen appearing for
2 CENSE.
3 JUDGE HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. Hansen.
4 Could we have an appearance for the Puyallup
5 Tribe.
6 MR. FULLER: Good morning, Your Honor. Good
7 morning, Commissioners. This is Andrew Fuller at Odgen
8 Murphy Wallace appearing on behalf of the Puyallup Tribe
9 of Indians. My colleague, Nicolas Thomas, is also here.
10 JUDGE HOWARD: Thank you.
11 And I would just inform the Commissioners
12 before we begin calling witnesses that all the pre-filed
13 testimony and exhibits have been admitted into the
14 record with the exception of cross-exhibits JBN-9X and
15 PRK-29X through DRK-35X.
16 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: I'm sorry. Could you
17 repeat that last? I got JBN-9X and what is the other
18 set?
19 JUDGE HOWARD: Yes, the CENSE cross-exhibits
20 for Dan'l Koch. And they are DRK-29X through DRK-35X,
21 and that is using the updated numbering.
22 All right. We will begin calling
23 witnesses starting with the Green Direct panel.
24 MR. XENOPOULOS: Your Honor, this is Damon
25 Xenopoulos. Would you like me to repeat my appearance?

Page 275

1 JUDGE HOWARD: Yes, please. Thank you.
2 MR. XENOPOULOS: Okay. Thank you very much.
3 I apologize for the technical issue we were just having.
4 So that is Damon Xenopoulos with Stone Mattheis
5 Xenopoulos & Brew here representing Nucor Steel Seattle
6 Inc., and accompanied by Laura Wynn Baker of our firm.
7 Thank you, your Honor.
8 JUDGE HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. Xenopoulos.
9 Thank you for reminding me.
10 So we will now call witnesses on Green
11 Direct panel. Instead of having an attorney formally
12 tender the witness for examination, I am simply going to
13 ask that each witness identify themselves and the party
14 they are appearing for, beginning with the settlement
15 witnesses for PSE.
16 Let's also have each of the witnesses on
17 this panel turn on their cameras and then I will swear
18 in the witnesses at the same time and we will hear
19 testimony from the witnesses together as a panel.
20 Could we hear for the witnesses from PSE.
21 MR. PILIARIS: Good morning, Your Honor, and
22 Commissioners. This is Jon Piliaris, Director of
23 Regulatory Affairs for Puget Sound Energy.
24 MR. JHAVERI: Good morning, your Honor and
25 Commissioners. This is Birud Jhaveri, Manager for

Page 276

1 Pricing and Costs of Service for PSE.
2 JUDGE HOWARD: Thank you.
3 Could we hear from staff's witness?
4 MR. MCGUIRE: Yes. Good morning, Your
5 Honor. Good morning, Commissioners. This is Chris
6 McGuire, regulatory analyst with Commission staff.
7 JUDGE HOWARD: Thank you.
8 Could we hear from public counsel's witness?
9 MR. EARLE: Good morning, Your Honor. This
10 is Robert Earle appearing on behalf of Public Counsel.
11 JUDGE HOWARD: Thank you.
12 And King County's witness?
13 MS. BRUMBAUGH: Good morning, Your Honor.
14 This is Rachel Brumbaugh from King County.
15 JUDGE HOWARD: Thank you.
16 And could we hear from Walmart's witness?
17 MR. KRONAUER: Good morning. This is Alex
18 Kronauer. I'm a Senior Manager on the Energies Services
19 Team at Walmart.
20 JUDGE HOWARD: Thank you. One moment.
21 COMMISSIONER DOUMIT: Your Honor?
22 JUDGE HOWARD: Yes. Commissioner Doumit.
23 COMMISSIONER DOUMIT: Yes, Your Honor.
24 Thank you.
25 Just to interject something. I didn't

Page 277

1 realize that counsel for the Puyallup Tribe was a member
2 of the firm of Odgen Murphy Wallace.
3 I just raise for the record that I was an
4 associate in that firm. I think I last practiced there
5 in the neighborhood of 29 -- 28 or 29 years ago. Never
6 on a matter related to this. Totally unrelated but I
7 just wanted to raise it for the record. Thank you.
8 JUDGE HOWARD: Thank you, Commissioner
9 Doumit.
10 As the assigned ALJ to this case, it is my
11 understanding that these were unrelated matters, as
12 you've just indicated.
13 Did any of the parties wish to raise any
14 concerns or objections to that? And this is -- this,
15 again, is related to the Puyallup Tribe's participation
16 in the case, rather than Green Direct.
17 MR. THOMAS: Your Honor, Nick Thomas for the
18 Tribe. We see no issue here.
19 JUDGE HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. Thomas.
20 All right. Hearing no further concerns, we
21 will swear in the witnesses for the Green Direct panel.
22 The witnesses I just had identify themselves, would you
23 all please raise your right hand.
24 Do you swear or affirm that the testimony
25 you will give today will be the truth -- the truth and

Page 278

1 nothing but the truth?
2 (Affirmative answers.)
3 JUDGE HOWARD: Thank you. No party
4 indicated -- I'm sorry. Was someone speaking?
5 Okay. I'm not hearing anyone. No party
6 indicated that plan to cross the Green Direct --
7 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Judge Howard, you are
8 cutting in and out for me. I don't know if it's for
9 others as well. You might want to repeat that.
10 JUDGE HOWARD: Am I cutting in and out for
11 other people attending the call?
12 (Affirmative responses.)
13 JUDGE HOWARD: Okay. Hopefully that goes
14 away. I will call in on a cell phone if I need to for
15 my audio.
16 I will just read what I said, which is that
17 no party indicated that plan to cross the Green Direct
18 settlement panel, and I've just sworn in all the
19 witnesses and I've heard their affirmative responses.
20 Do we have any questions from the bench for
21 this panel of witnesses?
22 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Yes, I do, Your
23 Honor.
24 JUDGE HOWARD: Commissioner Rendahl, feel
25 free.

Page 279

1 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Good morning,
2 everyone. I have a few clarifying questions for the
3 Green Direct settlement parties.
4 The first one in paragraph 17 of the Green
5 Direct settlement, it updates the resource option energy
6 charge and the energy charge credit, quote: For Green
7 Direct customers currently taking service under schedule
8 139.
9 And because the settlement provisions appear
10 to be limited to customers currently taking service,
11 does this mean that future Green Direct customers could
12 be subject to different resource option charges and
13 energy charge credits; is that a correct understanding
14 of the settlement?
15 MR. PILIARIS: This is Jon Piliaris for PSE.
16 That would be my interpretation as well.
17 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: I'm seeing head nods,
18 but if any of the witnesses could verify if they are
19 indicating that, that would be helpful for the record.
20 MR. EARLE: This is Robert Earle, I agree.
21 MR. MCGUIRE: And this is Chris McGuire with
22 Commission Staff and I agree as well.
23 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Okay. Thank you very
24 much. Appreciate that.
25 The question relates to the proposed energy

Page 280

1 charge credit which the settling parties have stated is
2 \$47.8 per megawatt hour, and that it is \$2 per megawatt
3 hour higher than the variable portion of Puget Sound
4 Energy's power cost adjustment rate, which the
5 Commission approved as the basis for the energy charge
6 credit and the 2020 power cost only rate case.
7 And so I'm going to ask a question about
8 this -- this amount that was agreed to in the 2020 PCORC
9 settlement.
10 Does anyone -- do people have access to that
11 or do I need to ask this question subject to check?
12 I have a docket number, if that would help.
13 MR. EARLE: Thank you, Your Honor.
14 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: And that docket
15 number is 200980.
16 And I can give folks a minute to find that,
17 if you would like.
18 And my question relates to that amount that
19 was agreed to in the 2020 PCORC settlement.
20 So if you let me know when you might have
21 found that. If not, I can ask the question subject to
22 check.
23 MR. PILLARIS: This is Jon Piliaris. I
24 would recommend just asking the question to see. It's
25 hard to anticipate whether we will need it subject to

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 281</p> <p>1 check or not until we hear it. 2 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Okay. So I will ask 3 it subject to check. 4 Would you accept, subject to check, that 5 paragraph 11(A)(1)(b) -- that's paragraph 11(A)(1)(b) of 6 the 2020 PCORC settlement states that the variable power 7 cost adjustment baseline rate is \$39.346 per megawatt 8 hour. 9 So can the settling parties explain the 10 basis for this statement and the settlements in this 11 case that the proposed energy charge credit in this 12 settlement is only \$2 per megawatt hour higher than the 13 rate approved in the 2020 PCORC. 14 MR. MCGUIRE: Commissioner Rendahl, this is 15 Chris McGuire. 16 First, I can verify -- I do have the 17 settlement agreement up from the -- the PCORC, and I can 18 confirm that the -- the amount you cited is accurate. 19 I think the -- the variable rate cited in 20 the PCORC is different than the variable rate if you 21 would calculate it today. 22 So the rate -- the Green Direct credit rate 23 that is identified in the current settlement isn't 24 necessarily \$2 higher than the PCORC variable rate. It 25 is higher than the current variable rate.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 283</p> <p>1 just as a clarifying point. I think staff and Public 2 Counsel have a different perspective on what the rate in 3 the settlement is. 4 From -- from the point of view of Public 5 Counsel, the point of the Green Direct credit is to 6 compensate Green Direct customers for the value that the 7 Green Direct TPAs provide the system. 8 And so -- Public Counsel believes that the 9 rate that is in the settlement is a reasonable 10 approximation of that and is a rate that the parties are 11 able to agree on. 12 From public counsel's point of view, the 13 right way to understand what's happening with the Green 14 Direct program is essentially -- the legislature said, 15 well, we want to provide consumers with the ability to 16 have more green power. 17 PSE went out and purchased PPAs on Green 18 Direct customers' behalf. Those PPAs are paid by Green 19 Direct customers. 20 In order to make the Green Direct customers 21 whole, they should be compensated for the value of those 22 contracts. 23 Likewise, other -- all customers should pay 24 for the value that those PPAs have brought to the 25 system.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 282</p> <p>1 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Okay. So maybe to 2 clarify, the basis for the power cost adjustment that 3 was in the PCORC settlement hasn't necessarily changed, 4 but the calculation of it might have changed based on 5 how the power cost adjustment was agreed to end the 6 PCORC settlement. 7 Is that a better way of describing it? 8 MR. MCGUIRE: Well, the methodology for 9 calculating the rate has actually changed. 10 The rate that was agreed to in the PCORC was 11 a result of a settlement and is -- represents only the 12 variable rate, whereas the Green Direct credit in the 13 current settlement reflects -- well, it uses a proxy for 14 calculating the avoided cost that should reflect both 15 the variable -- the variable cost of power as well as 16 some additional benefits that are experienced by PSE as 17 a result of Green Direct resources being on the 18 company's system. 19 So it's not going to be precisely the 20 variable rate. It's going to be the variable rate plus 21 some amount of additional costs that PSE is avoiding. 22 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Okay. So does any 23 other witness wish to respond in addition to 24 Mr. McGuire? 25 MR. EARLE: I would like to, Your Honor,</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 284</p> <p>1 So it's -- it's a different take than -- 2 than staff. 3 And I emphasize it because I think that it's 4 important -- if there is a successor to this first Green 5 Direct program, it's important to have the principles 6 in -- in place and on the record for the Commission. 7 Thank you. 8 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Thank you. 9 Does any other witness wish to respond? 10 Okay. Well, I appreciate that 11 clarification. It helps me in looking at the -- the 12 joint testimony where it's referenced on page 19 about 13 basing it on the method used in the PCORC settlement, so 14 I appreciate that clarification. 15 My last question relates to the statement in 16 the Green Direct settlement at paragraph 20 which states 17 that the settling parties agree that the settlement is 18 intended to establish a durable methodology for 19 calculating the energy credit for Green Direct customers 20 and is intended to be used in future cases. 21 So if -- if one of the settling parties 22 determines in the future that the adjusted value of the 23 Green Direct PPAs is no longer serves as a reasonable 24 proxy for the company's avoided cost, did the settlement 25 prohibit that settling party from raising this issue</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 285</p> <p>1 before the Commission? Or is this a -- a hope and 2 aspiration that this method will hold and will be 3 durable in future cases? 4 MR. PILLARIS: As with any settlement, 5 Commissioner Rendahl, there's -- there's an expectation 6 that the parties -- the signatories of the party to the 7 agreement will abide by that. However, circumstances 8 sometimes change beyond everybody's comprehension, at 9 least at the time. 10 And so the -- there's always the possibility 11 that it could be re-opened. But I think from at least 12 the company's perspective, the hope is that this will be 13 durable for at least the foreseeable future. 14 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: I see Rachel 15 Brombaugh on the screen. 16 Did you wish to respond? 17 MS. BROMBAUGH: Thank you, Commissioner. 18 One of the aspects of the settlement that 19 was so attractive to the County was the -- the 20 consistency and durability of the proposed mechanism. 21 And we certainly do not anticipate 22 intervening in future cases because of this -- we have 23 neither the skill nor generally the capacity -- our -- 24 our time is better spent governing the residents of King 25 County. I just wanted to add that.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 287</p> <p>1 expectation is that would not occur either. 2 CHAIR DANNER: All right. Thank you. 3 Anyone else wish to offer an opinion? 4 All right. Thank you. 5 JUDGE HOWARD: All right. Do we have any 6 further questions from the bench for this panel? 7 COMMISSIONER DOUMIT: I don't have any, Your 8 Honor. Thank you. 9 JUDGE HOWARD: All right. Thank you. 10 Then, in that case, I would like to thank 11 the witnesses for their testimony. 12 I'd also like to remind the witnesses that 13 the earlier question asked by Commissioner Rendahl 14 subject to check under the Commission rules, the 15 witnesses would have -- and the parties sponsoring them 16 would have five days following the receipt of the 17 hearing transcript from this proceeding to make any 18 corrections to their testimony. 19 So I would encourage you to check your 20 testimony when you receive that transcript and make any 21 corrections if you need to. 22 Thank you, again, for your testimony. You 23 may turn off your cameras. 24 We will now call the witnesses on the 25 revenue requirement and policy panel.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 286</p> <p>1 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Thank you. I 2 appreciate that. 3 Does any other settling party witness wish 4 to comment? 5 Okay. I'm not hearing anything. I 6 appreciate you all being available and answering the 7 questions I had this morning. I don't have any further. 8 I don't know if my colleagues do. 9 CHAIR DANNER: Yes. Good morning. Thank 10 you. 11 I just want to clarify. What I'm hearing is 12 nobody expects to re-open this, but it's possible that 13 they're not prohibited from doing so. But just some 14 clarification. 15 Are they prohibited for doing so for the 16 duration of the rate plan? 17 MR. PILLARIS: Again, "prohibited" is 18 probably fairly strong black and white. 19 But I think there is a very strong 20 expectation, I would say, over this only two-year period 21 that this should not be re-opened during that point in 22 time. And, in fact, it is not likely that there will be 23 a venue for this issue to be re-opened. 24 So at the earliest, it could be re-opened 25 most likely the next rate case. But, again, the</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 288</p> <p>1 Just as with the Green Direct panel, let's 2 have the witnesses identify themselves and the party 3 they are appearing -- 4 CHAIR DANNER: Your Honor. I'm sorry. I 5 see Ben Mayer has his hand up. 6 JUDGE HOWARD: Mr. Mayer. 7 MR. MAYER: Yes. Thank you, Chair Danner. 8 And, Judge, if I could just make one 9 request. As I think I said before, Rachel Brombaugh has 10 limited availability today. If she could be excused now 11 that the Green Direct panel is over, I would make that 12 request. 13 JUDGE HOWARD: Are there any objections from 14 any of the parties? 15 Hearing none, I would consider that witness 16 excused. 17 MR. MAYER: Thank you, Judge Howard. 18 MS. BROMBAUGH: Thank you, Your Honor. 19 JUDGE HOWARD: Thank you. 20 All right. So with the revenue requirement 21 policy panel, let's have the witnesses for this panel 22 identify themselves and the party they are appearing 23 for. 24 Let's begin with the witnesses for PSE. And 25 we'll have everyone turn on their cameras, and I'll</p>

Page 289	Page 291
<p>1 swear you in and hear testimony from the witnesses as a 2 panel. 3 So could we have the PSE witnesses identify 4 themselves. 5 MS. FREE: Good morning, Your Honor, and 6 Commissioners, this is Susan Free. I'm the Director of 7 Revenue Requirements and Regulatory Compliance for PSE. 8 MR. PILIARIS: And again, for the record, 9 Your Honor, Commissioners, this is Jon Piliaris, 10 Director of Regulatory Affairs for PSE. 11 MR. JHAVERI: Your Honor, this is Birud 12 Jhaveri, Manager for Pricing and Cost of Service for 13 PSE. 14 MR. JACOB: Good morning. I'm Josh Jacob, 15 Vice President Clean Energy Strategy for Puget Sound 16 Energy. 17 JUDGE HOWARD: All right. Thank you. 18 I believe that was all the PSE witnesses for 19 this panel. 20 Could we have -- could we hear from Staff's 21 witnesses. 22 MS. ERDAHL: Good morning, Commission. This 23 is Betty Erdahl from Commission Staff. 24 JUDGE HOWARD: Thank you. 25 Could we hear from AWEC?</p>	<p>1 JUDGE HOWARD: Thank you. 2 And Kroger. 3 MR. BIEBER: Good morning. This is Justin 4 Bieber with the Kroger Company. 5 JUDGE HOWARD: Thank you. 6 And could we hear fro Nucor's witness? 7 MR. HIGGINS: Good morning, Your Honor. 8 This is Kevin Higgins appearing on behalf of Nucor Steel 9 in Seattle. 10 JUDGE HOWARD: Thank you. 11 And Microsoft's witness. 12 MS. PLENEFISCH: Good morning. Irene 13 Plenefisch. Senior Director of Government Affairs for 14 Microsoft here in Washington State. 15 JUDGE HOWARD: Thank you. 16 So I will swear in each of you here at the 17 same time. 18 MS. CARSON: Your Honor -- Your Honor, if I 19 could interrupt for just a minute. 20 I believe that John Taylor, another PSE 21 witness, is available online. 22 John, if you are there and could turn your 23 camera on. 24 JUDGE HOWARD: Mr. Taylor, can you hear us? 25 Mr. Taylor, are you able to hear me?</p>
Page 290	Page 292
<p>1 MR. MULLINS: Good morning. Brad Mullins 2 with AWEC. 3 JUDGE HOWARD: Thank you. 4 Could we hear from NWECC's witness? 5 MS. MCCLOY: Good morning, Your Honor. This 6 is Lauren McCloy with Northwest Energy Coalition. 7 JUDGE HOWARD: Thank you. 8 And Sierra Club. 9 MS. SMITH: Good morning. Gloria Smith for 10 Sierra Club. 11 JUDGE HOWARD: Thank you. 12 The Energy Project. 13 MR. CEBULKO: Good morning. Brad Cebulko 14 with The Energy Project. 15 JUDGE HOWARD: Thank you. 16 Federal Executive Agencies. 17 MR. AL-JABIR: Good morning, Your Honor, 18 Commissions. This is Ali Al-Jabir. I'm an energy 19 consultant with the firm of Brubaker and Associates 20 appearing on behalf of the Federal Executive Agencies. 21 JUDGE HOWARD: Thank you. 22 Could we hear from Walmart's witness? 23 MR. KRONAUER: Good morning. This is Alex 24 Kronauer. I'm a senior manager on the energy services 25 team at Walmart.</p>	<p>1 MR. TAYLOR: Yes, I can. Can you able to 2 hear me? 3 JUDGE HOWARD: Yes. 4 MR. TAYLOR: All right. Sorry about that. 5 Good morning, Your Honor, Commissioners. John Taylor, a 6 managing partner with Atrium Economics on behalf of 7 Puget Sound Energy. 8 JUDGE HOWARD: Great. Thank you. And thank 9 you, Ms. Carson, for bringing that up. 10 So I will swear in each of these witnesses 11 at the same time. For the witnesses Piliaris, Jhaveri, 12 and Kronauer, I would consider you still under oath from 13 your earlier affirmation. 14 So I'll swear in each of you here at the 15 same time. Please raise your right hand. 16 (Affirmative responses.) 17 JUDGE HOWARD: All right. Thank you, all. 18 I see that CENSE plans five minutes of cross-examination 19 for each of the following witnesses on this panel. 20 Bieber, Kronauer, Higgins, Mullins, Cebulko, 21 Al-Jabir, McCloy, and Plenefisch. And I've already 22 granted Microsoft's objection to the cross-examination 23 of Plenefisch. 24 Although the other parties have reserved or 25 have not indicated objections to -- yet to CENSE's cross</p>

Page 293

1 of their settlement panel witnesses, I am going to
2 remind CENSE that its participation in this proceeding
3 is specifically limited to the prudence of the Energize
4 Eastside project. This was set out in order 03 in this
5 proceeding. So I'm going to expect that CENSE's
6 questioning of these panel witnesses ties back to the
7 prudence of Energize Eastside.
8 With that, Mr. Hansen, you may proceed.
9 Which witness do you intend to direct your
10 questions to first?
11 MR. HANSEN: Justin Bieber, I believe.
12 JUDGE HOWARD: Okay. You may proceed.
13 C R O S S - E X A M I N A T I O N
14 BY MR. HANSEN:
15 **Q. Okay. Well, just to summarize a little bit.**
16 **They all signed the original agreement and they agreed**
17 **to the threshold prudence. And we're trying to**
18 **understand what that threshold prudence actually means.**
19 **So I have some questions here.**
20 **Please turn to Mr. Lauckhart's testimony for**
21 **CENSE, Exhibits RL-1T, page 17.**
22 A. Give me a moment while I pull that up.
23 **Q. Okay. Thank you.**
24 A. Could you repeat the page and section number?
25 **Q. Yes, it's RL-1T, page 17.**

Page 294

1 A. Okay.
2 **Q. Here, Mr. Lauckhart identifies the four factors**
3 **that the -- that the WUTC looks for in a prudency**
4 **review.**
5 **Do you disagree with this testimony on the four**
6 **factors that WUTC looks for in a prudency review?**
7 A. Give me a chance to -- to read the four factors.
8 JUDGE HOWARD: While Mr. Bieber is reviewing
9 that, is the court reporter able to capture what
10 Mr. Bieber is saying?
11 It does sound a little bit -- like the audio
12 is a little diminished to me.
13 MR. HANSEN: It's a little muffled, true.
14 COURT REPORTER: Yes, it's the same for me.
15 JUDGE HOWARD: Yeah. Mr. Bieber, if there's
16 a way -- to sit a little closer to the microphone or
17 something, and I'm not sure if it is a receiving of the
18 sound or if it's an internet issue.
19 MR. BIBER: Okay. Can you hear me better
20 now?
21 JUDGE HOWARD: Slightly.
22 Let's proceed with this for the moment.
23 MR. BIBER: Okay. So in response to the
24 question regarding the criteria for prudency review, I
25 don't disagree that those are reasonable criteria to

Page 295

1 consider, although they may not be the only criteria.
2 BY MR. HANSEN:
3 **Q. Can you repeat that? I was having a problem**
4 **with the transmission here.**
5 **I'll repeat the question.**
6 **Do you disagree with his testimony on the four**
7 **factors that WUTC looks for in a prudency review?**
8 A. So without speaking to the criteria that the
9 WUTC would look at, these do not appear to be
10 unreasonable criteria to consider, although they may not
11 be the only criteria.
12 **Q. Okay. What, in your mind, is the difference**
13 **between a threshold prudency demonstration and a full**
14 **prudency review conducted by Mr. Lauckhart?**
15 A. Are you asking me about the difference between
16 those two types of reviews?
17 **Q. Yeah. I'm asking -- we're trying to understand**
18 **what a -- a threshold prudency is.**
19 **And so in trying to understand that, we're --**
20 **the question is what is the difference between a**
21 **threshold prudency and a -- and a full prudency review.**
22 A. I would expect a prudency review to determine
23 whether a decision meets the threshold prudency
24 criteria. So I'm not aware of a distinction,
25 necessarily, between the two types of reviews that you

Page 296

1 are referring to.
2 **Q. So what -- we're just trying to understand**
3 **what -- the threshold prudency review.**
4 **Is there some documentation that refers to that**
5 **particular term?**
6 **It seems to be new to us.**
7 JUDGE HOWARD: Mr. Hansen, I would -- I
8 would caution you to -- to try to limit what you're
9 saying to questions.
10 MR. HANSEN: Oh, okay.
11 JUDGE HOWARD: That last sentence there
12 was -- was more of a statement.
13 MR. HANSEN: All right. Okay. I have
14 another question.
15 BY MR. HANSEN:
16 **Q. The first factor requires a demonstration of**
17 **need.**
18 **Are you aware that the need for a transmission**
19 **line is demonstrated through a load flow, also known as**
20 **a Power Flow Study?**
21 A. Are you asking if I'm generally aware how
22 transmission needs are identified?
23 **Q. Are you an expert in load flow studies?**
24 A. I review and participate in quite a number of
25 transmission and technical studies. And, yes, looking

Page 297

1 at power flow is certainly one component of when you
2 determine the need for a new transmission line.
3 **Q. Please refer to Mr. Lauckhart's Exhibit RL-4,**
4 **looking at pages 20 through 37.**
5 A. Looking up pages 20 to 27 --
6 **Q. Yeah, 20 --**
7 A. Okay. The title on page 20, if I'm looking at
8 the correct document, is the seven fatal flaws found so
9 far.
10 **Q. Right. Yeah, here Mr. Lauckhart testifies to**
11 **seven fatal flaws in the PSE/Quanta load flow studies.**
12 **Do you have any reason to disagree with**
13 **Mr. Lauckhart's identification of these seven fatal**
14 **flaws?**
15 **Somebody is running a vacuum cleaner or**
16 **something.**
17 **Okay. I will repeat the question.**
18 **Please turn to -- do you have any reason to**
19 **disagree with Mr. Lauckhart's identification of the**
20 **seven fatal flaws?**
21 A. I have not reviewed the validity of his claims.
22 **Q. Okay. You have not provided any testimony in**
23 **this proceeding on the prudency of Energize Eastside;**
24 **correct?**
25 A. Yes, that is -- well -- yes, that is correct.

Page 298

1 MR. HANSEN: Okay. Thank you very much.
2 That ends my questions. Thank you very
3 much.
4 MR. BIBER: Thank you.
5 JUDGE HOWARD: All right. Thank you.
6 Mr. Hansen, do you intend to turn to another
7 witness on this panel?
8 MR. HANSEN: Yes, we do. To Alex Kronauer.
9 JUDGE HOWARD: Okay. You may proceed.
10 Well, I'm sorry. I'm sorry. Before you
11 proceed with that, do we have any redirect for
12 Mr. Bieber?
13 MR. BOEHM: No, Your Honor.
14 JUDGE HOWARD: Thank you. Sorry about that,
15 Mr. Hansen. You may proceed with questioning Kronauer.
16 C R O S S - E X A M I N A T I O N
17 BY MR. HANSEN:
18 **Q. Okay. Here, again, please turn to**
19 **Mr. Lauckhart's testimony for CENSE. Exhibit RL-1T,**
20 **page 17.**
21 MR. KRONAUER: So I apologize. I don't have
22 that testimony in front of me.
23 Would somebody be able to send me that
24 testimony so I can take a look at it?
25 MS. BALDWIN: Alex, this is Vicki Baldwin.

Page 299

1 I just sent that to you.
2 MR. KRONAUER: Okay.
3 JUDGE HOWARD: Thank you, Ms. Baldwin.
4 MR. HANSEN: So do you have that, Alex?
5 MR. KRONAUER: I am opening it. Yes, I have
6 this document.
7 MR. HANSEN: Okay. Thank you.
8 BY MR. HANSEN:
9 **Q. Here, Mr. Lauckhart identifies the four factors**
10 **that WUTC looks for in prudency review.**
11 **Do you disagree with his testimony on the four**
12 **factors the WUTC looks for in a prudency review?**
13 A. I do not disagree, no.
14 **Q. Okay. What in your mind is the difference**
15 **between a threshold prudence demonstration and a full**
16 **prudency review conducted by Mr. Lauckhart?**
17 A. Well, I haven't really had much of a chance to
18 review his testimony. So I mean, I wouldn't really have
19 an opinion on the difference between the two.
20 **Q. Okay. The first factor requires a demonstration**
21 **of need.**
22 **Are you aware that the need for a transmission**
23 **line is demonstrated through a load flow, also known as**
24 **Power Flow Study?**
25 A. I am not. I am certainly not an expert in that

Page 300

1 field.
2 **Q. Okay. Please turn to Mr. Lauckhart's Exhibit**
3 **RL-4, looking at pages 20 to 37.**
4 MS. BALDWIN: And if I may, Alex, I also
5 sent that to you.
6 MR. KRONAUER: Okay. Yes.
7 MS. BALDWIN: This is Vicki Baldwin for the
8 record.
9 MR. KRONAUER: Yeah. Okay. Fatal flaws in
10 PSE attempts justify Energize Eastside. Okay. I have
11 this in front of me.
12 BY MR. HANSEN:
13 **Q. Yeah. Here Mr. Lauckhart testifies to seven**
14 **fatal flaws in the PSE/Quanta load flow studies?**
15 **Do you have any reason to disagree with**
16 **Mr. Lauckhart's identification of these seven fatal**
17 **flaws?**
18 MS. BALDWIN: Objection. My -- my witness
19 has just testified that he has no experience with this
20 type of -- he's not an expert on these types of things.
21 JUDGE HOWARD: I'm going to grant that --
22 I'm going to grant that objection.
23 Mr. Hansen, you may ask if Mr. Kronauer has
24 any firsthand knowledge of this document, but I don't
25 believe we've laid that first step.

Page 301

1 MR. HANSEN: Okay. I'll reiterate that
 2 question, then.
 3 BY MR. HANSEN:
 4 **Q. Do you have any firsthand knowledge of this**
 5 **testimony?**
 6 A. I do not, no.
 7 **Q. Okay. You have not provided testimony in this**
 8 **proceeding on the prudence of Energize Eastside;**
 9 **correct?**
 10 MR. KRONAUER: That's correct.
 11 MR. HANSEN: Thank you.
 12 The next -- that completes my question.
 13 JUDGE HOWARD: All right. Any redirect for
 14 Mr. Kronauer?
 15 MS. BALDWIN: No. No redirect.
 16 JUDGE HOWARD: Thank you.
 17 Mr. Hansen, you may proceed with your next
 18 witness.
 19 Do you intend to call Higgins?
 20 MR. HANSEN: Yes.
 21 THE COURT: All right.
 22 MR. HIGGINS: I am here.
 23 C R O S S - E X A M I N A T I O N
 24 BY MR. HANSEN:
 25 **Q. Okay. Please turn to Mr. Lauckhart's testimony**

Page 302

1 **for CENSE, Exhibit RL-1T page 17.**
 2 **Do you have that available?**
 3 A. I do have it available if you will give me just
 4 a moment, please.
 5 **Q. Okay. Thank you.**
 6 A. Yes, I have it. Thank you.
 7 **Q. Okay. Thank you.**
 8 **Here, Mr. Lauckhart identifies the four factors**
 9 **for -- the WUTC looks for in a prudence review.**
 10 **Do you disagree with his testimony on the four**
 11 **factors the WUTC looks for in a prudence review?**
 12 A. I don't have a reason to disagree with the four
 13 factors listed in his testimony.
 14 **Q. Okay. Thank you.**
 15 **What, in your mind, is the difference between a**
 16 **threshold prudence demonstration and a full prudence**
 17 **review conducted by Mr. Lauckhart?**
 18 A. Well, let me say at the outset that I am not an
 19 attorney, so I will not attempt to differentiate between
 20 a threshold prudence or another type of prudence.
 21 Also add that I simply participated in this case
 22 only on the gas docket, not the electric docket, which
 23 this Energize Eastside Project is concerned with.
 24 But my understanding in the context of the
 25 settlement agreement is that a threshold prudence

Page 303

1 determination allows cost to be provisionally recovering
 2 in rates through a tracker. But those costs can
 3 ultimately be challenged.
 4 So I believe that that -- you know, in my
 5 understanding -- in my nonlegal understanding is that a
 6 threshold prudence allows for a tracker to be
 7 established and provisional recovery.
 8 **Q. I'll repeat the question.**
 9 **What, in your mind, is the difference between a**
 10 **threshold prudence demonstration and a full prudence**
 11 **review conducted by Mr. Lauckhart?**
 12 JUDGE HOWARD: Mr. Hansen?
 13 MR. HANSEN: Yes.
 14 JUDGE HOWARD: Mr. Hansen, I believe the
 15 witness did answer your question. It does sound like
 16 counsel was about to jump in with an asked-and-answered
 17 objection, which I would grant.
 18 So I suggest you move to your next line --
 19 your next question.
 20 MR. HANSEN: Okay. All right.
 21 BY MR. HANSEN:
 22 **Q. The first factor requires a demonstration of**
 23 **need.**
 24 **Are you aware that the need for a transmission**
 25 **line is demonstrated through a load flow, also known as**

Page 304

1 **Power Flow Study?**
 2 MR. XENOPOULOS: Your Honor, this is Damon
 3 Xenopoulos on behalf of Nucor.
 4 Mr. Higgins, as he indicated, testified to
 5 natural gas issues only.
 6 Mr. Hansen is asking him about electric
 7 transmission issues, and I don't believe that is
 8 appropriate.
 9 Thank you.
 10 BY MR. HANSEN:
 11 **Q. Just to confirm that, I say that you have not**
 12 **provided any testimony in this proceeding on the**
 13 **prudence of Energize Eastside; correct?**
 14 JUDGE HOWARD: Mr. Hansen, I'm going to kind
 15 of awkwardly and abruptly jump in, again, over your
 16 question.
 17 If there is an objection, we do need to wait
 18 for me to make a ruling on it.
 19 I -- I will -- I will allow -- I just wanted
 20 to make that -- emphasize that point.
 21 But I will allow you to ask the question you
 22 just asked, but will you please restate it to the
 23 witness.
 24 MR. HANSEN: So, Judge, you want me to
 25 repeat the question?

Page 305

1 JUDGE HOWARD: Will you -- you may repeat
2 your last question.
3 MR. HANSEN: Okay. Thank you.
4 BY MR. HANSEN:
5 **Q. You had not provided any testimony in this**
6 **proceeding on the prudence of Energize Eastside;**
7 **correct?**
8 A. Correct.
9 MR. HANSEN: Okay. That completes my
10 questions. Thank you.
11 JUDGE HOWARD: Thank you.
12 Any redirect for Mr. Higgins?
13 MR. XENOPOULOS: No redirect, Your Honor.
14 Thank you.
15 JUDGE HOWARD: Mr. Hansen, you may proceed
16 to your next witness.
17 Is that Bradley Mullins?
18 MR. HANSEN: Yes, Your Honor.
19 JUDGE HOWARD: All right. You may proceed.
20 C R O S S - E X A M I N A T I O N
21 BY MR. HANSEN:
22 **Q. Okay. My first question is please turn to**
23 **Mr. Lauckhart's testimony for CENSE, Exhibit RL-1T, page**
24 **17.**
25 A. Okay.

Page 306

1 **Q. Here, Mr. Lauckhart identifies the four factors**
2 **that WUTC looks for in a prudence review.**
3 **Do you disagree with his testimony on the four**
4 **factors the WUTC looks for in a prudence review?**
5 A. Well, I don't think these are unreasonable
6 factors. I don't think that they are, you know,
7 comprehensive necessarily.
8 **Q. What -- what, in your mind, is the difference**
9 **between a threshold prudence demonstration and a full**
10 **prudence review conducted by Mr. Lauckhart?**
11 A. Well, in this case where we're dealing with
12 provisional capital additions, the -- the threshold
13 prudence decision is just an agreement with the parties
14 that the -- that the amount -- the decision was prudent
15 and that it can be included in -- provisionally in
16 revenue requirement, subject to the sort of true-up
17 process that was agreed to.
18 **Q. The next question.**
19 **The first factor requires a demonstration of**
20 **need, are you aware that the need for a transmission**
21 **line is demonstrated through a load flow, also known as**
22 **Power Flow Study?**
23 A. A Power Flow Study is potentially one of the
24 analyses that might be considered when evaluating the
25 need for a new transmission line, but not necessarily

Page 307

1 the only -- the only factor.
2 **Q. Are you an expert in load flow studies?**
3 A. I have reviewed similar studies in the past.
4 **Q. Please turn to Mr. Lauckhart's Exhibit RL-4,**
5 **looking at pages 20 to 37.**
6 A. Okay.
7 **Q. Here Mr. Lauckhart testifies to seven fatal**
8 **flaws in the PSE/Quanta load flow studies.**
9 **Do you have any reason to disagree with**
10 **Mr. Lauckhart's identification of these seven fatal**
11 **flaws?**
12 A. You know, reviewing the testimony of Dan'l Koch,
13 I do believe that these are not, you know, necessarily
14 accurate. I think they have -- that Puget has presented
15 their load flow study and the other reasons why they
16 need to replace this line in their testimony. And I --
17 I found that information to be more -- more compelling
18 than this.
19 **Q. Okay. Thank you. Last question.**
20 **You have not provided any testimony in this**
21 **proceeding on the prudence of Energize Eastside;**
22 **correct?**
23 A. Not -- not specific to -- to the prudence, no.
24 MR. HANSEN: Okay. That completes my
25 questions, Your Honor.

Page 308

1 JUDGE HOWARD: Any redirect of Mr. Mullins?
2 MS. MOSER: No, thank you, Your Honor.
3 JUDGE HOWARD: Thank you.
4 Mr. Hansen, you may proceed with your next
5 witness.
6 Is that Bradley Cebulko?
7 MR. HANSEN: Yes, it is, Your Honor.
8 JUDGE HOWARD: Okay. Go ahead.
9 C R O S S - E X A M I N A T I O N
10 BY MR. HANSEN:
11 **Q. Please turn to Mr. Lauckhart's testimony for**
12 **CENSE, Exhibit RL-1T, page 17.**
13 A. Yes, I'm there.
14 **Q. Okay. Thank you.**
15 **Here, Mr. Lauckhart identifies the four factors**
16 **that WUTC looks for in a prudence review.**
17 **Do you disagree with his testimony of the four**
18 **factors the WUTC looks for in a prudence review?**
19 MR. FFITCH: Your Honor, I'm going to object
20 to this question.
21 Mr. Hansen hasn't established that
22 Mr. Cebulko has firsthand knowledge of this testimony.
23 We are willing to stipulate that Mr. Cebulko
24 has not provided testimony with regard to the prudence
25 of the Energize Eastside Project.

Page 309

1 I would also object to the basis that these
2 questions go beyond the scope of Mr. Cebulko's filed
3 testimony in this case.
4 JUDGE HOWARD: Thank you.
5 I am sharing some of the concerns noted by
6 Mr. ffitich.
7 Mr. Hansen, if we are going to be asking
8 Mr. Cebulko questions about this testimony, could you --
9 could you first ask if he is familiar with -- with the
10 testimony and then proceed from there.
11 If he is familiar.
12 MR. HANSEN: Okay.
13 BY MR. HANSEN:
14 **Q. Are you familiar with the testimony?**
15 A. No, I am not. I first pulled it up when you
16 started asking this line of questions to the other
17 panelists.
18 **Q. Just the last question to be complete.**
19 **You have not provided any testimony in this**
20 **proceeding on the prudence of Energize Eastside;**
21 **correct?**
22 A. That's correct.
23 MR. HANSEN: That completes my questions.
24 Thank you.
25 JUDGE HOWARD: All right. Thank you,

Page 310

1 Mr. Hansen.
2 Any redirect for Mr. Cebulko?
3 MR. FFITCH: No, Your Honor. Thank you.
4 JUDGE HOWARD: All right.
5 Mr. Hansen, you may proceed with your next
6 witness.
7 I believe that is Ali Al-Jabir.
8 MR. HANSEN: Yes, it is. Thank you.
9 C R O S S - E X A M I N A T I O N
10 BY MR. HANSEN:
11 **Q. I guess the first question on that, have you**
12 **reviewed the testimony?**
13 A. I'm sorry. Could you clarify which testimony
14 you are referring to?
15 **Q. Well, please turn to Mr. Lauckhart's testimony**
16 **for CENSE, Exhibit RL-1T, page 17.**
17 A. Yes, sir. If you are referring to his pre-filed
18 initial testimony, I have not reviewed that. I did
19 obtain a copy of it as you were questioning some of the
20 other witnesses, but I have not reviewed it myself.
21 **Q. Okay. Our last question here, then, is -- you**
22 **have not provided any testimony in this proceeding on**
23 **the prudence of Energize Eastside; correct?**
24 A. That is correct.
25 MR. HANSEN: That completes my questions.

Page 311

1 JUDGE HOWARD: All right. Any redirect for
2 Al-Jabir?
3 MS. LIOTTA: No, Your Honor. Thank you.
4 JUDGE HOWARD: Thank you.
5 Mr. Hansen, I believe your last witness on
6 this panel was Ms. McCloy.
7 MR. HANSEN: Yes, Your Honor.
8 C R O S S - E X A M I N A T I O N
9 BY MR. HANSEN:
10 **Q. There again, have you had a chance to review the**
11 **testimony on this issue?**
12 A. Yes, I have reviewed Mr. Lauckhart's testimony.
13 **Q. Okay. Please turn to Mr. Lauckhart's testimony**
14 **for CENSE, Exhibit RL-1T, page 17.**
15 A. Yes, I have it pulled up.
16 **Q. Okay. Thank you.**
17 **Here, Mr. Lauckhart identifies the four factors**
18 **that WUTC looks for in a prudence review.**
19 **Do you disagree with his testimony on the four**
20 **factors the WUTC looks for in a prudence review?**
21 MS. PAREKH: Objection, Your Honor. Calls
22 for a legal opinion.
23 Mr. Hansen is asking Ms. McCloy to testify
24 regarding the legal factors required when evaluating
25 prudence. It is an inappropriate question for a

Page 312

1 witness, Your Honor.
2 JUDGE HOWARD: Thank you.
3 I am going to deny the objection. While --
4 the way I explained this in -- when I deny objections
5 like this in my cases is that frequently policy
6 questions in our context are in this gray area between a
7 purely policy question and purely legal question.
8 So this does not strike me as a purely legal
9 question, so I'm allowing Mr. Hansen to ask this
10 question.
11 And, Mr. Hansen, you may repeat the question
12 for clarity.
13 BY MR. HANSEN:
14 **Q. Okay. Do you disagree with his testimony on the**
15 **four factors that WUTC looks for in a prudence review?**
16 A. I agree that the four factors are part of what
17 the UTC considers in a prudence review. I can't make
18 any judgment of his testimony on the four factors
19 because I am not familiar with the project and I did not
20 conduct a prudence evaluation on the project.
21 **Q. Okay. Question.**
22 **You have not provided any testimony in this**
23 **proceeding on the prudence of Energize Eastside;**
24 **correct?**
25 A. Yes.

Page 313

1 MR. HANSEN: That completes my questions,
2 Your Honor.
3 JUDGE HOWARD: All right. Thank you.
4 Any redirect for McCloy?
5 MS. PAREKH: No, Your Honor.
6 JUDGE HOWARD: All right. I believe this
7 would be a good time to take a mid-morning break. Let's
8 take a break until -- a short break until 10:40 a.m. We
9 will go back on the record at 10:40 a.m.
10 All right. We are off the record. Thank
11 you.
12 (A break was taken from
13 10:32 a.m. to 10:40 a.m.)
14 JUDGE HOWARD: It is 10:40 a.m.
15 I'm not planning on doing any full roll
16 call. I'm going to look and see -- well, I'm just going
17 to ask, are the witnesses on this panel back on the
18 call?
19 MR. AL-JABIR: Yes, I am. This is Ali
20 Al-Jabir on behalf of FEA.
21 JUDGE HOWARD: Okay. Thank you.
22 I see we have the PSE witnesses.
23 Do we have Ms. Erdahl?
24 MS. ERDAHL: I'm here.
25 JUDGE HOWARD: All right. Great. Thank

Page 314

1 you.
2 We have Mr. Mullins, Ms. McCloy, Ms. Smith.
3 MS. SMITH: Yes, Your Honor.
4 MR. MULLINS: I'm here as well as. Thanks.
5 MR. HIGGINS: Your Honor, Mr. Higgins is
6 here as well.
7 JUDGE HOWARD: Great.
8 MR. BIEBER: And Justin Bieber as well.
9 JUDGE HOWARD: Great.
10 Do I have the Commissioners with us?
11 I see Chair Danner.
12 CHAIR DANNER: I'm here.
13 JUDGE HOWARD: All right. And we have
14 Commissioner Doumit. And we have Commissioner Rendahl.
15 All right. Let's be back on the record.
16 The time is 10:42 a.m. We're returning
17 after a short break. We are currently on the revenue
18 requirement and policy panel.
19 We have just finished the planned cross from
20 CENSE, which the only party that indicated cross for
21 this panel.
22 We have now turned to any bench questions
23 for this panel.
24 Do we have any bench questions for this
25 panel?

Page 315

1 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Yes, we do.
2 Your Honor, I guess I will start. And I
3 will start with a bench request for the parties. And
4 maybe this is for PSE, but if other parties need to
5 cooperate in that, please go ahead.
6 In Exhibit A to the settlement stipulation
7 and agreement on revenue requirement and all other
8 issues except Tacoma LNG and Green Direct, on page 5 on
9 line 5 it says that a full set of revenue requirement
10 workpapers has also been provided to parties and which
11 can be provided in whole or in part in response to a
12 bench request.
13 So I'm going to make a bench request right
14 now for the full set of the revenue requirement
15 workpapers supporting settlement.
16 (Bench request.)
17 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: And we will be --
18 understand, Judge Howard, we will be sending any bench
19 requests that come out of this hearing after the hearing
20 for all the parties to respond to; correct?
21 JUDGE HOWARD: Yes, I -- I will make note of
22 any bench requests we put into the record today, and
23 we'll issue those in writing as well.
24 Would a seven-day turnaround be sufficient
25 for the company?

Page 316

1 MS. CARSON: Yes, we can do it in seven days
2 or shorter than that. Five days.
3 JUDGE HOWARD: Okay. Great. Thank you.
4 I am going to -- to note seven days for now.
5 In the event we have other bench requests,
6 that deadline would likely apply to all of them, just
7 for simplicity.
8 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Okay. Thank you.
9 And so for the settling parties, also
10 referring to Exhibit A to the settlement stipulation and
11 agreement and turning to pages 7 and 8 of that
12 Exhibit A, it lists a number of items or adjustments
13 starting with "CEIP" and ending with "delay and
14 reliability spending."
15 And so I guess, first, I'd like to confirm
16 that these items or adjustments are excluded from the
17 revenue requirement in this case and that cost recovery
18 will be considered in future trackers.
19 Is that something that the parties can
20 confirm --
21 Ryan, Ryan, you are not muted. Thank you.
22 Okay. So do I need to repeat the question
23 to the parties?
24 MS. FREE: Commissioner Rendahl, this
25 is Susan Free, Director of Revenue Requirements and

Page 317	Page 319
<p>1 Regulatory Compliance for PSE. I can take a first stab 2 at that. 3 I can confirm that the items listed here on 4 the referenced pages are not included in the settlement 5 revenue requirement. 6 Some of them will be in future filings. 7 Some of them will not be requested in the future. 8 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Okay. So could you 9 identify which of these in the list are identified in a 10 separate tracker. 11 MS. FREE: Certainly. The CEIP, which is 12 the -- the Clean Energy Implementation Plan, and the 13 TEP, which is the Transportation Electrification Plan, 14 those are the first two bullets listed and they will be 15 in a separate tracker under the settlement. That it's 16 not included in the current record requirement for the 17 settlement. 18 The Dry Ash is the third bullet. For 19 Colstrip, that will not be brought forward again for 20 rate recovery. 21 The fourth bullet, Tacoma LNG Facility will 22 also be in a separate tracker but is not included in the 23 revenue requirement for the settlement. 24 The fifth bullet, the general reduction in 25 gas rate base is included in the -- actually, is</p>	<p>1 specifically for -- for that one, is there a common 2 understanding of the revenue requirement associated with 3 that shift in spending or is that amount not -- not 4 agreed to and not known at this time. 5 MS. FREE: I think that -- it has been 6 incorporated into the calculations. And this Exhibit A 7 explains how the revenue requirement of the settlement 8 has been determined. 9 And the workpapers that will be part of the 10 bench request will show the final capital that is 11 included and how it was actually included in the 12 settlement versus -- which could be compared to the 13 original filing and you could see the differences. 14 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Okay. And with your 15 answer to that question, is -- is the same -- did those 16 workpapers then -- will those explain what is in the 17 settlement; what is out of the settlement; what might 18 come in a -- in a later provisional request for capital 19 recovery? 20 MS. FREE: So -- 21 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: For each of these -- 22 for each of these that we're talking about on pages 7 23 and 8. 24 MS. FREE: So for what's included in the 25 filing, as far as capital, I would point you to</p>
Page 318	Page 320
<p>1 included in the settlement revenue requirement. 2 We've made that adjustment and it's included 3 in the calculation of what's presented in the revenue 4 requirement for the settlement. 5 The same with the second-to-the-last bullet 6 on page 8. Renewable natural gas has been removed and 7 it is not included in the settlement revenue 8 requirement. 9 And the -- the delay in reliability 10 spending -- that delay has been incorporated into the 11 revenue requirement settlement. 12 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Okay. Well, starting 13 with that last one, can you explain how the delay has 14 been reflected? 15 It says here, shifted from 2023 to 2024. 16 And I'm assuming that means that those costs 17 would not be reflected until the 2024 provisional 18 capital adjustment period. 19 MS. FREE: That is correct. 20 In our original filing there were 21 investments that had appeared in 2023. And in an effort 22 to reduce the impacts of the rate increase in 2023, 23 we've shifted those programs -- those -- some of those 24 expenditures to 2024. 25 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Okay. And</p>	<p>1 Exhibit I to the settlement. The exhibit -- I'll give 2 you a moment to pull that up. 3 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: That's okay. I'm 4 going to take your word on that. 5 MS. FREE: Okay. So Exhibit I is a list -- 6 all of the capital that's included since the end of the 7 test year in this case through the end of the second 8 rate year, 2024. 9 And so that is -- that is an affirmative 10 document that will show what's included. 11 In the workpapers that you will get in the 12 bench request, we provide a step by step, sort of a 13 reconciliation between what was in our original filing 14 and the different adjustments that we make. And -- you 15 can see the value for each of those steps. 16 So you can see certain things that are 17 removed that that impacts the revenue required by a 18 certain amount and we show that in the workpapers. 19 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Okay. So to 20 clarify -- so you said certain things will not be 21 included going forward. I assumed that is in reference 22 to the Colstrip Dry Ash expenses? 23 MS. FREE: Yes. That is an example. 24 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Are there other, of 25 these items, that are removed from the revenue</p>

Page 321

1 requirement that will not be brought forward similar to
2 the Dry Ash expenses?
3 MS. FREE: I think -- the Dry Ash is really
4 the one thing that will not ever be brought forward
5 again.
6 I -- I think the general reduction to gas
7 rate base at the bottom of page 7 is -- it's a general
8 kind of reduction, so that -- it's hard to answer the
9 stipulation to that.
10 Eventually, we'll have a different budget
11 and a different rate plan that will have gas rate based
12 in it. But I think to directly answer your question,
13 it's just to Colstrip Dry Ash.
14 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: So then the renewable
15 natural gas would be -- it is not included in this
16 multiyear rate plan but may come forward with a
17 multiyear rate plan?
18 MS. FREE: Yes; that's correct.
19 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: All right. Let me
20 look at my questions here.
21 So does the -- will the workpapers that
22 we've requested also indicate for Tacoma LNG costs --
23 what the company will seek -- will include in its
24 request for recovery -- for recovery in the next PGA
25 year or will that be the separate document?

Page 322

1 MS. FREE: So the actual settlement
2 agreement for LNG provides an estimate of that.
3 And if you'll give me a minute, I can give
4 you the page number.
5 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: I think, because
6 there is the settlement on LNG and we have a panel for
7 that later, I will defer those questions until later.
8 MS. FREE: Okay.
9 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: So at this point, I
10 don't have any further questions related to the general
11 revenue requirement overall.
12 And so I would defer to my colleagues if
13 they have other questions on the revenue requirement
14 topics.
15 CHAIR DANNER: This is Dave Danner. I'm
16 sorry. I was trying to find my mute button to turn it
17 off.
18 I had some questions I wanted to ask about
19 performance metrics.
20 So we have an RCW, and that's 80.28.425.
21 And in paragraph 7 it says, "The Commission must in
22 approving the multiyear rate plan approve a set of
23 performance measures that will be used to assess a gas
24 or electric company operating under a multiyear rate
25 plan."

Page 323

1 Are the settling parties proposing that the
2 Commission assess PSE's multiyear rate plan using any or
3 all of the 71 proposed metrics. Let me just put that
4 out there.
5 I mean, we have five SQI measures, 17
6 measures on various topics; and then the revenue
7 requirement settlement, 49 measures.
8 So, again, are we proposing that these --
9 that -- are you proposing that the Commission assess the
10 multiyear rate plan using these metrics?
11 MR. PILIARIS: So I can start with the
12 response to that question, Chair Danner.
13 The settlement clearly has a lot of metrics.
14 And most of those metrics are intended primarily to set
15 a foundation for what you are just talking about, which
16 is determining measures -- determining targets for those
17 measures and potentially even incentive of mechanisms.
18 You might recall in testimony Dr. Lowry
19 proposed a scorecard, and the scorecard that the company
20 put forward was intended for exactly what you were
21 talking about.
22 What is -- what is -- what is the card --
23 the scorecard that the Commission will use to judge the
24 performance of the utility under the multiyear rate
25 plan?

Page 324

1 The metrics in the scorecard -- and, in
2 fact, there are targets in that scorecard -- are
3 included -- they are inclusive of what's in the
4 settlement. So the settlement only added to the
5 scorecard.
6 So I guess from the company's standpoint, if
7 the Commission were to use -- or were to look to
8 measures to evaluate the performance of the company
9 under the multiyear rate plan, I would -- I would advise
10 the Commission look to the scorecard for that and then
11 rely on the metrics as additional information that could
12 color its judgment of the performance and probably
13 inform discussions in later multiyear rate plan
14 proceedings.
15 CHAIR DANNER: All right. So -- but that
16 gets to my question, though. There's nothing here that,
17 you know, we would be providing an incentive or a
18 detriment to the utility based on any of these metrics
19 in this multiyear rate plan; is that correct?
20 MR. PILIARIS: Well, there's actually --
21 there's one new incentive mechanism that is proposed in
22 the settlement related to demand response.
23 So there is one incentive mechanism.
24 I will also note that embedded within the
25 scorecard are the company's existing SQIs which include

Page 325

1 predominantly penalty mechanisms for failure to meet
2 the -- the prescribed measures.
3 CHAIR DANNER: Okay --
4 MR. PILIARIS: So embedded, again, within
5 the set of metrics that are agreed upon within the
6 settlement are those measures that include incentives
7 and penalties that the Commission can rely upon, I
8 think, in conformance with the statute.
9 CHAIR DANNER: All right. So it would be
10 your view, then, that this combination of the SQIs and
11 DR would be, themselves, a set of performance measures
12 that will be used to assess the electrical company
13 operating under a multiyear rate plan as required by the
14 RCW?
15 MR. PILIARIS: Well, not alone.
16 As I said, the scorecard includes more than
17 just those that include incentive mechanisms and
18 penalties. There are other measures on that scorecard.
19 For example, related to energy efficiency
20 related to ED performance and whatnot; so those would be
21 inclusive of that.
22 I guess I would -- my interpretation of the
23 statute is that the statute requires that there be
24 measures. It really actually doesn't require that there
25 be incentives or penalty mechanisms. That's the --

Page 326

1 those are additional features that could be added. At
2 least that's my reading of the statute, as I can recall
3 it off the top of my head.
4 CHAIR DANNER: All right. Thank you.
5 And I see Brad Cebulko has his hand up.
6 MR. CEBULKO: Thank you, Chair Danner.
7 Brad Cebulko of The Energy Project.
8 A couple pieces here. First, I wasn't sure
9 if I clearly heard Mr. Piliaris, but in the settlement
10 stipulation, paragraph -- I think it's 60, on page 36,
11 is except for the DR PIM, the main response, there will
12 be no targets or benchmarks at this time.
13 I am not an attorney but my understanding
14 and the reading of the statute is that it's not required
15 to have benchmarks, targets, incentives, or penalties
16 associated with measures. I think just simply starting
17 to build a baseline in this multiyear rate plan
18 identifying what you want to track and what you want to
19 measure and then being able to evaluate and see that as
20 you evaluate the multiyear rate plan satisfies the
21 requirement.
22 As -- as you're well aware, there's the
23 Commission's generic PPR proceeding in Docket
24 U-210590 where the Commission is building a record to
25 build, you know, the metrics and then target some

Page 327

1 benchmarks and incentive mechanism. I think that's a
2 great program. Great work plan. And this is
3 complimenting this, but it stands alone on its own that
4 you have an array of measures -- or metrics that are
5 measuring across the Commission's regulatory outcomes
6 and goals in this case that you can use to evaluate the
7 success of the multiyear rate plan.
8 CHAIR DANNER: All right. Thank you.
9 Lauren McCloy.
10 MS. MCCLOY: Thank you, Chair Danner. I was
11 just going to echo the comments of Mr. Cebulko and WECC
12 agrees that really -- what's established in this
13 settlement is the foundation for what we hope will be,
14 you know, a more robust policy framework adopted through
15 Docket U-210590 to define how the Commission wants to
16 use these performance measures going forward as they
17 relate to multiyear rate plans.
18 So we support what's in the settlement as a
19 first step towards a broader movement to perform its
20 base regulation.
21 CHAIR DANNER: All right. Thank you.
22 And my concern, though, is to make sure that
23 we are in compliance with RCW 80.28.425, and so I -- I
24 may recommend to parties that in the post-hearing briefs
25 that you address the -- the performance measures here do

Page 328

1 conform in the statute.
2 And let me ask, is there an agreement among
3 the settling parties on how to calculate all the
4 proposed measures?
5 MR. PILIARIS: I guess I'll start.
6 As you'll note there's a laundry list of
7 metrics. And, generally speaking, the intention was to
8 use as many as possible that could be essentially pulled
9 off the shelf.
10 In other words, things the company already
11 reports on in various forms and bringing it into one --
12 into one -- one unit.
13 There are new ones, the -- many of the newer
14 ones in the settlement were actually proposed in various
15 pieces of testimony by the various parties. And so I --
16 I believe that the parties had in their mind or in their
17 testimony what the -- how those would be calculated.
18 There may be some that have a little bit -- there may be
19 some that are a little less clear.
20 And it would be the company's intention to
21 the extent that there seem to be some ambiguity that the
22 company would work with, particularly the stakeholders
23 that were proponents of the particular metrics to ensure
24 that there was some agreement going in that we were
25 calculating it as -- as expected.

Page 329	Page 331
<p>1 CHAIR DANNER: All right. Thank you. 2 And then let me ask in witness Lowry's 3 testimony, and this is in MNL-IT on page 29, line 17 and 4 19. 5 Ms. Lowry describes the DR PIM incentive, 6 and it's based on a percentage of the, quote, estimated 7 lifetime costs of developing and administering the DR 8 program, inclusive of the DER and DR request for 9 proposal. 10 What are the estimated lifetime costs of 11 developing and administering the program? 12 MR. PILIARIS: I believe those would be 13 determined at the time the programs were developed. 14 So I can't say with any specificity what 15 those are right now, because those are yet to be fully 16 defined or scoped. 17 CHAIR DANNER: Okay. I assume that those, 18 once they are determined, they would be updated over 19 time; is that the way you envision this? 20 MR. PILIARIS: Well, no. I believe, there 21 is a fair amount of discourse around this issue as to 22 whether the incentive should be based on actual results 23 or anticipated results. 24 And my understanding of Dr. Lowry's view of 25 the matter was that the look back would be -- the</p>	<p>1 programs is independent of the incentive that's put on 2 top of that. Or the financial incentive is put on top 3 of that. So there should not be a double accounting or 4 double recovery of those costs. 5 CHAIR DANNER: All right. Thank you. 6 And then going back to that one page in 7 MNL-1T. And, again, your witness Lowry defines what is 8 meant by incremental DR capacity. And I want to make 9 sure I got my -- I have my arms around this. 10 In 2023 -- and this is -- up on line 5 of 11 page 29, the target is 5 megawatts and the company only 12 achieves 3 megawatts in DR program reduction of 13 coincident peak demand. 14 PSE's incremental DR capacity for 2023 is 15 three megawatts and there would be no incentive. 16 In 2024, the target is six megawatts and the 17 company, again, only achieves three megawatts of 18 reduction. So PSE's incremental DR capacity for 2024 is 19 3 megawatts and there would be no incentive. 20 Am I reading that right? 21 MR. PILIARIS: The mechanics are correct. I 22 would note, however, that the numbers, the targets 23 themselves have grown substantially in the settlement, 24 whereas now we're committing to 40 megawatts of demand 25 response capacity by the end of 2024.</p>
Page 330	Page 332
<p>1 approach where you are looking back would require -- it 2 would drive quite a bit of probably disagreement over 3 the calculations themselves and the assumptions that 4 were borne in. 5 Rather, his position was it would be easier 6 to implement, administratively anyway, to agree up-front 7 what a reasonable assumption -- not unlike the way we 8 agree up-front as to the costs going into -- into rates 9 prospectively subject to refund. 10 I think his position was that if we just 11 used estimates, it would be easier to implement this -- 12 this particular PIM. I'd also note that given some 13 degree, I think, of discomfort generally around this 14 PIM, the company agreed to limit the 15 financial benefits -- potential benefits that could be 16 derived from the PIM, the performance incentive 17 mechanism, to assuage any concerns in that regard. 18 CHAIR DANNER: Okay. And is there -- is 19 there any risk that we're going to have duplicative 20 recovery of the administrative costs or the development 21 costs, or do you think that that is not an issue? 22 MR. PILIARIS: I don't believe it is. I 23 mean, what we're talking about here is an incentive. 24 Essentially, an incentive payment for performance. And 25 so the recovery of the actual costs of the actual</p>	<p>1 But I think the mechanics are correct. If 2 the company falls short there is no incentive. 3 CHAIR DANNER: Okay. And just to clarify, 4 the settling parties are adopting PSE's proposed 5 incremental calculation that's provided in -- by witness 6 Lowry; is that correct? 7 MR. PILIARIS: Well, I think with one 8 clarification around what you say, calculation. There 9 is -- there is still some uncertainty as to how the 10 capacity reduction will be calculated. 11 And so what we agreed to was that it would 12 be consistent with the way it would be calculated in 13 compliance with the company's clean energy 14 implementation plan requirements. The Commission 15 notes -- the response is one element of its required 16 element of its clean energy implementation plan. And 17 so, therefore, there will be some kind of compliance 18 calculation. 19 And so what we're proposing here in the 20 settlement is that they be calculated consistently. 21 So once that's, I guess, fully vetted within 22 the CEIP docket, that would be where we will have our 23 answer. 24 CHAIR DANNER: All right. Thank you. 25 Lauren McCloy.</p>

Page 333

1 MS. MCCLOY: Thank you.
2 I agree with Mr. Piliaris' explanation. As
3 you see in section -- in sub (d), this was a critical
4 piece of making this PIM work for NWECC is we do think
5 the methodologies should be consistent with the way it
6 is calculated in the CEIP.
7 CHAIR DANNER: And so we're looking at 40
8 megawatts by 2024, but the target for 2023 is still
9 five; is that correct?
10 MR. PILIARIS: I don't believe there is a
11 target for 2023. I think it is essentially a two-year
12 target.
13 CHAIR DANNER: Okay. Thank you.
14 And are the settling parties proposing
15 peak reductions for both winter and summer, or is it
16 just winter as proposed by PSE?
17 MR. PILIARIS: Again, speaking for the
18 company, I would say that we would look to the CEIP
19 docket as the basis for how that will be determined.
20 CHAIR DANNER: All right. Thank you.
21 And then, again, going back to Lowry's
22 testimony, PSE proposed not to include the EV load --
23 the electric vehicle load in the DR PIM to avoid double
24 counting load related to the EV PIM.
25 Since the EV PIM is not part of the

Page 334

1 settlement, will PSE include reductions in winter
2 coincident peak demand relating to vehicles?
3 MR. PILIARIS: Again, I would answer the
4 same way, which is, I would point to the CEIP is the
5 basis for how it will be calculated.
6 (Discussion on audio.)
7 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Judge Howard, I'm
8 also having some difficulty -- it's somewhat muffled
9 coming from the PSE witnesses.
10 JUDGE HOWARD: All right. Can PSE -- is the
11 reception better after having muted that line?
12 MS. CARSON: Can you hear me clearly?
13 JUDGE HOWARD: I can hear you fairly clear.
14 MR. PILIARIS: Can you hear me now?
15 JUDGE HOWARD: Yes, I think that might be a
16 bit better.
17 Maybe, Mr. Piliaris, would you mind
18 repeating your -- your answer to that last question, if
19 you can recall it.
20 MR. PILIARIS: I believe it's the same as
21 the prior three, which was the -- the answer will be
22 found in the CEIP docket.
23 CHAIR DANNER: All right. I think that's an
24 accurate recollection of what I heard him say.
25 So -- may I continue, Judge?

Page 335

1 JUDGE HOWARD: Yes, of course.
2 CHAIR DANNER: All right. Thank you.
3 And, Mr. Piliaris, in your own testimony
4 specific to the DR PIM and all the other proposed
5 metrics, I wanted to talk about the annual reporting.
6 Will the performance metrics in SQL annual
7 reporting include all 71 metrics provided in the
8 settlement?
9 MR. PILIARIS: Yes.
10 CHAIR DANNER: Okay. All right. That's all
11 I wanted to get clarification on.
12 And that's all the questions I have related
13 to performance-based.
14 Commissioner Rendahl, do you have more
15 questions?
16 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Just a follow-up on
17 that question.
18 So is it the intent of the settlement that
19 settling and non-settling parties would have an
20 opportunity to review and provide feedback on the metric
21 and the PIM calculations prior to the proposed annual
22 report or would that happen after the report to the
23 Commission?
24 MR. PILIARIS: I believe the settlement is
25 silent on that particular issue.

Page 336

1 The company is open to some review of that
2 information to the extent that it can be provided.
3 There will be a fairly short turnaround, particularly in
4 the first year, so that might limit the amount of review
5 time.
6 But the company is open to -- as I said
7 earlier, some are going to be more clear-cut than
8 others.
9 Some -- where we think there's going to be
10 some ambiguity, we'll try to reach out very early to
11 make sure we're calculating in a way that's consistent
12 with party's expectations, which should hopefully limit
13 the need necessarily for a lengthy -- pre-review
14 process.
15 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Okay. And is that
16 something that would also happen in the context of the
17 CEIP, or is that separate just to this multiyear rate
18 plan settlement?
19 MR. PILIARIS: I'm not sure that I'm
20 following the question as it relates to the CEIP.
21 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Just in terms of the
22 performance measures and clearly the DR PIM is something
23 that is going to be evaluated in the CEIP.
24 You answered for a lot of those questions
25 that that discussion would happen and we would have more

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 337</p> <p>1 on that during the CEIP. I'm just wondering if there's 2 any discussion about other performance measures on how 3 they would be reported and analyzed in the CEIP or is 4 that solely within this settlement. 5 MR. PILIARIS: My interpretation is it is 6 solely within the settlement. 7 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Okay. I just wanted 8 to clarify that. Okay. Thanks. I have nothing 9 further. 10 CHAIR DANNER: And I have no other questions 11 on that. I do have some questions regarding the 12 Colstrip tracker, if I may. 13 In the revenue requirement settlement, PSE 14 agrees to exclude all -- the capital investments 15 associated with the Colstrip Dry Ash disposal system. 16 And that's in the settlement, paragraph 23(j). 17 Can you confirm that the Dry Ash system 18 discussed in the settlement refers to the dry waste 19 disposal system discussed by PSE witness Ron Roberts in 20 his Exhibit RJR-1CT. Just want to make sure that we're 21 talking about the same things. 22 MS. FREE: Great. This is Susan Free for 23 PSE and I can confirm that those are the same thing. 24 CHAIR DANNER: Yes. Thank you. 25 And the revenue requirement settlement does</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 339</p> <p>1 MS. FREE: Yes, that is how the tracker is 2 designed. 3 Any -- any cost related to the plant, 4 Units 3 and 4 that still remain at December 2025 will be 5 offset against production tax credits, and so, 6 therefore, won't need to be in rates after 2025. 7 And the agreement also provides that any 8 major maintenance events that are amortizing beyond 9 2025, that portion -- that amortizes beyond 2025 will 10 not be recovered. 11 CHAIR DANNER: Okay. And one last question 12 on this. The revenue requirement settlement, it states 13 that PSE will -- will move Colstrip rate base and 14 expense into a separate tracker. 15 Can you confirm that the proposed tracker 16 will include all rate base and operating expenses for 17 Colstrip? 18 MS. FREE: It will include all rate base for 19 Colstrip except for the transmission lines. 20 CHAIR DANNER: Okay. Thank you. 21 So those are my questions on Colstrip. 22 I do have one more question on low income. 23 In paragraph 38 of the settlement, the 24 parties state that the funding increase for help will be 25 consistent with RCW 80.28.425(2).</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 338</p> <p>1 not include transmission-related costs in the proposed 2 Colstrip tracker. 3 Could the settling parties explain how 4 transmission lines that are related to the Colstrip 5 facility would remain used and useful for Washington 6 customers even after the retirement of Colstrip Units 3 7 and 4? 8 MS. FREE: I'm not intimately familiar with 9 that, but I would say that I am generally aware that 10 there's -- there's -- there's potential uses for that 11 line other than Colstrip, and so I'm anticipating that 12 that will be what keeps those lines used and useful. 13 CHAIR DANNER: So it's the potential. 14 There's nothing that would currently be serving 15 customers, but it would be -- it would be infrastructure 16 that would be used in the future. 17 MS. FREE: Correct. 18 CHAIR DANNER: Okay. Thank you. 19 Another question. In the discussion of the 20 Colstrip tracker, the settlement provides the, quote: 21 "Costs amortized after 2025 would not be recovered in 22 rates." 23 Can you confirm that the settlement removes 24 Colstrip costs other than decommissioning and 25 remediation costs from PSE's rates by December 31, 2025?</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 340</p> <p>1 What is the amount of the funding increase 2 for help? 3 MR. JHAVERI: I can take that Chairman 4 Danner, if you can give me just a minute. 5 CHAIR DANNER: Sure. 6 MR. JHAVERI: So if you would turn to 7 Exhibit BDJ-JDT-9. 8 CHAIR DANNER: I'm sorry. Give that to me 9 again. 10 MR. JHAVERI: Sure. Exhibit BDJ-JDT. And 11 I'm sorry -- for the record I'm Birud Jhaveri. 12 So -- so the proposed total increase for the 13 2023/2024 low income program year would be \$6.3 million. 14 And for the 2024 program year, it would be just shy of 15 \$1 million additional incremental. 16 CHAIR DANNER: Okay. So the funding -- so 17 funding increase is -- is exactly a million. 18 MR. JHAVERI: Correct. In '24. 19 CHAIR DANNER: All right. All right. Thank 20 you. That's all I have. 21 So thank you very much. 22 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Okay. And I have 23 some questions about power costs for the settlement 24 panel. 25 The revenue requirement settlement provides</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 341</p> <p>1 that PSE will update its power costs for recovery in 2 2023 as a part of its compliance filing at the 3 conclusion of this case. It also provides that PSE will 4 include a list of bulleted items in its power cost 5 update, which may include new and updated resources. 6 Does PSE intend to submit any new power 7 purchase agreements in its compliance filing for 2023 8 power cost that were not already described in the 9 company's initial testimony? 10 MS. FREE: This is Susan Free for PSE. And 11 we are aware of one new contract that would be included 12 in the compliance filing. 13 The settlement provides that the prudence 14 for that will be in the following years' PCA annual 15 compliance filing. 16 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: So in the 2024 power 17 cost compliance filing or the 2023 filing? 18 MS. FREE: 2023. 19 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Okay. So you would 20 be identifying that with specifics in that filing? 21 MS. FREE: Correct. 22 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Okay. So that filing 23 provides a pretty -- the plan under the settlement is to 24 make that filing in the April 2023 power cost adjustment 25 filing and this is a pretty short time frame for</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 343</p> <p>1 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Yes. 2 MS. FREE: The company is definitely 3 committed to do walk-throughs with parties and answer 4 any questions that they have in -- in the PCA compliance 5 filing. It is a, roughly, I think, five- or six-month 6 time frame that that -- it doesn't have to be finalized, 7 that filing, until September of the same year. 8 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Okay. Thank you. 9 And continuing on related to power purchase 10 agreements. 11 The settlement provides that the costs of 12 any PPAs -- which I'll use for short -- for distributed 13 energy resources, battery resources, and demand response 14 costs are eligible for potential earnings on PPAs 15 pursuant to statute RCW 80.28.410. 16 Do the settling parties take any position on 17 whether the costs of other PPAs aside from those listed 18 in the settlement are eligible for potential earnings 19 under the statute. 20 MR. PILIARIS: I guess -- this is Jon 21 Piliaris -- I'll start. 22 The intention of this -- at least from the 23 company's standpoint, this particular provision is that 24 it's fairly clear in the statute that -- 25 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Mr. Piliaris, can I</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 342</p> <p>1 reviewing the resources. 2 Has PSE already provided information about 3 these new resources to the other parties in its 4 discovery responses? Is this something that the parties 5 have already been made aware of? 6 MS. FREE: So this is a -- this contract is 7 very recently entered into. So it has not been provided 8 to parties. 9 I will say that the length of time for a PC 10 annual compliance filing mirrors that of our 11 power-cost-only rate cases. 12 And so I think there is sufficient time 13 within those proceedings to look at new contracts. 14 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Okay. So all of this 15 information would be included in the PCA filing? 16 MS. FREE: Correct. 17 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Okay. And PSE is 18 planning to work with interested parties to address 19 public counsel's concerns about the timing. 20 MS. FREE: I'm not aware of the concerns 21 that Public Counsel has about the timing. 22 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: I think they 23 expressed in their testimony concern about the short 24 time frame, but -- 25 MS. FREE: In the annual compliance filing?</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 344</p> <p>1 ask you to just slow down a bit, given that it is still 2 a little bit garbled. 3 MR. PILIARIS: My apologies. 4 So the company's understanding of the intent 5 behind this particular provision in the settlement is 6 that the statute is fairly clear as to the fact that 7 utility scales power purchase agreements can be eligible 8 for earnings. 9 The statute is less clear about non-utility 10 scale, so things like demand response, distributed 11 solar, and the like. 12 And the settlement here essentially signals 13 an agreement among the parties that, in fact, they are 14 in agreement that they too should be eligible for 15 earnings opportunities. 16 And I guess, in fact, speaking only for the 17 company, it would seem like these particular types of 18 resources would be the ones that you would want to 19 incent through some sort of intensive -- like an earning 20 opportunity. 21 So that was -- that was essentially the 22 background at least from the company's standpoint in 23 this area of the settlement. 24 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Thank you. 25 Are there any other settling parties who</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 345</p> <p>1 wish to comment on that? I'm not seeing any hands -- 2 oh, Ms. McCloy, please go ahead. 3 MS. MCCLOY: Thank you, Commissioner 4 Rendahl. 5 I would agree with Mr. Piliaris' statement, 6 although I would add that the Commission certainly 7 retains the flexibility to decide whether it's 8 reasonable and appropriate to authorize the incentive 9 rate of return. It wasn't the intent of the settling 10 parties to remove the Commission's discretion. 11 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Thank you. I 12 appreciate that. 13 Any other -- any other comments? 14 Okay. And this is my last question about 15 the power cost issue. 16 Just to go back to -- my understanding of 17 public counsel's concerns about the revenue requirement 18 settlement that -- they argue, to my understanding, is 19 that the Commission should require that the prudence of 20 power cost be reviewed in the next general rate case as 21 opposed to through this power cost adjustment process. 22 So how did the settling parties respond to 23 public counsel's concern that the settlement does not 24 provide sufficient process for reviewing the prudence of 25 power costs?</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 347</p> <p>1 COMMISSIONER DOUMIT: In the revenue 2 requirement settlement in paragraph 51, the settling 3 parties refer to a "staff-led process." 4 Why is the Commission staff the best party 5 to direct this process? 6 Anyone on the panel can answer. 7 MR. PILIARIS: This is Jon Piliaris again. 8 I'll certainly defer to Commission Staff and not push 9 them out into this. But I think it's normally and 10 orderly the case that staff -- or not -- at least not 11 uncommon that staff would open up a docket and lead a 12 process -- or some kind of an investigation. And so 13 this is really just a continuation of that -- of that 14 historical practice. 15 Of course, the Commission itself could do so 16 as well. 17 And I don't think the parties -- and again, 18 I'm -- I'll speak only for the company, but the company 19 would not object to the Commission itself actually 20 leading such a process, but I don't know that the 21 settling parties wanted to presume or direct the 22 Commission to take -- undertake such an effort. So the 23 fallback was that the Commission Staff agreed that they 24 would, at least, lead that effort. 25 COMMISSIONER DOUMIT: Okay. Thank you.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 346</p> <p>1 I've heard the statement that six months is 2 a sufficient time, just like the peak work. 3 Is there anything else anyone wishes to add 4 want on that? 5 MR. PILIARIS: If I might -- I would at 6 least note that what -- what the settlement entails is 7 not a change to the status quo. There is already a 8 prudence review that occurs each year through that 9 annual PCA review process. 10 So a prudence review actually does occur on 11 a regular basis in that proceeding. 12 The only thing that is being added are new 13 resource -- some additional resources, but I would 14 submit that the settlement is actually not changing much 15 in this particular regard in terms of the amount of time 16 afforded to parties to review new power purchases. 17 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: I appreciate that. 18 Thank you. 19 I have no other questions on this topic. 20 My colleagues may have questions on other 21 topics. 22 COMMISSIONER DOUMIT: Yes, Your Honor. 23 Commission Doumit here. I have a few questions on the 24 distributional equity analysis, if I might, please. 25 JUDGE HOWARD: Please go ahead.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 348</p> <p>1 Staff, any comments? 2 MS. ERDAHL: Yes, this is Betty Erdahl. 3 I agree with Mr. Piliaris that Staff did not 4 want to commit the Commission to something in 5 particular. 6 We support a Commission-led process and 7 we're -- we think that all utilities should be involved 8 and stakeholders so that it encompasses everybody not 9 just a company-by-company process. 10 COMMISSIONER DOUMIT: Thank you. 11 And that sort of goes to my last question 12 here which is how are the voices and the concerns of low 13 income and disadvantaged customers be included in the 14 development of the plan? 15 MR. PILIARIS: And, again, this is Jon 16 Piliaris. They would be invited, absolutely, to 17 participate in such a proceeding so that their voices 18 could be heard. 19 COMMISSIONER DOUMIT: Nothing more from me 20 on that topic, Your Honor. Unless the other 21 Commissioners have a question. 22 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Not on this topic, 23 but I do have some questions about the -- the -- excuse 24 me, electric vehicle supply equipment. Let's just say 25 that. Electric vehicle supply equipment plan payment</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 349</p> <p>1 provisions. 2 And the revenue requirement settlement in 3 paragraph 57 says that PSE shall make minimum payment 4 methods available at all publicly available electric 5 vehicle supply equipment-owned or supported by the 6 utility to increase access to all customers. 7 I would just like a little clarification 8 from the settling parties what it means to be supported 9 by the utilities so it could be clear as to what this is 10 focused on. 11 Lauren McCloy. 12 MS. MCCLOY: Thanks, Commissioner Rendahl. 13 I'm happy to speak first on that. 14 The intent of this was that if there are 15 electric vehicle charging stations or EVSE that is 16 supported by PSE dollars, whether that's, you know, 17 through an incentive or through direct capital 18 investment in the equipment, that those would need to 19 comply with the minimum payment methods that are 20 established under the California standards. 21 I would also add that the Washington State 22 Department of Agriculture is currently in a rulemaking 23 on this issue and has released draft rules which are 24 consistent with those standards. 25 And so all that is to say that we believe</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 351</p> <p>1 COMMISSIONER DOUMIT: On August 16, 2022, 2 the President signed the Inflation Reduction Act into 3 law. I hope Your Honor can take judicial notice of that 4 fact. 5 The law includes items including incentives 6 attached to clean energy tax credits and some other 7 measures. 8 How do you parties think the benefits of the 9 IRA could go to customers during the pendency of this 10 multiyear rate plan? 11 Has anybody thought about that one? 12 Please proceed. 13 MR. PILIARIS: I guess -- this is Jon 14 Piliaris for PSE. 15 The company is currently very deep in 16 evaluating the opportunities that the IRA presents for 17 customers and is working on proposals to secure funding. 18 It's likely that this will take some time to 19 secure the funding and get the programs rolling to the 20 extent that we're successful in securing those funds. 21 To the extent that they would displace 22 projected costs within the filing, that would obviously 23 be accounted for in the annual review process. 24 It's more likely the case, however, that 25 these will be more additive, basically more benefits</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 350</p> <p>1 the settlement requirement here is consistent with the 2 draft rule issued by the Department of Ag. 3 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Okay. And you 4 anticipated my next question, which was, given that the 5 settlement refers to -- refers to California EVSE 6 standards, I just wanted to make sure that the standard 7 in the -- the California standard that's adopted in the 8 settlement is not going to conflict with the Washington 9 State Department of Agriculture's rulemaking. And I 10 think you added that it is not in conflict. 11 MS. MCCLOY: It is not in conflict with -- 12 they have not adopted the final rule. But it is not in 13 conflict with the current rule that is under 14 consideration. 15 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Okay. Thank you. 16 And I believe I don't have any more 17 questions on the EVSE topic, but any other settling 18 parties wishes to chime in and have comments, please go 19 ahead. 20 Okay. I have no further questions on the 21 EVSE topic. 22 COMMISSIONER DOUMIT: Your Honor, I have a 23 question. A general question on the inflation reduction 24 act, if I might, please. 25 JUDGE HOWARD: Certainly.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 352</p> <p>1 to -- to customers with essentially free money from 2 the -- from the federal government. 3 So they will be taken into account. The 4 company is going after as many funds as it can get, but 5 as you know, there are a lot of others going after these 6 same funds. 7 COMMISSIONER DOUMIT: Thank you. 8 MR. MULLINS: This is Brad with AWEC and 9 I'll quickly comment. That those -- the benefits of the 10 Inflation Reduction Act were, due to its timing, not 11 considered in the settlement. And given the sort of 12 broad range of incentives and things that might be 13 available, I think those would need to be sort of dealt 14 with on a case-by-case basis. But just understanding 15 they weren't included in the settlement. 16 COMMISSIONER DOUMIT: Thank you. 17 Nothing further on that line, Your Honor, 18 unless Commissioners have questions. I have questions 19 on other sections of the settlement if I might, Your 20 Honor. 21 JUDGE HOWARD: Certainly. 22 COMMISSIONER DOUMIT: That's on the time 23 variant rate to pilot settlement paragraph No. 41 -- 24 revenue requirement settlement paragraph 41. 25 The settlement requires PSE to provide</p>

Page 353

1 enabling methodology to half of low income participants
2 in the time-bearing rate pilots that it also requires
3 PSE to provide bill protection to half of the low income
4 participants.
5 First question, I guess, I have is in
6 looking at Mr. Cebulko's initial testimony, BTC-IT at
7 page 61, he had included four sort of observation
8 groups. And it looks like this pilot was, perhaps,
9 developed from those -- from that testimony. Those
10 groups included low income customers who would have both
11 the equipment and the bill protection and those who
12 would have none, neither.
13 I just wondered why those last two
14 categories fell out of the pilot.
15 MR. CEBULKO: Did I hear PSE correctly that
16 they said Mr. Cebulko should take that?
17 MALE SPEAKER: Yeah.
18 MR. CEBULKO: Hello, Commissioners. Brad
19 Cebulko from The Energy Project.
20 It was perhaps a -- I don't -- I'm not sure
21 we actually discuss that specific piece of that. It was
22 my understanding that's how Puget was going to structure
23 this program. Consistent with that recommendation, it
24 seems to make the most sense if you are trying to use
25 this as a pilot.

Page 354

1 But I would say that wasn't -- I'm not -- I
2 don't recall if that was an explicit conversation with
3 Puget.
4 COMMISSIONER DOUMIT: So do you believe,
5 Mr. Cebulko, that this will be a robust pilot with the
6 observation groups that are agreed upon?
7 MR. CEBULKO: Depends on the number of
8 participants that Puget can sign up, but yes, that would
9 be my expectation.
10 COMMISSIONER DOUMIT: And I guess that was
11 another question perhaps for you then as well. I think
12 in your initial testimony you assumed it was 500 or a
13 thousand customers. There's no mechanism to recruit low
14 income customers to the pilot that I saw; is that
15 correct?
16 MR. CEBULKO: Sorry, Commissioner. Is this
17 question directed to me?
18 COMMISSIONER DOUMIT: Yes, please. I'm
19 sorry. Yeah.
20 MR. CEBULKO: That's correct. It's an
21 opt-in program. So Puget is going to have to go out and
22 solicit participation into this program.
23 COMMISSIONER DOUMIT: And some -- another
24 question, maybe for you or more for Puget.
25 How will PSE ascertain the income level of a

Page 355

1 customer recruited for the DVR pilot?
2 MR. CEBULKO: I deferred to --
3 MR. PILIARIS: Commissioner Doumit, our
4 intention is that when we recruit customers, we will
5 specifically ask for their income levels. And based on
6 their income levels, they will either be added to the
7 residential pilot or the low income pilot on a basis of
8 the varying levels of income that there may be.
9 COMMISSIONER DOUMIT: And, again, thanks for
10 going into some detail on this.
11 I have another sort of detailed question.
12 Will the same low income customers receive
13 both enabling technology and bill protection?
14 It appears that that won't be the case, but
15 half will receive technology and half will receive bill
16 protection, but maybe just a little more specificity on
17 that.
18 MR. PILIARIS: That's right. The intention
19 is to provide bill protection and technology to half --
20 half of the low income customers and that will be done
21 on a randomized selection basis.
22 COMMISSIONER DOUMIT: And lastly, will the
23 company provide the results of how the TVR pilot
24 impacted low income populations in their pilot results?
25 MR. JHAVERI: Yes, we will.

Page 356

1 COMMISSIONER DOUMIT: Nothing further, Your
2 Honor. Thank you.
3 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Your Honor, may I
4 follow up just slightly on that line of questions?
5 JUDGE HOWARD: Yes.
6 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: And I think Brad
7 spoke -- I think you addressed this, but I would
8 appreciate maybe PSE responding.
9 So in your testimony, you had suggested a
10 process for evaluating the various groups. You had
11 proposed the half low income customers getting the
12 tech -- enabling technology benefit and half including
13 the bill reduction.
14 And so -- and you had proposed a way to --
15 to measure that in the evaluation of the results.
16 And so I think I understand your response to
17 Commissioner Doumit is that that did not -- that
18 evaluation didn't enter into the settlement; is that
19 correct?
20 MR. PILIARIS: That question is for the
21 company?
22 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: That question was for
23 Mr. Cebulko first, and then I was going to follow up
24 with the company.
25 MR. CEBULKO: I'm sorry. Commissioner

Page 357

1 Rendahl, can you speak to the evaluation requirement you
2 are speaking of in my testimony?
3 Do you have a reference?
4 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: On page 62 of your
5 testimony you identified sort of the way you would
6 evaluate -- or you would have different ways of
7 evaluating the impacts on four different -- you know,
8 looking at the groups in four different ways.
9 And so that did not appear to be included in
10 the settlement. And so just inquiring whether this
11 method of evaluating and grouping different folks
12 impacted by -- by this pilot, whether that was included
13 in the settlement or it intended to be included in the
14 settlement.
15 MR. CEBULKO: Yes, it was my intention.
16 Although, I now see that there might be some ambiguity
17 in the settlement.
18 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Okay. And so now
19 turning to PSE, was it PSE's understanding in developing
20 this pilot that it would follow the recommendations in
21 Brad Cebulko's testimony on this evaluation technique?
22 MR. PILIARIS: So we would certainly be open
23 to -- to various evaluation techniques. The company's
24 intention is that when -- once we start the process of
25 assessing appropriate EMV measures and processes that

Page 358

1 we would include stakeholders before we finalize the EMV
2 process. And so in -- through that method, we would
3 certainly take into consideration any -- any proposals
4 that -- that were provided to us, including the one in
5 Mr. Cebulko's testimony.
6 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Okay. Thank you,
7 that's helpful.
8 I have no other questions. Thank you.
9 JUDGE HOWARD: Do we have any further
10 questions from the bench?
11 CHAIR DANNER: I have no questions.
12 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: No more questions.
13 COMMISSIONER DOUMIT: No, Your Honor.
14 JUDGE HOWARD: All right. I'd like to thank
15 the witnesses on this panel for their testimony. You
16 may turn off your cameras.
17 And I understand that Irene Plenefisch,
18 Microsoft's witness, had limited availability today, so
19 I was planning on excusing Irene Plenefisch from the
20 remainder of the hearing, unless any of the
21 Commissioners had concerns with that.
22 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: No concerns.
23 CHAIR DANNER: No concerns.
24 COMMISSIONER DOUMIT: No.
25 JUDGE HOWARD: Hearing none, that witness is

Page 359

1 excused.
2 I'm not sure who raised their hand first.
3 Ms. Liotta.
4 MS. LIOTTA: Yes, Your Honor. Rita Liotta
5 with FEA.
6 I was hoping to have Mr. Al-Jabir excused.
7 He is not on any other settlement panel.
8 JUDGE HOWARD: I think that would be
9 perfectly fine.
10 MS. LIOTTA: Thank you, Your Honor.
11 MR. AL-JABIR: Thank you, Your Honor.
12 JUDGE HOWARD: Ms. Parekh.
13 MS. PAREKH: Thank you, Your Honor.
14 Same questions for Ms. McCloy and Ms. Smith.
15 If they could please be excused as they're
16 not on any other panel.
17 JUDGE HOWARD: Was your witnesses McCloy and
18 what was the second one?
19 MS. PAREKH: Gloria Smith.
20 JUDGE HOWARD: Okay. Yes, I think -- I
21 think that is fine. All right.
22 Counsel for Kroger.
23 MR. BOEHM: Thank you, Your Honor.
24 Same question for our witness, Mr. Bieber.
25 JUDGE HOWARD: Yes, Mr. Bieber may be

Page 360

1 excused for the remainder of the hearing.
2 MR. BOEHM: Thank you, Your Honor.
3 THE COURT: So I see that we are approaching
4 the lunch hour here.
5 The next panel of witnesses we would have
6 would be the cost of capital panel.
7 And no party planned to cross the cost of
8 capital panel.
9 Do we -- before I swear in the panel, do we
10 have any bench questions for this panel?
11 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: I have no --
12 JUDGE HOWARD: I'm sorry, Commissioner
13 Rendahl. I spoke over you.
14 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: I have no questions.
15 JUDGE HOWARD: All right.
16 CHAIR DANNER: I have no questions, Your
17 Honor.
18 COMMISSIONER DOUMIT: Nor I do, Your Honor.
19 JUDGE HOWARD: All right. Thank you.
20 The cost of capital panel, we will -- we
21 will skip over the cost of capital panel.
22 The witnesses on that panel, just to have a
23 bit of foresight here, I will say that those witnesses
24 are excused from the remainder of the hearing, if you
25 are on that panel. I will double-check.

Page 361

1 With the exception of -- of Betty Erdahl and
2 Bradley Mullins who were on that panel, but we would
3 like to remain available for the remainder of the
4 hearing.
5 So the next panel after that would be the
6 Energize Eastside panel.
7 And, of course, we are coming up on the
8 lunch hour, so I would like to check in with CENSE who
9 is a party who indicated that they plan to cross
10 witnesses on the Energize Eastside panel.
11 I see you had -- I believe it was 60 minutes
12 for PSE's witness Koch, 10 minutes for Nightingale, and
13 10 minutes for Erdahl.
14 Mr. Hansen, would you be amenable to -- to
15 doing one of your ten-minute cross-examinations before
16 we break for the lunch hour or would you prefer to
17 resume and pick up all these crosses after -- after a
18 45-minute lunch break?
19 MR. HANSEN: We're not going to do Betty
20 Erdahl.
21 JUDGE HOWARD: All right.
22 MR. HANSEN: We can do Joel Nightingale.
23 Except we have quite a few questions for
24 him.
25 JUDGE HOWARD: All right. Do you think that

Page 362

1 will take more than 10 minutes?
2 MR. HANSEN: I believe it will.
3 JUDGE HOWARD: All right. I think in that
4 case, I think it would be awkward to stop halfway
5 through your examination. So let's leave off here for
6 45-minute lunch break. We will resume at 12:35 p.m.
7 And we are off the record.
8 (A break was taken from
9 11:51 a.m. to 12:36 p.m.)
10 JUDGE HOWARD: Let's be back on the record.
11 The time is 12:39 p.m.
12 We're going to resume calling witnesses with
13 the Energize Eastside panel. And these are the
14 witnesses: Dan Koch, Betty Erdahl, and Joel
15 Nightingale.
16 Let's have the witnesses identify themselves
17 and the party they are appearing for beginning with
18 Mr. Koch for PSE. And let's have the witnesses turn on
19 their cameras if they have not already.
20 MR. KOCH: Good afternoon. I'm Dan Koch,
21 Vice President of Operations at Puget Sound Energy.
22 JUDGE HOWARD: Thank you.
23 And do we have the witnesses for Staff?
24 MS. ERDAHL: This is Betty Erdahl on behalf
25 of Staff.

Page 363

1 JUDGE HOWARD: Thank you.
2 MR. NIGHTINGALE: This is Joel Nightingale
3 on behalf of Commission Staff.
4 JUDGE HOWARD: Thank you.
5 Ms. Erdahl, I believe I swore you in earlier
6 and consider yourself under oath.
7 Mr. Koch and Mr. Nightingale, would you
8 please raise your right hand and I will swear you in
9 together.
10 Do you swear or affirm that the testimony
11 you will give today is the truth, the whole truth, and
12 nothing but the truth?
13 MR. KOCH: I do.
14 MR. NIGHTINGALE: Yes.
15 JUDGE HOWARD: Thank you.
16 CENSE plans to cross-examine Mr. Koch for 60
17 minutes and Mr. Nightingale for, I'll say, approximately
18 15 minutes. And they indicated that they wish to
19 proceed with Mr. Nightingale first.
20 So, Mr. Hansen, please proceed.
21 MR. HANSEN: Okay. Thank you very much,
22 Judge.
23 C R O S S - E X A M I N A T I O N
24 BY MR. HANSEN:
25 **Q. The first question we have is please turn to**

Page 364

1 **Mr. Lauckhart's testimony for CENSE. It's Exhibit**
2 **RL-1T, page 17.**
3 A. I'm there.
4 **Q. Okay. Thank you.**
5 **Here Mr. Lauckhart identifies the four factors**
6 **that WUTC looks for in a prudency review.**
7 **Do you disagree with his testimony on the four**
8 **factors that UTC looks for in a prudency review?**
9 A. I think these factors are relevant to prudency
10 reviews. I outline in my testimony the approach that
11 Staff took, which differs slightly.
12 **Q. Thank you.**
13 **The first factor requires a demonstration of**
14 **need.**
15 **Are you aware that the need for a transmission**
16 **line is demonstrated through a load flow or alternately**
17 **a power flow study?**
18 A. I understand that that's -- that's how -- how
19 that can be done, yes.
20 **Q. Next question.**
21 **Are you an expert in load flow studies?**
22 A. I am not. Credentials for the review have --
23 have been my testimony.
24 **Q. Okay. Please turn to Mr. Lauckhart's Exhibit**
25 **RL-4. Looking at pages 20 up to 37. Here Mr. Lauckhart**

Page 365

1 **testifies to seven fatal flaws in the PSE/Quanta load**
 2 **flow studies.**
 3 **Do you have any reason to disagree with**
 4 **Mr. Lauckhart's identification of these seven fatal**
 5 **flaws?**
 6 MR. ROBERSON: Objection. There's no
 7 foundation laid for the witness to see this testimony.
 8 Also, it's beyond the scope of his testimony. He
 9 doesn't testify about what Mr. Lauckhart testified to.
 10 He testifies about what he testified to.
 11 JUDGE HOWARD: I am going to grant the
 12 objection.
 13 Mr. Hansen, would you -- would you -- I
 14 think we need to back up.
 15 And I recognize you're not an attorney so
 16 that's why I'm explaining this a little differently.
 17 Would you ask the witness if he's familiar
 18 with this exhibit?
 19 MR. HANSEN: I will do that.
 20 BY MR. HANSEN:
 21 **Q. Are you familiar with the Exhibit RL-4?**
 22 A. I believe I've taken a look at it, yeah.
 23 **Q. Specifically, pages 20 to 37?**
 24 A. This is the PowerPoint; is that correct?
 25 **Q. Yes.**

Page 366

1 A. And the pages again?
 2 **Q. Pages 20 through 27.**
 3 MALE SPEAKER: Thirty-seven.
 4 BY MR. HANSEN:
 5 **Q. Thirty-seven.**
 6 A. Twenty through 37?
 7 **Q. Correct.**
 8 A. Okay. And I'm sorry, what was the question
 9 again?
 10 **Q. Okay. Here Mr. Lauckhart testifies to seven**
 11 **fatal flaws in the PSE/Quanta load flow studies, do you**
 12 **have any reason to disagree with Mr. Lauckhart's**
 13 **identification of these seven fatal flaws?**
 14 MR. ROBERSON: Again, I object. This is
 15 beyond the scope of Mr. Nightingale's testimony.
 16 MR. HANSEN: Okay. Next --
 17 JUDGE HOWARD: Wait. Wait. Wait,
 18 Mr. Hansen.
 19 Mr. Roberson, did -- did Mr. Nightingale --
 20 I'm not recalling all his testimony at this moment.
 21 Did he discuss the Energize Eastside
 22 projects?
 23 MR. ROBERSON: He did, but he submitted
 24 testimony on the same day, I believe, as Mr. Lauckhart.
 25 He did not testify about Mr. Lauckhart's testimony,

Page 367

1 which is what he's being asked about.
 2 JUDGE HOWARD: Mr. Hansen, I think -- I
 3 think the trouble here is that we're asking the witness
 4 to give his opinion on several pages that he might not
 5 have seen before.
 6 Could you consider re-wording your question
 7 so we're asking about -- about the underlying
 8 substantive issue and CENSE's position on that and what
 9 the witness thinks of that, perhaps?
 10 MR. HANSEN: Okay. I'll take a moment here
 11 if you don't mind.
 12 JUDGE HOWARD: That's perfectly fine.
 13 You may want to mute yourself.
 14 MR. HANSEN: Okay. I'll mute it.
 15 (Pause in the proceeding.)
 16 MR. HANSEN: Okay. I'm back. We're --
 17 we're trying to understand what Mr. Nightingale thinks
 18 is prudency and how that relates to the seven fatal
 19 flaws.
 20 MR. ROBERSON: Objection. I don't believe
 21 Mr. Nightingale testifies about the seven flaws that
 22 CENSE is identifying. A sensible flaws.
 23 He can ask him about prudency. He testifies
 24 to that. But he doesn't testify to the matters that
 25 Mr. Lauckhart testifies to.

Page 368

1 JUDGE HOWARD: I'm going to grant the
 2 objection.
 3 And I'll explain, Mr. Hansen, that we
 4 can't -- we can't have the witness be crossed on
 5 something that he hasn't -- he doesn't already have
 6 firsthand knowledge of. And this is not his testimony.
 7 MR. HANSEN: I understand.
 8 JUDGE HOWARD: So I would encourage you to
 9 pose your questions in terms of -- in terms of his
 10 testimony or establish that he's familiar with something
 11 and then ask him --
 12 MR. HANSEN: Thank you very much. I will do
 13 that.
 14 BY MR. HANSEN:
 15 **Q. Next question here.**
 16 **Neither you nor anyone testifying through Staff**
 17 **have performed a load flow study to determine if there**
 18 **is a need for Energize Eastside.**
 19 **Why has Staff not performed a load flow study?**
 20 A. I don't believe we have the -- the -- the
 21 correct software to perform something like that.
 22 And I guess I would also say that the -- the
 23 testimony provided by the company, you know, in our eyes
 24 did -- did speak to need to -- or a deficiency that was
 25 there.

Page 369

1 **Q. Next question here.**
2 **When did you join the UTC staff?**
3 A. September of 2021.
4 **Q. Okay. Is Energize Eastside your only project?**
5 MR. ROBERSON: Objection. I'm not sure
6 that's relevant.
7 JUDGE HOWARD: Well, I'll allow it. Let's
8 see where it's going.
9 MR. NIGHTINGALE: No. I work on a wide
10 variety of things at the Commission. This is the -- the
11 Energize Eastside was the scope of my testimony that I
12 gave in this case.
13 BY MR. HANSEN:
14 **Q. Okay. Next question. Turning back to -- well,**
15 **here again, we've got a question regarding our expert's**
16 **testimony. So -- so I request a moment here also.**
17 JUDGE HOWARD: Please mute yourself. Thank
18 you.
19 BY MR. HANSEN:
20 **Q. Okay. I'm just going to ask the question.**
21 **Turning back to page 17 of Exhibit RL-1, one of**
22 **the four factors for the prudency review deals with the**
23 **need to identify and study alternatives to Energize**
24 **Eastside.**
25 **At page 27 of the Exhibit RL-1, Mr. Lauckhart**

Page 370

1 **identifies three alternatives to Energize Eastside that**
2 **were not studied by PSE.**
3 **Number one: A peaker plant at the load center;**
4 **number two, Seattle City Light alternative; and number**
5 **three, Lake Tradition alternative.**
6 **Do you have any documentation that PSE studied**
7 **any of these three alternatives?**
8 A. It might take me a minute to find the exact
9 citation, but I do recall that they explored the Seattle
10 City Light option as well as generation closer to the
11 load center, the Lake Tradition alternative. I would
12 have to look back at -- at some of the exhibits from
13 witness Koch.
14 **Q. It would be helpful if you could take a minute**
15 **to pull up that documentation.**
16 MS. CARSON: Your Honor, in the interest of
17 time, we're willing to point to an exhibit that may be
18 relevant.
19 JUDGE HOWARD: Let's -- let's -- let's come
20 back to that when -- when -- when we're cross-examining
21 Koch.
22 BY MR. HANSEN:
23 **Q. Okay. Next question.**
24 **The fourth alternative is demand site**
25 **alternatives the MaxETA/Synapse Draft Report showed**

Page 371

1 **serious shortcomings in PSE's analysis.**
2 **Do we have any documentation that shows the**
3 **MaxETA/Synapse Draft Report findings were incorrect?**
4 MR. ROBERSON: So I'm not sure that he's
5 laid a foundation to ask this witness this question.
6 JUDGE HOWARD: I'm -- I'm going to allow the
7 question.
8 Mr. Nightingale, you may answer.
9 MR. NIGHTINGALE: I believe this study
10 you're referring to is DRK-12; is that right?
11 JUDGE HOWARD: Mr. Nightingale, Mr. Hansen
12 can't agree with you and answer your questions.
13 MR. NIGHTINGALE: Oh, I'm sorry.
14 JUDGE HOWARD: Just for the sake of clarity.
15 You can -- you could indicate that you are
16 saying something "subject to check" and you can correct
17 your statement if it is mistaken within five days of
18 receiving the transcript.
19 MR. NIGHTINGALE: Okay. Thank you.
20 Norm, could you repeat the question, please?
21 BY MR. HANSEN:
22 **Q. Yes. The fourth alternative is Demand Side**
23 **alternatives, the MaxETA/Synapse Draft Report showed**
24 **serious shortcomings in PSE's analysis.**
25 **Do you have any documentation that shows the**

Page 372

1 **MaxETA/Synapse Draft Report findings were incorrect?**
2 A. I'm sorry. I was on mute.
3 I think the answer to that question is: No, I
4 don't have documents that show that that study was
5 incorrect.
6 **Q. Okay. Next question.**
7 **Under the settlement agreement on the prudency**
8 **of Energize Eastside that Staff signed, Staff accepts**
9 **and will not challenge that PSE has met its threshold**
10 **prudence requirement to demonstrate that the investment**
11 **should be provisionally included in the rate?**
12 **Is this correct?**
13 MR. ROBERSON: Objection. Mr. Nightingale
14 is not the settlement witness for Staff. He was a
15 litigation witness. This is the subject of a motion in
16 limine.
17 JUDGE HOWARD: I'm going to allow the
18 question. Mr. Nightingale testified regarding this
19 investment and his -- as I recall, his recommendations
20 and his testimony are very similar to what the
21 settlement eventually adopted, so I will allow it.
22 Mr. Hansen, you may repeat the question, if
23 you may.
24 BY MR. HANSEN:
25 **Q. Okay. I'll -- under the settlement agreement on**

Page 373

1 **the prudence of Energize Eastside that Staff signed,**
2 **Staff accepts and will not challenge that PSE has made**
3 **its threshold prudence requirement to demonstrate that**
4 **the investment should be provisionally included in**
5 **rates; correct?**
6 A. I guess that's my understanding without
7 having -- without that being my testimony. I think
8 that's correct.
9 **Q. What information or data did PSE provide you to**
10 **prove they met threshold prudence?**
11 A. Maybe to clarify, my testimony -- the
12 recommendation of my testimony left the prudence
13 determination for a later date. If -- if there's a
14 difference between that and the settlement testimony, I
15 think I was not -- I did not testify in support of
16 settlement, and I don't know if I'm able to answer that.
17 **Q. You've already stated that you aren't an expert**
18 **in transmission planning or load flow studies.**
19 **Are you qualified to evaluate the reports PSE**
20 **provided?**
21 A. I think so.
22 **Q. Have you -- have you or anyone on staff defined**
23 **what is threshold prudence requirement?**
24 A. The citations in my testimony call to -- to the
25 use -- the Commission's "used and useful" policy

Page 374

1 statement, that's where we drew from for most of that
2 language.
3 **Q. What are the criteria for threshold prudence?**
4 A. I'll refer you to the "used and useful" policy
5 statement which outlines it in more depth than I
6 probably can right here.
7 JUDGE HOWARD: Mr. Hansen, it may be more
8 helpful if we pose the last two questions you were
9 asking to Ms. Erdahl as I think that that would be a --
10 a topic properly within the scope of testimony she has
11 offered on behalf of the Staff.
12 MR. HANSEN: Okay.
13 BY MR. HANSEN:
14 **Q. I have one more question, I don't know if**
15 **it's -- but I'll ask it anyway.**
16 **Has there been rulemaking on the procedure**
17 **regarding threshold prudence?**
18 MR. ROBERSON: Objection. This seems like
19 it is beyond the scope of his testimony.
20 MR. HANSEN: Okay. Thank you.
21 Next question.
22 JUDGE HOWARD: Wait.
23 MR. HANSEN: Sorry.
24 JUDGE HOWARD: It's okay. I know it is not
25 something you do every day; this type of procedure.

Page 375

1 I'm going to allow the question. He's
2 simply asking about whether there is a rulemaking about
3 the issue.
4 MR. NIGHTINGALE: I don't know.
5 MR. HANSEN: I'm sorry. I didn't hear that.
6 MR. NIGHTINGALE: I don't know.
7 BY MR. HANSEN:
8 **Q. Okay. Thank you.**
9 **Next question. The settlement agreement**
10 **recommends that the WUTC Staff agreed that Energize**
11 **Eastside be put in rates starting now with the refund to**
12 **be made if a future proper prudence hearing at the WUTC**
13 **finds that some or all of Energize Eastside is not**
14 **prudent and that a refund can then be made to customers**
15 **to remedy the problem.**
16 **Is this correct?**
17 MR. ROBERSON: Objection. This is beyond
18 the scope of his testimony.
19 JUDGE HOWARD: I am going to grant the
20 objection. It does seem that Mr. Nightingale is -- is
21 not closely familiar with the settlement details.
22 I think, Mr. Hansen, if we revisit whether
23 CENSE wishes to cross Ms. Erdahl and pose some of these
24 questions to Ms. Erdahl, that might be more clear.
25 MR. HANSEN: Okay. Let me take a moment

Page 376

1 here, please.
2 We can take questions, Your Honor, from
3 Betty Erdahl. We do have some questions.
4 JUDGE HOWARD: All right. Before we move on
5 from Mr. Nightingale -- before we move on from your
6 questioning of Mr. Nightingale, I did want to ask, do we
7 have CENSE's proposed cross exhibit JBN-9X, which is the
8 same underlying exhibit as DRK-29X?
9 Did you wish to move JBN-9X into evidence or
10 discuss this with Mr. Nightingale? Or shall I cross
11 this off of Mr. Nightingale's portion of the list?
12 MR. HANSEN: Yes. We do have more questions
13 for Mr. Nightingale right now.
14 And I'll have to take a moment here to
15 decide on the next questions. There's just a few more
16 for Mr. Nightingale.
17 JUDGE HOWARD: All right.
18 MR. HANSEN: Okay. Thank you.
19 BY MR. HANSEN:
20 **Q. Next question.**
21 **Please turn to Mr. Lauckhart's testimony,**
22 **Exhibit 35T starting at line 9.**
23 **This testimony refers to data requests that**
24 **CENSE made to you regarding PSE's annual transmission**
25 **assessments.**

Page 377

1 **Your answer makes it clear that you did not get**
2 **a full copy of any of the PSE annual transmission**
3 **assessments.**
4 **Is this correct?**
5 A. The TPL assessment that we -- that we got were
6 excerpts. That's true.
7 **Q. Next question.**
8 **Do you have any -- do you have documentation**
9 **that PSE's NERC required annual transmission planning**
10 **assessments examined the need for Energize Eastside?**
11 A. Could you repeat that?
12 **Q. Yes.**
13 **Do you have any documentation that PSE's NERC**
14 **required annual transmission planning assessments**
15 **examined the need for Energize Eastside?**
16 A. Those assessments, as I understand it, are --
17 they do establish that their transmission infrastructure
18 concerns in that area, the Eastside area.
19 **Q. Is this something beyond the experts -- excerpts**
20 **from the TPL that are included in your pre-filed**
21 **testimony?**
22 A. Could you repeat that, sorry?
23 **Q. Sure.**
24 **Is this something beyond the excerpts from the**
25 **TPL that are included in your pre-filed testimony?**

Page 378

1 A. I'm not sure I understand the question.
2 **Q. Okay. I'll re-address the question.**
3 **Do you have documentation that PSE's NERC**
4 **required annual transmission planning assessments**
5 **examine the need for Energize Eastside?**
6 A. Yeah, I believe they -- they do speak to the
7 need for -- or a deficiency of the transmission
8 infrastructure in that area, yes.
9 **Q. Okay.**
10 MR. HANSEN: We would like to have you
11 provide those documents.
12 JUDGE HOWARD: Well, Mr. Hansen, this is --
13 discovery has been closed.
14 MR. HANSEN: Okay.
15 JUDGE HOWARD: And this is just -- just an
16 opportunity to -- to cross-examine.
17 MR. HANSEN: Let me rephrase that question.
18 BY MR. HANSEN:
19 **Q. Can you provide the documents?**
20 JUDGE HOWARD: That is the same --
21 MR. HANSEN: Same question. Okay.
22 JUDGE HOWARD: Same problem there.
23 MR. HANSEN: All right.
24 JUDGE HOWARD: If -- you know, I would -- I
25 would encourage you -- I think we have been with

Page 379

1 Mr. Nightingale for a while. I would encourage you to
2 wrap up.
3 And if you do wish to move JBN-9X into
4 evidence with this witness, that we do that before we
5 move on.
6 MR. HANSEN: Okay. I would like to take a
7 moment.
8 Judge Howard, in the interest of time, we
9 won't ask more questions, but we would like to put
10 his -- this into the record.
11 JUDGE HOWARD: All right. Because --
12 because you're not an attorney, I will ask
13 Mr. Nightingale.
14 Mr. Nightingale, do you have JBN-9X
15 available to you?
16 MR. NIGHTINGALE: I believe I have it saved
17 under the "DRK" numbering system. Is that -- I think
18 that's the same document. But what is the DRK number so
19 I can pull it up?
20 JUDGE HOWARD: It's DRK-29X, Staff responses
21 to CENSE data requests. It's the same document.
22 MR. NIGHTINGALE: Yes, I have it.
23 Did you have a question on it or did you
24 just want to verify?
25 JUDGE HOWARD: Yes, because Mr. Hansen is

Page 380

1 not an attorney, I'm just clarifying and -- and doing
2 this in the interest of clarifying the record.
3 Are you familiar with this document?
4 MR. NIGHTINGALE: Yes.
5 JUDGE HOWARD: What is it?
6 MR. NIGHTINGALE: It's UTC Staffs' response
7 to CENSE's data request.
8 JUDGE HOWARD: Does this appear to be an
9 accurate copy of what you're familiar with?
10 MR. NIGHTINGALE: Yeah, I believe so.
11 JUDGE HOWARD: Are there any objections from
12 the parties to CENSE's request to put Exhibit JBN-9X
13 into evidence?
14 MR. ROBERSON: None from staff.
15 JUDGE HOWARD: All right. Hearing none. It
16 is admitted.
17 (Exhibit JBN-9X was admitted.)
18 JUDGE HOWARD: All right. Mr. Hansen, did
19 that conclude your examination of Mr. Nightingale?
20 MR. HANSEN: Yes. Thank you very much.
21 That concludes our examination of
22 Mr. Nightingale.
23 JUDGE HOWARD: All right. Is there any
24 redirect of Mr. Nightingale?
25 MR. ROBERSON: I don't have any, Judge

Page 381

1 Howard.
 2 JUDGE HOWARD: All right. Mr. Hansen, do
 3 you wish to cross -- you do not have to cross
 4 Ms. Erdahl. But that was my suggestion to you for the
 5 sake of expediency and clarity that we pose those
 6 questions to Ms. Erdahl.
 7 Would you rather cross her or Mr. Koch at
 8 this point?
 9 MR. HANSEN: We would like to cross-examine
 10 her.
 11 JUDGE HOWARD: All right. Ms. Erdahl, would
 12 you turn on your camera, if you haven't already.
 13 All right. Mr. Hansen, you may proceed.
 14 MR. HANSEN: Thank you, Judge.
 15 C R O S S - E X A M I N A T I O N
 16 BY MR. HANSEN:
 17 **Q. Have you or anyone on staff defined what is a**
 18 **threshold prudence requirement?**
 19 A. My understanding is that a threshold prudence --
 20 to determine threshold prudence is when you consider
 21 allowing costs into rates provisionally subject to
 22 refund.
 23 And it's when we're looking at the company's
 24 decision of whether to incur those costs or not. We're
 25 not actually looking at the cost yet. That happens

Page 382

1 later when we determine the full prudence.
 2 **Q. Okay. What are the criteria?**
 3 **What are the criteria for the threshold**
 4 **prudence?**
 5 A. Demonstration of a need, cost benefit analysis,
 6 evaluation of alternatives, project risk uncertainty,
 7 and the Board of Directors' knowledge and
 8 decision-making.
 9 However, I just want to put out there that Staff
 10 didn't necessarily accept prudence, the threshold
 11 prudence determination based on that.
 12 The settlement is taken as a whole. There's
 13 give and take. And so staff was willing to accept
 14 prudence on -- threshold prudence on the decision for
 15 Energize Eastside knowing that the cost would go into
 16 rates provisionally and at the end of the rate year we
 17 would then determine the prudence of costs.
 18 So we get another bite out of the apple. We're
 19 not done.
 20 **Q. Okay. Thank you.**
 21 **Has there been rulemaking on the procedure**
 22 **regarding threshold prudence?**
 23 A. This is coming from "used and useful" policy
 24 statement. And that was a process that occurred -- I
 25 think it's a 2019 docket. I was not involved in that

Page 383

1 closely, so.
 2 **Q. Okay. Thank you.**
 3 **The settlement agreement recommends that the**
 4 **WUTC Staff agreed that Energize Eastside be put in rates**
 5 **starting now with the refund to be made if a future**
 6 **proper prudency hearing at the WUTC finds that some or**
 7 **all of Energize Eastside is not prudent and that a**
 8 **refund can then be made to customers to remedy the**
 9 **problem; correct?**
 10 A. That is true. Similar to other projects. This
 11 is not unique to the settlement.
 12 **Q. This invented threshold prudency requirement has**
 13 **no plan or mechanism to remedy any safety environmental**
 14 **or other societal costs or impacts created by Energize**
 15 **Eastside; correct?**
 16 A. I don't -- I don't necessarily agree with that.
 17 I think once we -- at the end of the rate year,
 18 when we're determining whether the rates are reasonable
 19 or not, costs will be looked at. And how those costs
 20 are determined or decided to be incurred, I believe that
 21 that can be looked at at that point in time.
 22 **Q. Next question.**
 23 **It is your opinion that the Commissioners should**
 24 **not be concerned about these matters?**
 25 A. I disagree with that. I believe we will be

Page 384

1 looking at the prudence of the costs at the end of the
 2 first rate year and a determination will be made at that
 3 time.
 4 **Q. Our concern is -- if it's determined it's not**
 5 **prudent, will -- will they require removal of the**
 6 **transmission line?**
 7 A. I'm not sure if I should speak to that. I
 8 don't -- I'm not sure the Commission can do that
 9 regardless of what the decision is made.
 10 **Q. Next question.**
 11 **Please turn to Mr. Lauckhart's testimony,**
 12 **Exhibit 35T starting on line 9.**
 13 A. It's going take me a minute.
 14 JUDGE HOWARD: Mr. Hansen, can I get that
 15 page again?
 16 MR. HANSEN: It's line 9 of Exhibit 35T.
 17 JUDGE HOWARD: Line 9 on which page?
 18 MR. HANSEN: It doesn't say the page.
 19 One moment, I'll check that.
 20 MS. ERDAHL: Could you start with the
 21 exhibit number one more time?
 22 MR. HANSEN: I'm sorry. I had it on mute.
 23 Could you please repeat?
 24 MS. ERDAHL: Could you just give the full
 25 reference again, please?

Page 385

1 MR. HANSEN: Yes, Exhibit 35T. And we're
2 looking for the page number, but it starts at line 9.
3 And so we should have that shortly.
4 JUDGE HOWARD: Yes. That's RL -- I
5 understand that to be RL-35T.
6 MR. HANSEN: Correct. I'm sorry. We
7 don't -- we can't find it.
8 Well, that completes our questioning then,
9 Judge Howard. Thank you very much.
10 JUDGE HOWARD: All right. Any redirect for
11 Ms. Erdahl?
12 MR. ROBERSON: Just one kind of brief topic.
13 R E D I R E C T E X A M I N A T I O N
14 BY MR. ROBERSON:
15 **Q. So, Ms. Erdahl, does the Commission issue land**
16 **use permits that would look at the type of environmental**
17 **safety concerns that CENSE is asking you about?**
18 A. No, it does not.
19 MR. ROBERSON: Thank you.
20 JUDGE HOWARD: All right. Mr. Hansen, I
21 believe your next witness would be Dan Koch for PSE.
22 I'm going to note here, before we begin, PSE
23 objected to a majority of CENSE's cross-exhibits for
24 Koch with the exception of what was filed DRK-29X and is
25 now marked as DRK -- 30X related to Lauckhart's CEII

Page 386

1 requests.
2 So, Mr. Hansen, I would -- we've already
3 touched on this issue in your earlier witness
4 examinations. But as we come to these different
5 exhibits that have been disputed, I would ask that you
6 see if the witness is familiar with the exhibit and has
7 some knowledge of it and then move into evidence and
8 then ask your questions.
9 MR. HANSEN: Thank you. I will do that.
10 JUDGE HOWARD: So with that, you may
11 proceed.
12 MR. HANSEN: Thank you.
13 C R O S S - E X A M I N A T I O N
14 BY MR. HANSEN:
15 **Q. The four factors that WUTC will look for in a**
16 **prudency review of Energize Eastside are: Number one,**
17 **the demonstration of need; two, the identification and**
18 **analysis of alternatives; number three, adequate**
19 **communication with the Board of Directors; four,**
20 **adequate documentation of decisions.**
21 **Correct?**
22 A. Is that a question for me?
23 **Q. Yes. Thank you.**
24 A. Well, I think Staff witnessed -- Erdahl and
25 Staff witness Nightingale addressed that in their

Page 387

1 testimony. I think it's -- those are some of the
2 factors that are used to determine prudence under a
3 multiyear rate plan design. There are other factors
4 such as "used and useful" policy that are used to
5 determine prudence.
6 **Q. The first factor requires a demonstration of**
7 **need.**
8 **The need for a transmission line is demonstrated**
9 **through a load flow, also known as Power Flow Study;**
10 **correct?**
11 A. It's one of the tools that is used to determine
12 whether or not a transmission line upgrade is needed.
13 **Q. Okay. The next question references Exhibit**
14 **RL-4, pages 20 through 37.**
15 **Do you have that available?**
16 A. Yes, I have RL-4. It does not have page numbers
17 on it, so could you direct me to the page?
18 **Q. Well, this is where -- yeah. This is where**
19 **Mr. Lauckhart identifies seven fatal flaws in the**
20 **PSE/Quanta load flow studies.**
21 **The first --**
22 A. What page would that be?
23 **Q. It's slide number 20.**
24 A. Go ahead. Do you have a question regarding
25 this?

Page 388

1 **Q. We have some more information. The first fatal**
2 **flaw is the shutting down of six natural gas fire**
3 **generators.**
4 **The second fatal flaw was assuming BPA proposed**
5 **I-5 Corridor Reinforcement Project would be built. That**
6 **project was canceled in 2017.**
7 **Not allowing nearby 230/115 transformer --**
8 MS. CARSON: Objection, Your Honor. This
9 sounds like testimony --
10 JUDGE HOWARD: I'm -- I'm going to grant
11 that objection.
12 Mr. Hansen, I understand sometimes we have
13 to preface what we're saying with -- with some
14 orientation for the witness, but -- but I am concerned
15 that if we're reading this list of different plans
16 raised by CENSE's own witness that this is not a
17 question; this is testifying into the record.
18 MR. HANSEN: That is.
19 One moment, please.
20 I'll just rephrase that as a question.
21 BY MR. HANSEN:
22 **Q. Do you have any documents that -- that shows the**
23 **results from these fatal flaws?**
24 MS. CARSON: I'm going to object to the
25 breadth of that question.

Page 389

1 JUDGE HOWARD: I think, Mr. Hansen, would it
2 be possible to focus the question?
3 Because in the studies, as far as I'm aware,
4 the present state of the record, we're talking about
5 hundreds and hundreds of pages related to some of these
6 topics of evidence. Perhaps we can narrow --
7 MR. HANSEN: One moment, please.
8 (Reporter noted microphone disruption)
9 JUDGE HOWARD: I do notice that as well.
10 MR. HANSEN: It's not what I'm doing.
11 Anyway.
12 BY MR. HANSEN:
13 **Q. I guess the question is, Mr. Koch, is that do**
14 **you have any documentation -- do you have any reason to**
15 **disagree with Mr. Lauckhart's identification of these**
16 **seven fatal flaws?**
17 A. Yes, I do. I -- I've seen these presented
18 previously during a CUP hearing for the City of
19 Newcastle, and they were -- they were rejected by the
20 hearing examiner in that case.
21 Furthermore, PSE has provided ample studies and
22 reports demonstrating how the need was determined for
23 Energize Eastside. And those are contained in my
24 pre-filed testimony 1T.
25 So I absolutely take issue with -- with these

Page 390

1 purported fatal flaws.
2 **Q. So this is your documentation; correct?**
3 A. I'm not understanding that question.
4 **Q. Well, you referenced the Newcastle hearing**
5 **examiner.**
6 **So --**
7 MS. CARSON: Objection. That misrepresents
8 Mr. Koch's response. It was not just Newcastle Hearing
9 Examiner's decision.
10 JUDGE HOWARD: I will grant it. I did not
11 understand that to be the entirety of -- of what
12 Mr. Koch may have been referring to.
13 BY MR. HANSEN:
14 **Q. One moment, please.**
15 **Okay. Are you aware that Mr. Lauckhart ran load**
16 **flow studies in 2017?**
17 **This was the Lauckhart-Schiffman study**
18 **correcting these fatal flaws or incorrect assumptions**
19 **and found there was no need for Energize Eastside?**
20 A. Are you referring to Mr. Lauckhart's Exhibit
21 RL-5?
22 **Q. Yes. Correct.**
23 A. Just for the record, you stated that was 2017.
24 I show that as being reported in 2016.
25 What are you referring to?

Page 391

1 MR. HANSEN: We're going to pull up the
2 date. One moment, please.
3 I think the initial report was probably in
4 2016. But perhaps it wasn't published until 2017.
5 We're checking.
6 (Off-record discussion.)
7 MR. HANSEN: Do you have -- do you have the
8 report there, perhaps you can confirm the date.
9 MR. KOCH: I have a report marked RL-5,
10 which is dated February 18, 2016.
11 JUDGE HOWARD: And, Mr. Hansen, I would be
12 careful that when you do confer with your colleague,
13 that you do mute yourself, because otherwise the court
14 reporter may have to try to listen to that and add it
15 into the record.
16 MR. HANSEN: All right. Okay.
17 So that's what the report said, whether it
18 is 2016 or '17.
19 BY MR. HANSEN:
20 **Q. At any time since 2017, did PSE run a load flow**
21 **study correcting these fatal flaws?**
22 A. Okay. PSE runs studies annually. And as I
23 stated earlier, I don't agree with the fatal flaws that
24 have been referenced.
25 But if he has run load flow studies and

Page 392

1 submitted through our annual transmission planning
2 process with NERC, those -- those studies.
3 **Q. Next question.**
4 **You relied on the studies done by use to**
5 **establish need for Energize Eastside; correct?**
6 A. No, that's incorrect. PSE relied upon, again,
7 all of the exhibits that are in my pre-filed testimony
8 to establish the need for Energize Eastside.
9 The use report that was produced by a consultant
10 hired by the City of Bellevue is included as an exhibit
11 to -- to confirm the analysis and the work that was done
12 by PSE.
13 **Q. Next question.**
14 **Did you rely on the Stantec report to establish**
15 **need for Energize Eastside in full or in part and**
16 **Stantec didn't run a load flow study; correct?**
17 MS. CARSON: Object to the form of the
18 question. Compound. Ambiguous.
19 JUDGE HOWARD: I'm going to grant that.
20 Maybe, Mr. Hansen, could you -- you had two
21 questions there, essentially. Could you maybe pose the
22 first one and then we'll see what the witness says and
23 then pose the second question?
24 MR. HANSEN: Okay. I will do that, Judge.
25 BY MR. HANSEN:

Page 393

1 **Q. Did you rely on the Stantec report to establish**
 2 **the need for Energize Eastside in full or in part?**
 3 A. No. PSE relied on the work that PSE performed
 4 itself and/or contracted personally.
 5 The Stantec analysis and memo provided to the
 6 partner cities as part of the EIS was contracted for by
 7 the partner cities involved in the Environmental Impact
 8 Statement.
 9 **Q. Next question.**
 10 MR. HANSEN: Okay. One moment.
 11 (Off-record discussion.)
 12 BY MR. HANSEN:
 13 **Q. Did Stantec run a load flow study?**
 14 A. I don't believe that Stantec ran a load flow
 15 study.
 16 **Q. Thank you. Next question.**
 17 **Did you rely on the MaxETA/Synapse report to**
 18 **establish need for Energize Eastside in full or in part?**
 19 A. No. My answer is the same as before. The
 20 MaxETA/Synapse analysis was contracted for by the City
 21 of Newcastle to have an independent analysis of the need
 22 for Energize Eastside. And in that process, the City of
 23 Newcastle's Hearing Examiner determined that there
 24 was -- that PSE had established a need under their code
 25 requirements and issued a permit for the project.

Page 394

1 **Q. MaxETA/Synapse didn't run a load flow study that**
 2 **corrected Mr. Lauckhart's seven fatal flaws; correct?**
 3 A. I can't speak to what MaxETA/Synapse did in
 4 their load flow studies.
 5 They used the WECC Base Case, as any expert
 6 transmission planner would utilize to evaluate the need
 7 and incorporated reasonable assumptions and reasonable
 8 scenarios and contingencies to come up with their own
 9 conclusions.
 10 And, again, their conclusion was there was a
 11 need for the Energize Eastside Project.
 12 **Q. Okay. Is it true that the MaxETA/Synapse report**
 13 **found no winter load need for Energize Eastside;**
 14 **correct?**
 15 A. While it's true that they, in their analysis,
 16 could not determine a specific need within the planning
 17 horizon based on the -- the load forecast that they were
 18 utilizing at that time, they did find that the summer
 19 need was present and, in fact, that the forecast for
 20 summer had been exceeded in the prior years.
 21 At that time, it would have been four out of
 22 five years during the summer.
 23 **Q. Okay. Thank you. It's true that the**
 24 **MaxETA/Synapse report stated that PSE found a summer**
 25 **bulk electrical system vulnerability in King County**

Page 395

1 **starting in 2008; correct?**
 2 A. Could you repeat that question?
 3 And what testimony are you referring to?
 4 **Q. I will.**
 5 **It's true that the MaxETA/Synapse report stated**
 6 **that PSE found a summer bulk electric system**
 7 **vulnerability in King County starting in 2008; correct?**
 8 A. I can't speak to how they characterized that.
 9 What I can speak to is that -- and it's in my
 10 pre-filed testimony is that PSE began to identify a
 11 transmission deficiency as early as 2008 and confirmed
 12 that during our transmission planning assessment
 13 beginning in 2009. And that has been confirmed for both
 14 summer and winter each of the following years, up until
 15 most recently.
 16 Furthermore, and what's most important, is that
 17 the need for Energize Eastside has been exceeded five
 18 out of the six past summers.
 19 So this is not a question of whether or not the
 20 project was planned appropriately. We -- we're at that
 21 point now.
 22 **Q. Next question.**
 23 **PSE has not reported the summer bulk electrical**
 24 **system vulnerability in King County to NERC; correct?**
 25 A. All of our transmission planning assessments

Page 396

1 have been submitted to -- to NERC through -- through
 2 the -- through WECC.
 3 **Q. Do you have any evidence that this documentation**
 4 **is available?**
 5 A. Could you clarify the question? Available to
 6 whom?
 7 **Q. Available to WECC?**
 8 A. As I've stated, PSE has submitted our
 9 transmission planning assessments annually to WECC.
 10 We've also provided excerpts of those
 11 transmission planning assessments to a data request by
 12 UTC Staff, and they are included in Staff witness Joel
 13 Nightingale's testimony as an exhibit.
 14 **Q. Next question.**
 15 **PSE has not reported the summer bulk electric**
 16 **system vulnerability in King County to FERC; correct?**
 17 A. Not directly to FERC. We submitted our
 18 transmission planning assessments. We produce those and
 19 submit those to WECC. And in those, they include any
 20 corrective action plans that are necessary to maintain
 21 the system integrity.
 22 MR. HANSEN: One moment.
 23 BY MR. HANSEN:
 24 **Q. Next question. PSE has not reported the summer**
 25 **bulk electric system vulnerability in King County to**

Page 397

1 **NorthernGrid; correct?**
 2 A. Not that I'm aware of.
 3 **Q. Next question.**
 4 **PSE has not reported the summer bulk electric**
 5 **system vulnerability in King County to RC West; correct?**
 6 A. I'm not aware.
 7 **Q. Next question.**
 8 A. We do -- we do share our annual transmission
 9 assessments with neighboring and regional planning
 10 authorities. But I can't speak specifically to whether
 11 those have been provided to those entities.
 12 **Q. Next question.**
 13 **PSE has not reported the summer bulk electric**
 14 **system vulnerability in King County to Bonneville Power**
 15 **Administration; correct?**
 16 A. I believe as -- as a neighboring utility, we do
 17 share our transmission planning assessments with BPA,
 18 with Seattle City Light, with Snohomish PUD, and other
 19 neighboring entities, because all of the transmission
 20 planning assessments that each entity does affects one
 21 another, so I believe we do.
 22 **Q. Page 5.**
 23 **One moment, please.**
 24 **Okay. Next question.**
 25 **PSE has not reported or discussed the summer**

Page 398

1 **bulk electric system vulnerability in King County to**
 2 **Seattle City Light; correct?**
 3 A. I believe I just answered that question.
 4 **Q. I believe you did.**
 5 **Question. Next question.**
 6 **Condition three and the Newcastle Conditional**
 7 **Use Permit requires PSE to certify to the City of**
 8 **Newcastle that Olympic Pipeline has received the final**
 9 **system design for Energize Eastside; correct?**
 10 A. That is a condition under the Conditional Use
 11 Permit.
 12 **Q. PSE has not yet certified to the City of**
 13 **Newcastle that OPL has received the final system design**
 14 **for Energize Eastside; correct?**
 15 A. That's not correct. We certified to the City of
 16 Newcastle the week before last that OPL has the final
 17 design for Energize Eastside.
 18 **Q. Thank you.**
 19 MR. HANSEN: One moment, please.
 20 We're trying to pull up the exhibit from
 21 Paul White, who was the Newcastle contact.
 22 JUDGE HOWARD: Do you know the exhibit
 23 number?
 24 MR. HANSEN: We're checking.
 25 We have the exhibit -- we're looking for the

Page 399

1 number of the exhibit.
 2 JUDGE HOWARD: Mr. Hansen, is this the email
 3 from someone named "Paul White"?
 4 MR. HANSEN: We found it. It's DRK-35X.
 5 MS. CARSON: Your Honor, this is one of the
 6 exhibits that PSE objected to.
 7 JUDGE HOWARD: Mr. Hansen, I suggest we
 8 ask -- we start by asking the witness if he's familiar
 9 with this and if he knows what this exhibit is.
 10 BY MR. HANSEN:
 11 **Q. So, Mr. Koch, are you familiar with this? With**
 12 **the exhibit?**
 13 A. I'm familiar of -- that it is an exhibit. I
 14 received the exhibit list on Friday. So I've seen that
 15 it is an exhibit. But I'm not personally familiar with
 16 the communications between Mr. White and Mr. Lauckhart.
 17 JUDGE HOWARD: Mr. Hansen, if the witness is
 18 not familiar with these communications and it's between
 19 two other individuals, I'm -- I'm hesitant to allow
 20 further cross on this exhibit because it is outside his
 21 personal knowledge.
 22 MR. HANSEN: Okay. I understand that.
 23 JUDGE HOWARD: I'm going to grant PSE's
 24 objection to DRK-35X and this particular exhibit is
 25 rejected.

Page 400

1 BY MR. HANSEN:
 2 **Q. Next question.**
 3 **You're aware that PSE provided Mr. Lauckhart the**
 4 **load flow files he requested on Monday, September 26th;**
 5 **correct?**
 6 A. Yeah, I am generally aware that -- that files
 7 were provided to Mr. Lauckhart.
 8 **Q. You are aware that Mr. Lauckhart reviewed these**
 9 **files per his email of September 27th to the PSE CEIL**
 10 **team, describing several problems he found with the**
 11 **PSE/Quanta load flow input data and has not yet received**
 12 **a response; correct?**
 13 A. I'm not familiar with any communication received
 14 by -- or from Mr. Lauckhart.
 15 MR. HANSEN: One moment, please.
 16 BY MR. HANSEN:
 17 **Q. Okay. Next question.**
 18 **You are aware that the parties to the settlement**
 19 **agreement on the prudence of Energize Eastside agreed**
 20 **that PSE has met its threshold prudence requirement to**
 21 **demonstrate that the investment should be provisionally**
 22 **included in rates; correct?**
 23 A. That's my understanding.
 24 **Q. What are the criteria for threshold prudence**
 25 **requirements?**

Page 401

1 MS. CARSON: Objection. Calls for a legal
2 conclusion.
3 JUDGE HOWARD: I'm going to allow this one,
4 again, under the reason that policy questions in our
5 particular area of practice do tend to verge on legal
6 questions at times. And this does not appear to be a
7 purely legal question.
8 MR. KOCH: I think it's repetitive with a
9 prior question in which I described the four -- or I
10 answered the question around the four prudency tests
11 that Mr. Lauckhart claimed. And I added to that that
12 Staff witness Nightingale and Staff witness Ball used a
13 criteria based on the "used and useful" policy and
14 concluded that the final cost of the project or the only
15 remaining prudency test that had not yet been satisfied.
16 BY MR. HANSEN:
17 **Q. Next question.**
18 **Are these criteria documented anywhere?**
19 A. I'm going to refer back to the "used and useful"
20 policy as the basis for the determination of that
21 criteria.
22 **Q. Okay. Thank you.**
23 **Are these criteria part of the record in this**
24 **rate case?**
25 A. It appears so.

Page 402

1 **Q. Do you have any reference to the exhibit?**
2 A. It's not a part of my direct testimony.
3 **Q. Thank you.**
4 **Has there been rulemaking on the procedure**
5 **regarding threshold prudence requirement?**
6 A. Again, outside of my direct testimony. I'm not
7 aware of any.
8 **Q. What information or data did PSE provide to the**
9 **settlement agreement signers -- settlement agreement**
10 **signers to prove they met threshold prudency?**
11 A. Could you clarify the question? Do you have a
12 reference to something in my testimony regarding that?
13 **Q. We do not.**
14 **Next question. The settlement agreement**
15 **recommends -- next question.**
16 **The settlement agreement recommends and the WUTC**
17 **staff agreed that Energize Eastside be put in rates**
18 **starting now with the refund to be made if the future**
19 **proper prudency hearing that the WUTC finds that some or**
20 **all of the Energize Eastside is not prudent and that a**
21 **refund can then be made to customers to remedy the**
22 **problem; correct?**
23 A. Not entirely correct. I would clarify that
24 the -- provisional inclusion in rates is based on the
25 completion schedule of the project. So it's not

Page 403

1 included in rates now. It is included in rates such
2 that portions of the project are complete and providing
3 benefits to customers.
4 **Q. This invented threshold prudency requirement has**
5 **no plan or mechanism to remedy any safety environmental**
6 **or other societal costs or impacts created by Energize**
7 **Eastside; correct?**
8 A. That's not -- that's not the scope of a
9 multiyear rate plan or a GRC. The environmental review
10 of this project has been extensive. A two-phased EIS
11 that took nearly three years to identify not only the
12 need for the project, the alternative for the project;
13 and then the second phase evaluated the impacts from the
14 project.
15 These have been subjects of multiple Conditional
16 Use Permit hearings. So it's not the scope of the UTC
17 to determine the environmental impacts of a project of
18 this nature.
19 MR. HANSEN: That completes our questions,
20 Your Honor. Thank you very much.
21 JUDGE HOWARD: All right. Do we have any
22 redirect for this witness?
23 MS. CARSON: Yes, just a couple questions.
24 **R E D I R E C T E X A M I N A T I O N**
25 BY MS. CARSON:

Page 404

1 **Q. Mr. Koch, can you explain how the TPLs, the**
2 **transmission planning studies, factor into PSE's**
3 **determination of need?**
4 A. Well, as I stated earlier, they are -- they are
5 done annually and they are done for the entire system.
6 It is not just the Energize Eastside Project, but they
7 include the eastside area and include those deficiencies
8 that were identified within the specific needs
9 assessment provided in my testimony.
10 They are continually assessed annually and
11 continue to show that the results of -- of the load flow
12 analysis produces deficiencies on the eastside area.
13 **Q. Earlier you testified about four out of five**
14 **summers, the need has been present. And then I think**
15 **you said five out of six summers.**
16 **Can you just elaborate on what -- what's been**
17 **going on these past few summers?**
18 A. So the needs assessment originally assumed that
19 a deficiency would occur in the summer of 2018.
20 In the 2017 summer, that load level was
21 exceeded.
22 So the deficiency was no longer an issue of
23 planning, it was an issue of actual loads.
24 2018, the same thing occurred. The load was
25 exceeded. 2019 it was not exceeded. But the last three

Page 405

1 years, including the very hot summer in 2020, the load
2 level has been exceeded by a substantial amount of
3 megawatts.
4 And in 2020, PSE was one event away from needing
5 to load shed as a result of that deficiency.
6 **Q. Can you clarify what you mean by "load shed"?**
7 A. Yeah. Load shed is intentionally turning off
8 the power to customers.
9 **Q. There was a question about the CEIL application**
10 **that Mr. Lauckhart had -- had provided to PSE.**
11 **Can you just give a little bit of background**
12 **about the CEIL applications PSE filed?**
13 A. Yes. This is an independent process. It's not
14 in my area of responsibility. So I'm only familiar with
15 Mr. Lauckhart's request, which was received in July,
16 which I think is roughly six months after PSE filed this
17 case. And PSE processed that -- that request.
18 We had some follow-up questions for
19 Mr. Lauckhart. There was some follow-up meetings that
20 occurred scheduling on both sides that were necessary to
21 achieve that. And the requested data, which also needed
22 to be narrowed, the scope of the request was -- was
23 quite broad.
24 And so my understanding is that the -- the scope
25 of the request was -- was confirmed and that data was

Page 406

1 provided to Mr. Lauckhart.
2 MS. CARSON: I have no further questions.
3 JUDGE HOWARD: All right. Do we have any
4 questions from the bench for the Energize Eastside
5 panel?
6 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Yes. This is
7 Commissioner Rendahl. I just have a few questions.
8 JUDGE HOWARD: Please go ahead.
9 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: So the revenue
10 requirement settlement -- and that's at page 9 --
11 specifies that the delayed service dates for Energize
12 Eastside are assumed to be incorporated into the
13 agreed-upon revenue requirement.
14 Can the settling parties explain what they
15 mean by "assumed to be incorporated."
16 MS. ERDAHL: Do you want to go ahead?
17 MR. KOCH: No. Go ahead.
18 MS. ERDAHL: Okay. The start dates for
19 Energize Eastside "used and useful" is further out in
20 the first rate year than was filed by PSE. And so in
21 the settlement we included revenue requirement that
22 reflected a later state -- start date and less revenue
23 requirement in that first year.
24 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Okay. And were you
25 listening into the hearing when I asked some questions

Page 407

1 early on about revenue requirement and getting
2 workpapers for the settlement?
3 MS. ERDAHL: Yes.
4 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: And so would this be
5 identified in those workpapers as well?
6 MS. ERDAHL: Yes. That should be reflected
7 in the workpapers.
8 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Okay. Thank you.
9 And so I was going to ask about whether all
10 the estimated costs of the project in their entirety are
11 included in rate year one and rate year two, but maybe
12 that will -- can you answer that? Or is that going to
13 be in the workpapers?
14 MS. ERDAHL: It will be in the workpapers.
15 And, Joel, correct me if I'm wrong, but my
16 understanding is there will be less cost in rate year
17 one than what was originally filed.
18 And the same is true of rate year two, there
19 will be less costs than originally filed.
20 And I believe there's costs that will be in
21 rate year three which is no longer part of the multiyear
22 rate plan. So those costs won't be in rates until
23 another rate case is filed.
24 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Okay. But those will
25 be clarified in the -- in the bench request with the

Page 408

1 workpapers.
2 MS. ERDAHL: Yes.
3 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Okay. Well, thank
4 you.
5 I have no further questions, unless
6 Ms. Free, you had something you wanted to say on this.
7 MS. FREE: Thank you, Commissioner Rendahl.
8 I missed part of Betty's question.
9 Sounds to me like she handled it well and we
10 will be sure that is included in the bench press
11 response, that it's clear.
12 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Thank you very much.
13 That's all I have.
14 JUDGE HOWARD: Did we have any further
15 questions for the bench for this panel?
16 COMMISSIONER DOUMIT: None here, Your Honor.
17 CHAIR DANNER: No, Your Honor.
18 JUDGE HOWARD: I would like to thank the
19 witnesses for their testimony. You may turn off your
20 cameras.
21 Our next panel is the Tacoma LNG settlement
22 panel. I think before we jump to that panel, let's take
23 a brief break and we will return at 2:10 p.m.
24 That's 2:10 p.m.
25 Mr. Thomas?

Page 409

1 MR. THOMAS: Thank you, Your Honor.
2 Just very briefly. Had a quick housekeeping
3 matter to put on the record. Probably makes the most
4 sense to do it without the Commissioners on the line,
5 but -- it should be quickly addressed and it can
6 wait until later -- if you want to take it up at an
7 appropriate time.
8 JUDGE HOWARD: Mr. Hansen, you should mute
9 your line so we don't hear your conversation.
10 Sorry, Mr. Thomas.
11 Are you fine with when we come back on after
12 the break and we'll address your logistical issue?
13 MR. THOMAS: Yes. And it needn't be when we
14 come back from the break, just before the end of the
15 day. I just wanted to raise it with Your Honor now and
16 leave it to Your Honor to determine what would be the
17 most appropriate time would be to take it up. But it
18 need not occur before the Tacoma LNG panel.
19 JUDGE HOWARD: Okay. We'll address it then.
20 Ms. Carson?
21 MS. CARSON: Yes, I just wanted to -- before
22 Mr. Koch leaves, there were other cross-exam exhibits
23 that were not used, and I just want to confirm that none
24 of those will be admitted into the record.
25 JUDGE HOWARD: Yes, I have it as -- for the

Page 410

1 CENSE cross exhibits, JBN-9X was admitted and then
2 DRK-29X through DRK-35X were either explicitly rejected
3 by me, as in the case of DRK-35X, or they were not
4 offered into evidence as in the case of the other ones.
5 MS. CARSON: Thank you.
6 JUDGE HOWARD: All right. So let's --
7 actually, since we had a bit of conversation there, we
8 will return at 2:12 p.m. We are off the record.
9 (A break was taken from
10 2:02 p.m. to 2:12 p.m.)
11 JUDGE HOWARD: Let's be back on the record.
12 The time is 2:13 p.m.
13 We are about to start the Tacoma LNG panel.
14 Before we do, Mr. Thomas, you referred to an
15 administrative matter. I know you said that it does not
16 have to be addressed right now, but I would prefer to
17 just address it now.
18 MR. THOMAS: Okay. Yes, Your Honor. Just
19 very briefly it -- it relates to the Tribe's objection
20 earlier this morning. We understand that Exhibit RJR-31
21 is in.
22 Typically, in this circumstance, what --
23 what would happen is that the -- the Tribe -- given that
24 this involves testimony, the Tribe would be given the
25 opportunity to counter-designate some testimony from

Page 411

1 Dr. Libicki, who is the person who's testimony is in
2 RJR-31.
3 In the interest of keeping post-hearing
4 submissions clean and to a minimum, I looked at what the
5 Tribe would be interested in counter-designating. And
6 the Tribe would request it have the ability -- it would
7 probably be only five to ten pages of counter-designated
8 testimony.
9 And so the Tribe just wanted to offer to
10 keep the Commission from receiving a bunch of additional
11 testimony, that the Tribe just be given the opportunity
12 to counter-designate those portions of Dr. Libicki's
13 testimony just to address the basis of its objection.
14 JUDGE HOWARD: So the -- the -- PSE has
15 offered and agreed to file the -- the entirety of this
16 particular proceedings testimony for this expert.
17 Are you -- is your counter-designation
18 within what they are going to file?
19 MR. THOMAS: It is. It would be within but
20 also in lieu of that, because submitting everything from
21 this witness would raise some pretty serious ER 403
22 concerns. A lot of it's not going to be relevant to
23 these proceedings. And so PSE has already submitted
24 what it views as being relevant. The Tribe has
25 identified about five to ten pages of counter-designated

Page 412

1 testimony that it thinks would be relevant, and that
2 would save the Commission from the potential for
3 confusion and the need to wade through a lot of extra
4 testimony that doesn't relate to these issues.
5 JUDGE HOWARD: Well, in the -- and just to
6 be clear, you're -- we're talking about the -- the same
7 testimony from the same expert in this proceeding that
8 PSE wishes to submit the entirety of.
9 I am inclined at this time to stick with
10 our -- my original ruling of asking the company to file
11 the entirety of that witness' testimony in, I believe it
12 was a seven-day period of time.
13 The Tribe -- I would suggest that the Tribe,
14 within seven days, if the Tribe wishes, can submit a
15 letter identifying and explaining those portions in the
16 testimony. I would ask that the letter be under 30
17 pages in length, because it shouldn't have to quote
18 everything.
19 Hopefully that addresses the Tribe's
20 concern. I'm not especially troubled in terms of a 403
21 issue or things along those lines. We don't have a
22 jury. We sort through large amounts of information
23 already. And -- and the Tribe's pre-filed testimony
24 does include testimony in other form.
25 All right. With that, we will now call the

Page 413

1 witnesses on the Tacoma LNG settlement panel.
2 As before, let's have the witnesses identify
3 themselves and the party that they are appearing for,
4 beginning with the witnesses for PSE.
5 Let's also have witnesses turn on their
6 cameras, if they have not already. I will swear you in
7 as a panel. Actually, for this panel, all the witnesses
8 are repeat appearances from earlier today, with the
9 exception of Ronald Roberts. So I will only be swearing
10 in Mr. Roberts.
11 Could the company witnesses identify
12 themselves for the record?
13 MS. FREE: This is Susan Free for PSE.
14 MR. ROBERTS: Ron Roberts, Vice President of
15 Energy Supply for PSE.
16 MR. PILIARIS: And Jon Piliaris again for
17 PSE.
18 JUDGE HOWARD: Thank you.
19 Can we hear from Staff's witnesses?
20 MS. ERDAHL: This is Betty Erdahl from
21 Staff.
22 JUDGE HOWARD: Thank you.
23 And Nucor?
24 MR. HIGGINS: Kevin Higgins, witness for
25 Nucor Steel.

Page 414

1 JUDGE HOWARD: And Walmart.
2 MR. KRONAUER: This is Alex Kronauer for
3 Walmart.
4 JUDGE HOWARD: Thank you. And AWEC.
5 MR. MULLINS: Brad Mullins with AWEC.
6 JUDGE HOWARD: Thank you.
7 All right. Mr. Roberts, would you please
8 raise your right hand?
9 Do you swear and affirm that the testimony
10 you'll give today will be the truth, the whole truth,
11 and nothing but the truth?
12 MR. ROBERTS: Yes.
13 JUDGE HOWARD: All right. Thank you.
14 All right. Public Counsel indicated that it
15 had 15 minutes of cross-examination time. The Puyallup
16 Tribe indicated 30 minutes.
17 Have the parties discussed who would proceed
18 first?
19 MS. GAFKEN: Your Honor, we have not
20 discussed that but I think I can shortcut this pretty --
21 pretty quickly.
22 So Public Counsel had three cross exhibits
23 directed to Mr. Bieber for Kroger and Mr. Higgins for
24 Nucor and Mr. Kronauer for Walmart. And those three
25 exhibits have been stipulated into the record. So I can

Page 415

1 waive my cross at this time and concede my time to the
2 Tribe.
3 JUDGE HOWARD: Okay. Thank you.
4 Well, who will be conducting the cross for
5 the Puyallup Tribe of PSE's witness Roberts?
6 MR. FULLER: Andrew Fuller. Myself, Your
7 Honor, and I don't anticipate that we will be using our
8 entire 30 minutes, so we should be getting through this
9 relatively quickly.
10 C R O S S - E X A M I N A T I O N
11 BY MR. FULLER:
12 **Q. Hello, Mr. Roberts. I'll start with just a few**
13 **questions about your background.**
14 **The documents you submitted with your testimony**
15 **indicate that you graduated from the Colorado School of**
16 **Mines with a Bachelor of Science in mining engineer and**
17 **a minor in economics; is that correct?**
18 A. That is correct.
19 **Q. Okay. I took a look at the website for the**
20 **undergraduate -- mining engineering program at the**
21 **Colorado School of Mines, and that website stated that**
22 **the mining engineering students study the principles and**
23 **techniques of mineral exploration and underground and**
24 **surface mining operations as well as mineral processing**
25 **technologies.**

Page 416

1 **Is that a fair description of the program that**
2 **you completed there?**
3 A. It's fair but not complete.
4 **Q. I understand.**
5 **Can you describe what specialized education or**
6 **expertise you have regarding air dispersion modeling?**
7 A. Yes. Early in my career, when I worked for
8 Mobil Oil, I was an environmental engineer and I was
9 responsible for air compliance at a large surface mine
10 that had a lot of emissions with it. Therefore, I'm
11 fairly familiar with air dispersion modeling and what
12 goes into it.
13 Later in my career, I was the Associate Vice
14 President of Environmental Health & Safety for a
15 chemical company in Houston which also dealt with a lot
16 of air toxics, air emissions.
17 **Q. Thank you, Mr. Roberts.**
18 **And do you hold any advanced degrees?**
19 A. No.
20 **Q. Based on your education and your expertise, if I**
21 **was to ask you whether a molecule of benzene emitted**
22 **from Tacoma LNG would remain in the air or whether it**
23 **would be deposited on the ground, would you be able to**
24 **answer that question?**
25 A. No, I would not.

Page 417

1 **Q. Okay. And if I asked you the same question**
2 **regarding a molecule of formaldehyde released from**
3 **Tacoma LNG, would you be able to answer that question?**
4 A. No.
5 **Q. Okay. So is it correct to say that if I asked**
6 **the same question about any of the carcinogens that are**
7 **known to be emitted from Tacoma LNG you would be unable**
8 **to answer that question?**
9 MS. CARSON: Object to the question.
10 Assumes facts not in evidence.
11 JUDGE HOWARD: I'm going to allow the
12 question.
13 MR. ROBERTS: Can you repeat the question
14 one more time for me, please?
15 BY MR. FULLER:
16 **Q. Yeah, no problem.**
17 **I'm just wondering if I ask that same question**
18 **about any of the carcinogens that are known to be**
19 **emitted from Tacoma LNG, would you be able to -- based**
20 **on your education and expertise, be able to tell me**
21 **whether that molecule would remain in the air or be**
22 **deposited on the ground?**
23 A. Personally, I would not be able to.
24 **Q. Okay. Thank you.**
25 **You didn't participate in the PCH proceedings**

Page 418

1 **under Docket P-19087 that were related to the challenge**
2 **of the air permit for Tacoma LNG?**
3 A. I was not an active participant in that, but I
4 was engaged and involved in it.
5 **Q. Thank you.**
6 **In your role as Vice President of Energy Supply**
7 **at PSE, where you were responsible for oversight of**
8 **Puget LNG, do you -- as part of the role of your job to**
9 **generally be aware of and stay abreast of information**
10 **regarding incidents and accidents related to natural gas**
11 **and LNG facilities?**
12 **(Off-record discussion.)**
13 JUDGE HOWARD: Yes. Mr. Fuller, would you
14 mind repeating your question?
15 MS. GAFKEN: This is Lisa Gafken.
16 I think Stephanie had to step away from
17 her desk for a few minutes, so if maybe Mr. Smith could
18 mute her for her on your end, that would be great.
19 JUDGE HOWARD: He can. I know we have a
20 number of people listening.
21 Mr. Fuller, you may proceed. You may need
22 to repeat your question.
23 BY MR. FULLER:
24 **Q. No problem.**
25 **Mr. Roberts, in your role as vice president at**

Page 419

1 **PSE -- Vice President of Energy Supply at PSE, I**
2 **recognize that you're responsible for oversight of Puget**
3 **LNG.**
4 **I'm just wondering, do you generally, as part of**
5 **your role at PSE, stay aware of and abreast of**
6 **information regarding incidents and accidents that are**
7 **related to natural gas facilities and LNG facilities?**
8 A. Yes, it is part of my responsibility.
9 **Q. And you're aware of the LNG leak in the**
10 **subsequent explosion that occurred in 2014 at the**
11 **Plymouth LNG peak shaving plant that was located in**
12 **Kennewick, Washington?**
13 A. I'm aware of the incident but not of the details
14 surrounding what the actual cause was.
15 **Q. Okay. Are you aware that the explosion that**
16 **occurred in that incident threw 250 pound pieces of**
17 **steel up to 300 yards?**
18 A. I did read that.
19 **Q. Okay. Thank you.**
20 **And beyond the Plymouth LNG peak shaving plant**
21 **here in Washington, there have been significant**
22 **accidents that have occurred at other LNG facilities**
23 **around the U.S. as well as outside of the U.S.; correct?**
24 A. I don't have knowledge of any of the significant
25 ones beyond Plymouth.

Page 420

1 **Q. Did you review the testimony in this matter that**
2 **was submitted by Dr. Ranajit Sahu on July 28th, 2022?**
3 **That was Exhibit RXS-1T.**
4 A. Yes.
5 **Q. Okay. And you also reviewed Dr. Sahu's**
6 **September 9th, 2020, testimony which was designated**
7 **RXS-30T?**
8 A. Yes.
9 **Q. Okay. Thank you.**
10 **Are you aware that recently, just in June 2022,**
11 **an accident occurred at the Freeport LNG facility in**
12 **Texas that caused a large explosion?**
13 A. I'm not aware of the circumstances around that.
14 **Q. Okay. Are you aware that an accident occurred**
15 **in June 2022 at that facility, Freeport LNG?**
16 A. Yes.
17 **Q. Okay. In your August 26th, 2022 testimony, you**
18 **testified that, quote: "There is no significant**
19 **difference between the gas quality needed for TOTE's**
20 **engines and the gas quality needed for use by PSE's**
21 **retail gas customers"; is that correct?**
22 A. That is a true statement. Both of our customers
23 rely on the same quality of gas.
24 **Q. Okay. And the LNG fuel supply agreement between**
25 **PSE and TOTE contains specifications regarding the**

Page 421

1 **quality of the LNG that PSE sells to TOTE; is that**
2 **correct?**
3 A. It does have a quality requirement, yes.
4 **Q. And the LNG specifications that are set forth in**
5 **that PSE/TOTE contract require that the LNG that PSE**
6 **provides to TOTE must have a minimum methane number of**
7 **80; correct?**
8 A. That is correct.
9 **Q. Okay. And also in your August 26th, 2022**
10 **testimony you testified that, quote: "If left**
11 **untreated, CO2 and H2O in the feed gas would freeze**
12 **during the liquefaction process. Therefore,**
13 **pretreatment is necessary to remove these molecules to**
14 **avoid riming" -- if I pronounced that wrong, I'm**
15 **sorry -- "of the platefin heat exchangers. After**
16 **pretreatment, but prior to liquefaction of the natural**
17 **gas, heavy hydrocarbons that may freeze at the cryogenic**
18 **temperatures encountered downstream would be removed by**
19 **partial refrigeration."**
20 **Is that a correct representation of your**
21 **testimony?**
22 A. That is a correct representation and that
23 actually impacts all of PSE's customers. It's just not
24 a liquefaction issue at the LNG site; that's something
25 that's being worked on in Canada. It has to do with the

Page 422

1 elevated levels of ethane and methane in the gas coming
2 from Canada.
3 **Q. Thank you.**
4 **So I'll just repeat the last sentence of that**
5 **testimony, which was a quote. You stated that "After**
6 **pretreatment, but prior to liquefaction of the**
7 **natural gas, heavy hydrocarbons that may freeze at the**
8 **cryogenic temperatures encountered downstream would be**
9 **removed by partial refrigeration."**
10 **So based on that testimony, the removal of heavy**
11 **hydrocarbons prior to liquefaction that follows**
12 **pretreatment; therefore, that removal of heavy**
13 **hydrocarbons is not part of the pretreatment process?**
14 **Is that properly -- is that correct?**
15 A. I would consider it part of the pretreatment
16 because to me pretreatment is treating the gas before
17 liquefaction.
18 So there's actually two stages of pretreatment.
19 There's the removal of water in the initial phase and
20 then the removal of the heavies before it hits the
21 liquefaction.
22 **Q. Okay. So that -- that second piece of what**
23 **you've described as pretreatment, the removal of the**
24 **heavies.**
25 **The point of the additional design features at**

Page 423

1 **Tacoma LNG that were required to removal of those heavy**
2 **hydrocarbons from the feed gas prior to the**
3 **liquefaction, that removal of those heavy hydrocarbons**
4 **is done to meet the TOTE methane fuel requirement; is**
5 **that correct?**
6 A. No. It is partially to satisfy the liquefaction
7 phase in the fact those particles will freeze before
8 methane will.
9 Second of all, that does apply to all of our
10 customers. High levels of ethane or propane in our
11 natural gas supply are not good for our customers
12 either, not just TOTE.
13 **Q. Mr. -- Mr. Roberts, if the Tacoma LNG facility**
14 **produced LNG with a methane number of 78 that LNG would**
15 **be of suitable quality to be vaporized and injected**
16 **into PSE's distribution system for rate payer use;**
17 **correct?**
18 A. It could be. But we start ending up on problems
19 on the lower end of methane quantity as well in our
20 system. It's a balanced system that needs to be there.
21 Gas quality from Canada has changed over the
22 last couple of years. It has more heavies in it. The
23 facility was not designed for that level of heavies
24 originally, so there was some modifications done to it
25 to change that.

Page 424

1 **Q. Okay. And there is -- it is my understanding**
2 **that there's no minimum methane number requirement for**
3 **LNG that is to be vaporized at the Tacoma LNG facility**
4 **before it is returned to the PSE distribution system for**
5 **rate payer use during peak shaving.**
6 **Am I correct that there is no minimum methane**
7 **number requirement for PSE ratepayers?**
8 A. There's no standard that says it's a minimum
9 quantity. However, diminished methane certainly does
10 impact our customers. They don't get the same heat load
11 out of it. Some cases would be very harmful to other
12 equipment that's in the system, end users' equipment.
13 **Q. And when heavies are removed from the feed gas**
14 **prior to liquefaction, does that remove any of the**
15 **heating energy from the feed gas?**
16 A. Too much heat is also a problem.
17 **Q. Sorry. You broke up for a second for me.**
18 **Did you say "yes"?**
19 A. Yes. Too much heat is also an issue in the gas
20 system.
21 **Q. Okay. But -- but the feed gas that is received**
22 **from -- at Tacoma LNG, if it was not to be turned into**
23 **LNG, if it was to remain gas, it would be suitable to**
24 **be -- to be fed into the ratepayers distribution system**
25 **without any modification or reduction of the heating**

Page 425

1 value; correct?
2 A. That is true.
3 **Q. And TOTE is the only Tacoma LNG customer that**
4 **has a methane number requirement for the LNG that's**
5 **purchased from Tacoma LNG; is that correct?**
6 A. They are our only customer at this point.
7 **Q. And because the TOTE methane number requirement**
8 **in the contract between TOTE and PSE requires that PSE**
9 **provide LNG with a methane number of 80 and above, PSE**
10 **would not have constructed the Tacoma LNG facility if**
11 **the facility was -- was not able to produce LNG with a**
12 **minimum methane number of 80; correct?**
13 A. Can you rephrase that? I'm not quite sure what
14 you're asking.
15 **Q. Sorry. That was a little clumsy.**
16 **PSE would not have constructed the LNG facility**
17 **if the facility was unable to produce LNG with a methane**
18 **number of 80 or above; correct?**
19 A. When the facility was originally designed, it
20 met 80 easily. Changes in the gas system from Canada
21 over the last couple of years have changed that, so
22 there were some modifications done to the pretreatment.
23 **Q. Mr. Roberts, I don't think you are answering my**
24 **question.**
25 **My question is would PSE -- PSE would not have**

Page 426

1 **constructed the Tacoma LNG facility if it was unable to**
2 **produce LNG with a methane number of 80 to meet TOTE's**
3 **needs; is that correct?**
4 A. If we were absolutely unable to meet that
5 number, I would say this is correct. But we are able to
6 meet that number.
7 **Q. Okay. Thank you, Mr. Roberts. I have no**
8 **further questions.**
9 JUDGE HOWARD: Do we have any redirect for
10 Mr. Roberts?
11 MS. CARSON: No. No redirect.
12 JUDGE HOWARD: All right. I believe that's
13 all the cross we had indicated for this panel.
14 Do we have any questions from the bench for
15 the Tacoma LNG panel?
16 COMMISSIONER DOUMIT: Yes, Your Honor. If I
17 might, please.
18 JUDGE HOWARD: Go ahead.
19 COMMISSIONER DOUMIT: In Mr. Roberts's
20 direct testimony -- and that's at RJR-1CT at page 69,
21 lines 10 through 14. He testified that the construction
22 of the Tacoma LNG facility is complete but that the
23 plant equipment at that time, such as the vaporizer, may
24 not be commissioned until January subsequent to his
25 testimony.

Page 427

1 Can you clarify for the record, Mr. Roberts,
2 whether the Tacoma LNG facility is fully commissioned at
3 this time, used and useful to regulating gas customers?
4 MR. ROBERTS: Yes, sir, it is. We did test
5 the vaporizer. All of the rest of the systems are up,
6 functional. We've been producing LNG. We've
7 transported LNG to the Gig Harbor satellite facility.
8 So yes, the facility is up and available.
9 COMMISSIONER DOUMIT: Thank you.
10 Can you please clarify for the record
11 whether PSE has, to date, used the Tacoma LNG as a peak
12 shaving resource for core gas customers?
13 MR. ROBERTS: No, Commissioner, we have not.
14 Because it has not been cold enough yet to warrant that.
15 However, we are building inventory in a tank for
16 that hopefully not too severe event, but you never know.
17 COMMISSIONER DOUMIT: And on the tank, you
18 testified -- and this is your testimony RJR-30T at page
19 35, lines 15 through 19, testified that the LNG
20 facility's vaporizer may only be operated for 240 hours
21 a year. That's your limit. But that limit does not
22 compromise the ability to use the full 6.3 million
23 gallons of LNG storage that doesn't -- allocated to the
24 PSE as regulating core gas customers.
25 Can you please explain how the full

Page 428

1 6.3 million gallons of LNG stored -- storage allocated
2 PSE's prudent investment for PSE core gas customers,
3 particularly when any LNG must be first vaporized before
4 it is injected into the distribution system.
5 MR. ROBERTS: Can you phrase that one more
6 time?
7 COMMISSIONER DOUMIT: Yeah.
8 MR. ROBERTS: So I can answer your question.
9 COMMISSIONER DOUMIT: Sorry. That was a
10 mouth full.
11 Is the tank larger than it needs to be in
12 terms of prudence?
13 MR. ROBERTS: No. The tank is designed
14 around two to three days of vaporization two times per
15 year. And in that period of time, we would utilize all
16 of that capacity in the tank. It's easy to sit back and
17 look at, well, you could just refill it as soon as you
18 vaporized off your share, but with us having gas
19 constraints originally coming in, it would take us up to
20 120 days to refill that capacity. So we would be out of
21 the heating season by the time we would refill it.
22 So I think that when I look at it, you know,
23 two events, two to three days long of significant cold
24 temperatures, size of the tank is adequate and
25 warranted.

Page 429

1 COMMISSIONER DOUMIT: And did you evaluate
2 whether a smaller LNG facility would have been -- would
3 have served the ratepayers peak shaving needs?
4 MR. ROBERTS: We looked at a variety of
5 design options, and that's really the optimal that we
6 could come to that provided enough for the peak shaving.
7 For our customers, as you said, 6 million
8 out of 8 is designated for the customers. The other two
9 is left for the Puget LNG side on the transportation
10 fuel.
11 COMMISSIONER DOUMIT: Okay. And this is for
12 the settling parties. Maybe you, Mr. Roberts. Maybe
13 you, Mr. Piliaris.
14 The LNG settlement -- this is at paragraph
15 18(A)(4), provides that PSE may recover distribution
16 costs and base rates. The settlement doesn't allocate
17 any percentage of distribution costs to Puget LNG.
18 Can the settling parties please explain how
19 allocating 100 percent of these distribution costs to
20 core gas customers is consistent with the principle of
21 cost causation?
22 And I say that in the context of the
23 distribution lines, for example. Gas flows both ways.
24 It appears from the record that the vast bulk of the
25 liquefaction will be for the Puget LNG facility.

Page 430

1 So can you answer the question, please?
2 MR. PILIARIS: Yes, I can take this. Jon
3 Piliaris.
4 The -- so I want to start, first, that Puget
5 LNG will be contributing towards distribution costs that
6 were incurred to support the LNG facility.
7 I think of Puget LNG no different than any
8 other large industrial load on our system. When we have
9 a new large -- let's just assume that Puget LNG was BP
10 LNG and they hooked up onto our system and we needed to
11 do distribution upgrades.
12 What we would normally go through in that
13 case is essentially a line extension analysis. And we
14 would say, all right, these are the revenues that we
15 would collect through our tariff distribution rates from
16 this customer and these are the costs associated with
17 upgrading the system to meet that load.
18 And this is exactly what we did in the
19 analysis for Puget LNG. And so long as the revenues
20 cover the costs, the customer doesn't have to pay. To
21 the extent that -- that it doesn't, they have to front a
22 contribution to pay for the delta, to pay for the
23 difference.
24 So the short response to that is the -- the
25 Puget LNG will continue -- will pay for these facilities

Page 431

1 through their schedule 87 T rates that they will pay for
2 the -- for the delivery of the gas to the -- to the
3 project.
4 COMMISSIONER DOUMIT: Let me follow-up,
5 Mr. Piliaris, if I might.
6 Does that -- does that benefit the PSE
7 customers, then? And can you explain how that is?
8 MR. PILIARIS: As with any other large
9 customer that hooks up to the system, when you bring on
10 a large new load, it tends to -- you have more volume --
11 volumetric revenue covering fixed cost.
12 So by and large, yes, customers -- non-Puget
13 LNG customers benefit by the presence of the Puget LNG
14 load because it is contributing revenue towards the
15 fixed costs used to serve them.
16 And I would also note that it goes beyond
17 just the distribution upgrades. They are paying for a
18 share of the entire distribution system in addition to
19 the upgrades. So it's all socialized as with any
20 other -- any other large distribution customer load.
21 COMMISSIONER DOUMIT: Okay. Switch gears
22 for a minute.
23 Do the settling parties believe that the
24 Tacoma LNG settlement appropriately considers and
25 addresses equity?

Page 432

1 MR. MULLINS: I guess I can jump in. This
2 is Brad with AWEC.
3 And, you know, our thinking of the
4 settlement agreements is, you know, looking at all of
5 them together in whole and so we weren't -- when we were
6 looking at the Tacoma settlement, we weren't necessarily
7 focusing on equity within that settlement, because the
8 equity provisions were contained in the -- more in
9 the -- you know, revenue requirement part of the
10 settlement -- or the revenue requirement settlement
11 agreement.
12 And, you know, I guess splitting --
13 splitting up the settlement agreements, I think, was a
14 convenient way for parties to -- that did disagree with
15 the -- the Tacoma LNG facility to be able to contest
16 that, while still agreeing or staying neutral on other
17 parts of -- on the other stipulations.
18 So I think looking at them holistically is
19 the -- you know, sort of proper way to do it, at least
20 from our perspective.
21 MR. PILIARIS: I'll start for the
22 company and I've asked my colleague Mr. Roberts, to
23 weigh in. But, of course, you know, from the standpoint
24 of prudence, clearly the Commission's long-standing
25 guidance is to evaluate prudence at the time a decision

Page 433

1 was made to go forward with the project, which was back
2 in the 2016 to 2018 time -- time frame. And at that
3 point, while equity was beginning to be discussed in
4 various places, it certainly wasn't to the extent it is
5 now in statute through CETA and more recently through
6 Senate Bill 5295.

7 And so I think it would be technically
8 improper to apply current standard -- legal standard to
9 the decisions that were made at that time.

10 Now, that being said, the project does have
11 benefits to customers in the area, many of whom are
12 disadvantaged and highly impacted, particularly with the
13 reduction of the constituents to the air toxins in the
14 region. And I invite Mr. Roberts to elaborate on that.

15 MR. ROBERTS: Yeah. Thanks, John. Ron
16 Roberts.

17 I think one of the things that we point out
18 about this project is it was really designed to go after
19 certainly criteria pollutants, which are SOCs/NOX
20 particulates, all of those things have a dramatic health
21 impact on the immediate residents and the Port of
22 Tacoma's workers who actually work there by removing
23 diesel as a fuel source.

24 In addition, it does have the side benefit
25 of decreasing greenhouse gases. So when you look at

Page 434

1 this project, although that wasn't part of the
2 decision-making in 2016 to 2018 when this project
3 was moved forward, it certainly has the components of
4 equity into it.

5 I think every environmental agency that's
6 been involved in the permitting has recognized that this
7 facility has environmental benefits. The EIS that the
8 City of Tacoma did is a great example. It runs through
9 many components that would be found in an equity kind of
10 a look. Air quality, water quality, fish habitat, water
11 issues, cleanup of an existing Brownfield site, you can
12 go through most of what's in an EIS, including
13 socioeconomic impacts.

14 A lot of the information contained in the
15 EIS that the City of Tacoma did would back that up as
16 well as being a very solid project on that front.

17 COMMISSIONER DOUMIT: So okay.

18 And in the timeline -- sort of continuing
19 when equity was introduced into the equation, if we say
20 that it's, you know, now on a multiyear rate plan case,
21 looking at equities sort of going forward, what does
22 that look like to you?

23 MR. PILIARIS: I guess I would lead with
24 what Mr. Roberts just concluded with, which was the
25 significant health benefits that -- that accrue.

Page 435

1 And then I would go back to the earlier
2 colloquy between ourselves around the spreading of -- of
3 additional revenue across fixed costs. It has a
4 beneficial rate impact to all customers, including those
5 who are less economically advantaged.

6 MR. ROBERTS: I would add one more component
7 onto that, if I may. Ron Roberts.

8 I would add in reliability. This project on
9 the regulated side, it's been in our integrated resource
10 plans for many years that this was the -- the least
11 cost -- lowest reasonable cost alternative to meet a
12 design day requirement, which is for a very, very cold
13 day.

14 We had this obligation to serve our
15 customers both gas and electric. And I look at it as
16 one of my prime responsibilities to make sure we can do
17 that.

18 Because on a very cold day, I don't want to
19 have anybody's gas go off. Because that immediately
20 presents all kinds of safety issues, as well as -- as
21 impacts to communities far and wide of all sizes.

22 COMMISSIONER DOUMIT: Okay. Thank you.
23 This may be to counsel -- settling party's
24 counsel.

25 The settlement provides that the settling

Page 436

1 parties accept a determination that PSE's decision to
2 build the facility was prudent, and that's at paragraph
3 18(B). The settling parties agree that PSE may recover
4 the cost of the facility on a provisional basis subject
5 to later review.

6 If the Commission accepts this settlement,
7 do the settling parties object to the Commission
8 delaying a prudency determination until a later
9 proceeding, such as the company's 2023 purchased gas
10 adjustment filing when the plant is in service for core
11 gas customers?

12 JUDGE HOWARD: Commissioner Doumit, I hate
13 to jump in. But I might suggest we save those questions
14 for after we conclude with calling witnesses. And we --
15 and time permitting, we have closing arguments from
16 counsel. And that would be, I think, the ideal time to
17 pose that.

18 Does that sound good to you?

19 COMMISSIONER DOUMIT: That's perfectly
20 reasonably. Thank you, Your Honor.

21 JUDGE HOWARD: Okay.

22 MS. CARSON: Can I take a stab at addressing
23 it, that question? Not from a legal standpoint.

24 Basically, Tacoma LNG costs will go into a
25 tracker. And that will be aligned with the 2023 PGA

Page 437	Page 439
<p>1 filing, as you mentioned, which would be effective 2 November 1, 2023. The prudence review wouldn't be until 3 the end of that year when the true-up is happening for 4 the following year. 5 So at that point the opportunity is there to 6 challenge costs by any of the parties and the prudence 7 of the costs. 8 COMMISSIONER DOUMIT: Thank you. 9 No further questions at this time. I'll 10 wait until we have a chance to address counsel. 11 Thanks, Your Honor. 12 JUDGE HOWARD: All right. Thank you. 13 Do we have any further questions from the 14 bench? 15 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: This is Commissioner 16 Rendahl and I had deferred some questions about the 17 calculations of what is in -- what is included in the 18 revenue requirement for LNG. And I think I was 19 discussing this with witness Susan Free. 20 And the question has to do with what is in 21 the revenue requirement for the LNG plant as opposed to 22 what is in the tracker? 23 And -- so I guess maybe the question is -- 24 is this something that would be included in the response 25 to the bench request, the workpapers, or is this</p>	<p>1 the revenue requirement settlement. So that is 2 specifically for the LNG plant. 3 Is that something that the company can 4 include in the workpapers and the bench request? 5 MS. FREE: Yes, that is something we can 6 include. 7 I will just clarify -- you covered it, but 8 I'll just clarify, the distribution plant is in the main 9 settlement. The LNG facility costs are in the -- will 10 be in the tracker. And we will provide FERC accounts 11 for each of those. 12 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Yes. Okay. Thank 13 you. 14 So we will provide this in -- in the written 15 request, but I just wanted to let you know what we would 16 be requesting. 17 MS. FREE: I appreciate that additional 18 clarity. Thank you. 19 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Okay. Thank you very 20 much. That's all I have, Your Honor. 21 JUDGE HOWARD: All right. Thank you. 22 Any further bench questions for this panel? 23 CHAIR DANNER: I have none. Thank you. 24 COMMISSIONER DOUMIT: No, Your Honor. 25 JUDGE HOWARD: All right. Hearing none. I</p>
Page 438	Page 440
<p>1 something that I should be asking separately? 2 MS. FREE: So this is Susan Free for PSE. 3 Page 6 of the LNG settlement provides a table of the 4 amount of revenue requirement that was removed from the 5 main settlement, as well as an estimate of what will be 6 put into the tracker in November of 2023. 7 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Okay. And are the 8 mechanics of this beyond what's in this table, will that 9 be included in the workpapers? 10 MS. FREE: The workpapers have support -- 11 there are supporting workpapers that support this table. 12 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Okay. And will the 13 supporting workpapers identify which FERC accounts in 14 which the company would classify the plants, 15 different aspects of the plants? 16 MS. FREE: Yes. I do believe they do as 17 they are currently put together. If not, we will ensure 18 that we do. By the time we file the bench request. 19 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Then I would -- this 20 may be a supplemental bench request, and I will 21 obviously include this in writing. But I would like to 22 have PSE, when it provides the workpapers, identify by 23 FERC account all plant that will be included in the 24 tracker, all distribution plants that is included in the 25 tracker, and all distribution plants that is included in</p>	<p>1 would like to thank the witnesses for their testimony. 2 You may turn off your cameras. 3 If you have not -- I assume PSE will keep 4 their camera on because they are in one room. 5 We'll now turn to the individual witnesses. 6 No party indicated any cross for Public 7 Counsel witnesses Shay Bauman and Stephanie Chase, 8 Andrea Crane, Robert Earle, David Garrett, Glenn 9 Watkins, or J. Randall Woolridge. 10 Do we have any question from the bench for 11 Public Counsel's witnesses? 12 Hearing none. 13 No party indicated cross for the Puyallup 14 Tribe's witnesses, Dr. Ranajit Sahu -- and I apologize 15 if I'm not saying that correctly -- or Gary Saleba. 16 Do we have any questions from the bench for 17 these witnesses? 18 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: No. 19 JUDGE HOWARD: All right. Hearing none. 20 Lastly, no party indicated cross for CENSE's 21 witnesses, Norm Hansen and Richard Lauckhart. 22 Do we have any questions from the bench for 23 these witnesses? 24 COMMISSIONER DOUMIT: No, Your Honor. 25 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: No, Your Honor.</p>

Page 441

1 JUDGE HOWARD: Okay. It appears we do not
2 have any further questions.
3 So now we would turn to closing arguments.
4 It is 2:55 p.m. As I explained, we are
5 going to allow the parties an opportunity to provide
6 oral closing arguments today. It does appear that we
7 have time for this.
8 I ask the settling parties to limit
9 themselves to one joint closing argument for each of the
10 three settlements and to limit each closing to ten
11 minutes this.
12 This means we would have -- the settling
13 parties -- at their option, could provide an oral
14 closing in support of each of the three multi-party
15 settlements and they would be 10 minutes total.
16 Before I go further, Mr. Thomas, I see you
17 have your hand back up.
18 MR. THOMAS: Yes. Thank you, Your Honor.
19 Just very briefly, I was wondering if it would be okay
20 with Your Honor if Dr. Sahu and Mr. Saleba were excuse
21 at this time?
22 JUDGE HOWARD: Yes.
23 MR. THOMAS: Thank you.
24 CHAIR DANNER: And, Your Honor, if I may.
25 Would it be possible for us to take a

Page 442

1 five-minute break and come back here at three o'clock?
2 JUDGE HOWARD: Certainly. Let's take a
3 five-minute break and return at three. We are off the
4 record. And we'll resume with closings after the break.
5 (A break was taken from
6 2:57 p.m. To 3:01 p.m.)
7 JUDGE HOWARD: Let's be back on the record.
8 The time is 3:02 p.m.
9 As I was saying, we will allow the
10 parties -- the settling parties, we join each of the
11 three settlements to provide a joint closing statement.
12 That could mean we have up to three closing -- oral
13 closing arguments in support of each of the three
14 settlements. And then I will allow each of the parties
15 in opposition to the settlements, which will be Public
16 Counsel, the Puyallup Tribe, CENSE, and The Energy
17 Project on certain issues, to provide any oral closing
18 argument they would like. Also -- also requesting that
19 those are limited to ten minutes each.
20 So would -- have the settling parties
21 discussed who would go first or how they would like to
22 present?
23 Ms. Gafken?
24 MS. GAFKEN: I have a question more than
25 anything else.

Page 443

1 In terms of offering these statements about
2 the settlements, are we talking about each one
3 separately; so 10 minutes for the Green Direct
4 settlement, 10 minutes for the LNG settlement, and ten
5 minutes for the revenue requirement settlement?
6 I'm asking because Public Counsel is a party
7 to the Green Direct settlement but not the other two.
8 And then we have different positions on each one of
9 those. And so I'm wondering what's is the universe of
10 the ten minutes.
11 JUDGE HOWARD: Yeah. That's a fair
12 question. I think if we -- if we were to do all this
13 very precisely, I'd have to make a chart.
14 I'm -- I'm picturing there would be three
15 joint oral closing arguments in -- one in support of
16 each of the three settlements. I recognize that Public
17 Counsel has joined one of them.
18 And then any party that has opposed any
19 aspect of the settlement can provide an oral closing
20 that I would request be limited to ten minutes, and they
21 can address any topics within their purview during their
22 ten minutes. Whether it's multiple settlements or what.
23 MS. GAFKEN: Okay. That's what I was
24 envisioning coming into the hearing. So thank you for
25 that clarification.

Page 444

1 MS. CARSON: And, Your Honor, I can provide
2 my understanding -- and others can correct me if I'm
3 wrong -- about how we were going to do the joint
4 statements.
5 I believe for the main revenue requirement
6 settlement there were four parties who were going to
7 speak. PSE on certain issues, revenue requirement and
8 Energize Eastside staff on equity, The Energy Project on
9 low income, and the joint environmental advocates on
10 decarbonization-related issues. And I'll stop. If I'm
11 wrong, others can correct me, but that was my
12 understanding.
13 JUDGE HOWARD: It does sound like that may
14 be the parties' understanding. I'm not hearing any
15 responses to that and would the total time for the
16 revenue requirement settlement be roughly ten minutes or
17 under -- under 15 or 20.
18 We could be here, theoretically, the entire
19 rest of the afternoon. And --
20 MS. CARSON: Yeah. It might exceed ten by a
21 little bit. So it might be 15 or so. I'm also happy to
22 say my understanding of Green Direct -- I know Public
23 Counsel wanted to speak on that. PSE can also speak to
24 that, and I'm not sure who else wants to speak to that.
25 Perhaps Ben, King County.

Page 445

1 MR. MAYER: Yes, that's correct. King
 2 County will speak briefly to the Green Direct settlement
 3 as well.
 4 MS. CARSON: And then my understanding on
 5 Tacoma LNG settlement was that AWEC, Sommer Moser would
 6 speak, I would speak, and I believe Staff is going to.
 7 Although, I'm not sure about that.
 8 MR. ROBERSON: Staff intends to offer some
 9 argument.
 10 JUDGE HOWARD: All right. Why don't we
 11 begin with the revenue requirement settlement. It
 12 sounds like the company would present first is what I'm
 13 implying -- inferring.
 14 So why don't we begin with that. We'll go
 15 through the statements in support of the revenue
 16 requirement summary, and we'll just try to do it in
 17 relatively short order.
 18 MS. CARSON: Great. Shall I proceed?
 19 JUDGE HOWARD: Please proceed.
 20 CLOSING STATEMENT BY MS. CARSON FOR PSE
 21 MS. CARSON: All right. Thank you.
 22 Thank you, Your Honor; thank you,
 23 Commissioners, for the opportunity to present our
 24 settlements here and these closing statements as well.
 25 As I said, we've divided up the issues,

Page 446

1 revenue requirement and Energize Eastside I will
 2 address, staff on equity, The Energy Project on low
 3 income issues, and Joint Environmental Advocates on
 4 decarbonization issues. But I want to make clear that
 5 all of these topics are important to PSE.
 6 The clean energy transformation,
 7 decarbonization, and incorporation of equitable
 8 principles into the public interest standard, these all
 9 make the landscape of the utility industry quite
 10 different than it was even a decade ago.
 11 If the State of Washington is to deliver on
 12 the aggressive clean energy policies, utilities like PSE
 13 that play a key role must be financially healthy. The
 14 agreed-upon revenue requirement and provision for timely
 15 updates to power cost rates helps to ensure that PSE has
 16 the financial health to provide safe and reliable
 17 service as we move deeper into the clean energy
 18 transformation.
 19 It is important to realize there are several
 20 customer safeguards built into the settlement and
 21 multiyear rate plan that PSE filed.
 22 First of all, there are enhanced financial
 23 assistance programs, there is the earning share
 24 mechanism, and plant is subject to refund if investments
 25 are not made as planned.

Page 447

1 PSE serves a wide swath of customers who
 2 have varying interests and concerns. But PSE recognizes
 3 that a segment of its customers live on fixed incomes
 4 and face difficult financial times coming out of the
 5 pandemic.
 6 At the same time, studies show that
 7 approximately 86 percent of PSE's customers are not
 8 energy burdened and many of these customers want PSE to
 9 move faster into clean energy, decarbonization, and
 10 improved reliability.
 11 PSE constantly works to balance these
 12 competing interests. But one thing is for sure, PSE
 13 will continue to work to provide for the energy security
 14 for its low income and vulnerable populations. The
 15 settlement will expand bill assistance channels and
 16 increase funding amounts for these customers in
 17 financial need.
 18 PSE has invested more than 2 billion in
 19 plant that already today is providing safe and reliable
 20 service to PSE customers, although PSE is not yet
 21 recovering end rates for this significant investment.
 22 And PSE will invest another 2 billion by the end of the
 23 rate plan.
 24 The settlement allows PSE to recover
 25 investments made and to be made over the rate plan

Page 448

1 including technology investments to enhance
 2 cybersecurity, several major infrastructure projects,
 3 and investments in grid modernization, pipeline
 4 modernization, and advanced metering infrastructure,
 5 just to name a few.
 6 The settlement provides for recovery and
 7 rates of new and extended hydroelectric contracts and
 8 PPAs for wind energy and firm hydro capacity and energy
 9 during summer peak hours and it allows for timely
 10 updates to power costs. These are important to PSE.
 11 It's important to note that PSE compromised
 12 significantly on its requested return on equity. It has
 13 agreed to maintain its current ROE of 9.4 percent. And
 14 the parties agree to a slight increase in PSE's equity
 15 level from 48.5 percent to 49 percent, which is less
 16 than PSE had requested.
 17 Along with other parts of the settlement,
 18 these costs to capital provisions will allow PSE to
 19 improve its cash flow and strengthen its financial
 20 health and credit profile.
 21 And significantly, PSE's weighted average
 22 cost of capital resulting from the settlement will be
 23 lower than it has been for more than a decade, which
 24 benefits customers.
 25 An important element of PSE's revenue

Page 449	Page 451
<p>1 requirement in 2023 and 2024 is the Energize Eastside 2 transmission project that addresses a transmission 3 deficiency on the east side of Lake Washington by 4 upgrading an existing 115 kV transmission line to 5 230 kV.</p> <p>6 The settling parties agree to a threshold 7 prudence determination; in other words, agree that a 8 showing of need and consideration of alternatives has 9 been met sufficient to allow the project into rates 10 subject to refund in 2023 and 2024.</p> <p>11 Parties will be able to review the prudence 12 of Energize Eastside cost and subsequent compliance 13 filing. The only party that opposes this important and 14 necessary project is CENSE which is comprised of 15 affluent neighborhood groups, many of which built homes 16 around an existing transmission line and now oppose its 17 upgrade.</p> <p>18 The record demonstrates that today there is 19 currently a transmission deficiency that justifies the 20 need for the project.</p> <p>21 In addition to PSE's own transmission 22 planning studies and third-party studies of need and 23 alternatives, that need has been shown through the 24 environmental impact -- the EIS process, conditional use 25 permits for the City of Bellevue and Newcastle, as well</p>	<p>1 the equity terms in the settlement.</p> <p>2 The legislature has, in recent years, 3 repeatedly emphasized -- as Mr. Piliaris noted not that 4 long ago -- equity into terms of utility operations.</p> <p>5 There are four terms in this settlement 6 that -- in the Commission's words "apply an equity 7 lens," end quote, to PSE's operations.</p> <p>8 The first of these is the corporate capital 9 planning term. That term does two things.</p> <p>10 The first is that it requires PSE to make a 11 compliance -- compliance filing showing that it has 12 processes and methods for its board and senior 13 management to considerable equitable outcomes across the 14 enterprise-wide planning process.</p> <p>15 The second thing is that it requires PSE to 16 develop corporate spending authorizations that require 17 project and program sponsors to consider the equitable 18 distribution of burdens and benefits in programs.</p> <p>19 The second important term is the delivering 20 distribution planning provision. That also requires two 21 things.</p> <p>22 The first is that it requires PSE to solicit 23 feedback from interested persons in order to perform 24 distributions in planning and coordination with its 25 clean energy implementation plan process. And the goal</p>
Page 450	Page 452
<p>1 as other studies.</p> <p>2 PSE witness Mr. Koch has testified to the 3 problems with analysis by Mr. Lauckhart. That's in his 4 testimony. There are several fails to stress the 5 electric system as required by federal standards. He 6 studied only one contingency versus the thousands that 7 are required to be studied and he uses incorrect load 8 growth for the eastside area.</p> <p>9 CENSE's study and testimony have been 10 reviewed in permitting proceedings and have been found 11 to be not credible. The Energize Eastside Project will 12 improve liability for customers and communities on the 13 east side of Lake Washington, increase capacity as 14 growth and development continue, including increased 15 electrification and address a transmission deficiency 16 that has been present for five of the last six summers.</p> <p>17 For these reasons, PSE respectfully requests 18 that the Commission approve the revenue requirement 19 settlement without conditions.</p> <p>20 JUDGE HOWARD: Thank you.</p> <p>21 Could I hear from staff in support of the 22 settlement?</p> <p>23 CLOSING STATEMENTS BY MR. ROBERSON</p> <p>24 MR. ROBERSON: Good afternoon, 25 Commissioners, Judge Howard. I'm here to speak about</p>	<p>1 of that distribution planning -- distribution system 2 plan is identifying ways of customer cited -- that 3 customer cited resources can be used to generate value 4 for other PSE customers and ways to equitably distribute 5 benefits and burdens to vulnerable populations and to 6 highly impacted communities.</p> <p>7 The second thing that PSE must do is it must 8 create equity-related benefits for its investment 9 optimization software. Currently uses something called 10 "iDot," but it's moving to something else. Whatever it 11 is using, it must create these equity-related benefits 12 and then incorporate those benefits and costs or its 13 benefits and costs into the planning process.</p> <p>14 Again, it has to consult with groups before 15 creating these benefits and costs and the settlement 16 specifically identifies its equity group, its equity 17 advisor group and then members of highly impacted 18 communities and vulnerable populations.</p> <p>19 The third term is the distributional equity 20 analysis. This term requires PSE to come up with 21 methods and processes for distribution equity 22 analysis -- distributional equity analysis. It then has 23 to apply those methods and processes to, I believe it is 24 80 megawatts of DER called for in its 2021 IRP or an 25 agreed-upon substitute if it doesn't actually pursue</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 453</p> <p>1 that DER. 2 Once it does that, it will participate in 3 what's in the settlement described as a staff-led 4 process, I understand from Commissioner Doumit, that 5 perhaps the Commission will impose a condition. But as 6 currently written, it is a staff-led process to refine 7 those methods. 8 At the end of that process, it would present 9 the methods and processes to the Commission for 10 approval. Once the Commission does that, it would apply 11 those methods and processes to the corporate capital 12 planning and delivery and distribution system planning 13 that it does. 14 And then the final term at which is not like 15 a process, but the -- the settlement requires PSE to 16 report a number of metrics related to equity. Things 17 that impact -- highly impacted communities or vulnerable 18 populations, like the use of AMI in those communities or 19 how many members of those communities participate in DR, 20 DER, renewable programs, things like that. 21 The settlement was drafted before the 22 Commission issued guidance on equity in the 2021 Cascade 23 GRC order that it entered not that long ago. But these 24 terms in the settlement are fully consistent with the 25 Commission's description of energy justice and its four</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 455</p> <p>1 about one minute, if I may. 2 JUDGE HOWARD: That sounds great. 3 CLOSING STATEMENTS BY MR. ZAKAI 4 MR. ZAKAI: Thank you. 5 Judge Howard, Commissioners, there are 6 multiple provisions in the revenue requirement 7 settlement specifically designed to assist low income 8 customers and vulnerable populations and otherwise 9 promote equity. I would like to highlight three of 10 these now. 11 First, the settlement paves the way for PSE 12 and its low income advisory group to develop and 13 implement a five-tier bill discount and to establish 14 arrearage management programs. The combination of these 15 shows promise as a cornerstone strategy to reduce 16 household energy insecurity and retain access to 17 essential utility service for low income customers in 18 Washington. 19 Second, the settlement will increase 20 weatherization measure incentive amounts, which will 21 allow low income weatherization programs to provide more 22 customer benefits and serve more customers. The 23 settlement also affirms PSE's commitments to baseline 24 low income weatherization funding. 25 Finally, the time varying rates pilot and</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 454</p> <p>1 core tenets. Many of those terms focus on 2 distributional justice and that they require PSE to 3 consider how to distribute the benefits and burdens of 4 its operations equitably. 5 The terms are also consistent with 6 procedural and recognition justice in that they 7 require PSE to work with members of vulnerable 8 populations or highly impacted communities or their 9 representatives in various processes which kind of 10 implicitly recognizes the exclusion of those groups from 11 these processes. 12 So in summary, the Commission should approve 13 the settlement because one of the -- one of the key 14 criteria for approving a settlement under Senate 15 Bill 5295 is equity that's used to determine the public 16 interest and these terms are very much in the public 17 interest in that they center equity in PSE's operations. 18 Thank you. 19 JUDGE HOWARD: All right. Thank you, 20 Mr. Roberson. 21 Did another settling party wish to speak in 22 support of the revenue requirement settlement? 23 MR. ZAKAI: Yes, Your Honor, this is Yochi 24 Zakai with The Energy Project. 25 I know we're a little over time, but I have</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 456</p> <p>1 targeted electrification program include low income 2 customer protections and will prioritize serving low 3 income customers and named communities. The Energy 4 Project urges the Commission to accept the revenue 5 requirement settlement in full. Thank you. 6 JUDGE HOWARD: Thank you. 7 Did we have any other party wish to speak in 8 support of the revenue requirement settlement before we 9 move to either Tacoma LNG or Green Direct? 10 MS. PAREKH: Yes, Your Honor. The joint 11 environmental advocates would like to address the 12 commission this afternoon. 13 THE COURT: Please proceed. 14 CLOSING STATEMENTS BY MS. PAREKH 15 MS. PAREKH: Thank you for this opportunity, 16 Commissioners. 17 And the joint environmental advocates urge 18 you to approve the revenue requirement stipulation. 19 This settlement would put into effect innovative changes 20 to encourage decarbonization of PSE's utility service in 21 a manner that centers equity and prioritizes cost 22 efficacy. 23 This agreement phases out costly subsidies 24 to promote fossil gas customer growth through the line 25 extension policy, thereby correcting market signals to</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 457</p> <p>1 encourage cost effective electrification for homes and 2 businesses. 3 This agreement would also develop an 4 electrification pilot that will roll out to 10,000 5 existing residential and small commercial gas utility 6 customers. That pilot will help those customers to 7 transition away from gas utility service. And findings 8 from this pilot alone, with a revised decarbonization 9 study that corrects -- that includes revised findings 10 regarding cold climate heat pumps and the benefits of 11 those heat pumps for decarbonization will be used to 12 develop a comprehensive long-term electrification 13 strategy for gas customers and PSE -- in PSE's service 14 territory. 15 The -- this settlement would also adopt 16 incentives and rebates that would encourage customers to 17 electrify. And it would integrate electrification into 18 the biennial conservation planning process and energy 19 efficiency programming. 20 These changes collectively will 21 significantly reduce GHG emissions from residential and 22 small commercial energy use within PSE service 23 territory. And we believe that this settlement could be 24 seen as -- as an innovative policy in -- across the 25 nation.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 459</p> <p>1 Who would like to speak first in support of 2 the Green Direct settlement? 3 MS. CARSON: I'm happy to or if Public 4 Counsel wants to speak first, that's fine, too. Or 5 Staff. Either is fine. 6 JUDGE HOWARD: Feel free to start when you 7 are ready. 8 CLOSING STATEMENT BY MS. CARSON 9 MS. CARSON: All right. PSE respectfully 10 requests that the Commission approve the Green Direct 11 settlement stipulation without conditions. 12 This settlement stipulation is in the public 13 interest because it resolves issues that have been 14 percolating in PSE cases for the past few years 15 regarding PSE's voluntary long-term renewable energy 16 purchase writer under schedule 139 of PSE's tariff which 17 is also known as "Green Direct." 18 The settlement in this case was reached by 19 parties with diverse perspectives, Commission Staff, 20 Public Counsel, who represents non-Green Direct 21 customers, and then Walmart and King County, who 22 represent -- who are Green Direct customers, as well as 23 PSE. And no party objects to this settlement. 24 The need to reach a durable method -- 25 methodology for calculating the energy credit for Green</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 458</p> <p>1 Throughout this process, additionally, PSE 2 must prioritize low-income customers highly impacted in 3 vulnerable communities and communities experiencing 4 energy burden. In this way, it -- it centers 5 equity through this electrification process. 6 This will also enable PSE to meet its 7 commitment under the Climate Commitment Act in a 8 cost-effective manner by reducing the demand for fossil 9 gas. 10 And the last thing I'll note is that we -- 11 in addition to these changes and benefits in the 12 decarbonization program, we also agree to more than 13 double the company's target for acquiring demand 14 response resources and the settlement makes clear that 15 life-extending costs for the Colstrip facility are not 16 recoverable from ratepayers. 17 Thank you for your consideration. 18 JUDGE HOWARD: All right. Thank you. 19 Were there any other statements in support 20 of the revenue requirement settlement? 21 All right. Hearing none. Let's turn 22 next -- I don't have strong opinions about whether we 23 turn to the Tacoma LNG or the Green Direct settlement 24 next. 25 Why don't we go to Green Direct.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 460</p> <p>1 Direct customers was an issue in PSE's 2020 PCORC. The 2 parties to that case reached a settlement that addressed 3 several issues relating to PSE's Green Direct including 4 establishing a methodology for calculating the energy 5 credit for Green Direct customers. But there was also 6 recognition of the need to pursue a path forward on a 7 durable method for calculating this. 8 Some customers who were not parties to the 9 2020 PCORC had concerns about the methodology that was 10 approved in the 2020 PCORC and they spoke out at the 11 public comment hearing. And in the 2020 order approving 12 the PCORC settlement, the Commission set an expectation 13 that PSE would encourage its Green Direct customers to 14 participate in future discussions on the Green Direct 15 credit. 16 So the parties to the 2020 PCORC did 17 engage in collaborative discussions and Green Direct 18 customers who had not participated in the PCORC case did 19 join these discussions. Good progress was made, but no 20 resolution was reached by the time PSE filed this case. 21 And so the procedural schedule in this case 22 noted that there would be early Green Direct settlement 23 conference, which was held. And ultimately, we reached 24 this settlement. 25 From PSE's perspective, the settlement is in</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 461</p> <p>1 the public interest because it does provide a durable 2 method for calculating the energy credit for Green 3 Direct customers, thus avoiding the inefficiency of 4 re-litigating this issue in future cases or at least for 5 a while. 6 It also represents a balancing of interests 7 on the issue of the energy credit for Green Direct 8 customers. It's -- the methodology is agreed to by 9 Green Direct customers, residential customers, 10 Commission staff, and PSE. And the settlement continues 11 to take all steps to make sure that there is no improper 12 subsidizing of the Green Direct program by non-Green 13 Direct customers. 14 And for these reasons, PSE asks the 15 Commission to approve the Green Direct settlement 16 without conditions. Thank you. 17 JUDGE HOWARD: All right. Thank you. 18 Mr. Roberson? 19 CLOSING STATEMENTS BY MR. ROBERSON 20 MR. ROBERSON: I'll be very brief. 21 Staff largely concurs with everything 22 Ms. Carson said. This issue has been around for a 23 while. From staff's perspective, the methodology agreed 24 to amongst the diverse interest here is a better way of 25 ensuring that there is not cross-subsidization between</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 463</p> <p>1 Commission Staff. Although the collaborative did not 2 result in an agreement before PSE filed its rate case, 3 it did provide a solid foundation for rate case parties 4 to complete the task of developing a durable, fair 5 methodology to calculate the credit received by Green 6 Direct customers. 7 RCW 19.29A.090 subsection 5 -- Mr. Roberson 8 had the right citation there -- is very clear that all 9 costs and benefits be borne by Green Direct subscribers 10 and not be borne by non-subscribers. Not properly 11 allocating costs and benefits can result in 12 non-subscribers subsidizing the Green Direct program, 13 which is not only expressly prohibited by statute but 14 also unfair to the non-subscriber. 15 During the 2020 PCORC, the issue of 16 subsidization came up and the issue was resolved through 17 settlement. The settling parties were cognizant that 18 further work was needed to create a durable solution 19 which brings us to the settlement. 20 The Green Direct settlement presents an 21 elegant solution that is easy to calculate and 22 administer and that is also based on an economic 23 justification. 24 Non-subscribers should be indifferent to the 25 operation of the Green Direct program due to the</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 462</p> <p>1 PSE's Green Direct customers and its general ratepayers 2 as required by RCW 19.29A.0905, I think. 3 But there are two other benefits. 4 The first is that it provides certainty 5 for PSE's ratepayers, which is important. The law 6 should be stable and predictable. It also avoids the 7 need for updates. There shouldn't be any need to update 8 any tariff pages. There should be no -- approximately 9 upcoming cases about this. And that should reduce the 10 administrative burden on staff and the Commission. So 11 the Commission should adopt the settlement as in the 12 public interest. 13 JUDGE HOWARD: Thank you. 14 Did Public Counsel wish to speak in favor of 15 this? 16 CLOSING STATEMENTS BY MS. GAFKEN 17 MS. GAFKEN: Yes, Your Honor. 18 Public Counsel asks that the Commission 19 approve the Green Direct settlement without condition. 20 The settlement is not only the product of 21 negotiations during this rate case, but also several 22 collaborative meetings between the time -- or during the 23 time between PSE's 2020 PCORC and this rate case. 24 Several of PSE's Green Direct customers participated in 25 the collaborative in addition to PSE Public Counsel and</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 464</p> <p>1 statute's requirement that all costs and benefits of the 2 program be allocated to Green Direct customers. 3 As Dr. Earle testified in his pre-filed 4 testimony supporting a settlement, the settlement, 5 quote: "Provides a good approximation of the 6 indifference principle mandated by statute," end quote. 7 The credit should equal the value that the 8 Green Direct PPAs provide to the system. There is no 9 one right answer to how to calculate this value, as 10 Dr. Earle explains in his testimony. 11 In this case, approximation of the value 12 provided by the Green Direct PPAs is fairly 13 straightforward, or at least it can be. The Green 14 Direct PPAs are solar and wind PPAs. It is likely that 15 PSE would have entered into similar PPAs if the Green 16 Direct program did not exist. Therefore, it is 17 reasonable to assess the credit at a level approximately 18 equal to the cost of the Green Direct PPA. 19 I also want to highlight how diligently 20 stakeholders address the issues during the collaborative 21 and that the rate case parties continue discussions in 22 the same vein. 23 As a group, as Ms. Carson pointed out, we 24 bring different perspectives to the tables. But I do 25 believe that there is a common goal to reach a solution</p>

Page 465

1 that complies with the law and that fairly calculates
2 the Green Direct credit. Everyone worked hard to listen
3 to each other and to bring thoughtful ideas forward for
4 discussion. Public Counsel supports the Green Direct
5 settlement and believes it offers a durable solution
6 that complies with the statute and resolves the issue of
7 non-subscriber subsidization and also provides Green
8 Direct subscribers with some certainty.
9 In short, I believe that we achieved the
10 goal. Thank you.
11 JUDGE HOWARD: All right. Thank you,
12 Ms. Gafken.
13 Did another party wish to speak in support
14 of the Green Direct settlement?
15 MR. MAYER: I do, yes. It is Ben Mayer on
16 behalf of King County. I would like to make a brief
17 statement.
18 JUDGE HOWARD: Please go ahead.
19 CLOSING STATEMENTS BY MR. MAYER
20 MR. MAYER: Thank you, Judge Howard and
21 Commissioners.
22 King County supports the Green Direct
23 settlement as a reasonable compromise on
24 various positions on the Green Direct energy charge
25 credit; a compromise that resulted from a process and

Page 466

1 discussions, that per the Commission's directive in
2 order five in Docket UE-200980, the PCORC, involved
3 Green Direct customers, two of whom the County and
4 Walmart have signed on to and directly support the
5 settlement here.
6 The agreed-upon energy charge credit
7 appropriately recognizes the value of the Green Direct
8 PPAs and ensures that the cost and benefits of the Green
9 Direct program are allocated to Green Direct customers.
10 Importantly, this settlement also
11 establishes predictable and durable approach for
12 calculating the energy charge credit. It will provide
13 the County when budgeting for such things as essential
14 services certainty and eliminate the need for the County
15 to intervene in future rate cases and other Commission
16 proceedings.
17 For these reasons -- for these reasons, the
18 County respectfully asks the Commissioners to approve
19 and adopt the Green Direct settlement in this case.
20 Thank you.
21 JUDGE HOWARD: All right. Thank you.
22 Would any other party like to speak in favor
23 of the Green Direct settlement?
24 I believe that may have been all.
25 All right. Let's turn to the Tacoma LNG

Page 467

1 settlement.
2 Which party would like to speak in favor of
3 that settlement first?
4 MS. MOSER: I'm sorry. Can you hear me?
5 THE COURT: Yes.
6 MS. MOSER: Okay. I am happy to go in
7 whatever order, but this is Sommer Moser with AWEC and
8 I'm also just prepared to speak.
9 JUDGE HOWARD: Right. Now I remember,
10 Ms. Carson referring to AWEC speaking in support of this
11 particular settlement.
12 Should Ms. Moser proceed? Does another
13 party wish to jump in before or after or should
14 Ms. Moser lead here? Go first?
15 MR. THOMAS: Judge Howard, Ms. Carson was
16 just booted off the Zoom call so she's trying to
17 reconnect.
18 JUDGE HOWARD: Okay. Was that -- could you
19 give me your name just for the record?
20 MR. THOMAS: I'm sorry. It's Ryan Thomas
21 from Perkins Coie.
22 JUDGE HOWARD: Let's wait a moment, because
23 Ms. Carson has been delivering the closing arguments for
24 PSE so far, let's just wait a moment.
25 Ms. Carson, are you back on the call?

Page 468

1 MS. CARSON: Yes, I got booted off somehow,
2 but I believe I'm back. Get my video. Yes. Sorry
3 about that.
4 JUDGE HOWARD: It's okay.
5 Ms. Moser was just indicating that she was
6 prepared to speak in support of the Tacoma LNG
7 settlement.
8 Did PSE prefer to go first on that one or
9 after AWEC?
10 MS. CARSON: I can go either way.
11 Do you prefer to go first, Ms. Moser?
12 I'm happy to go first if you want.
13 MS. MOSER: I have no preference, so that's
14 totally fine.
15 JUDGE HOWARD: Ms. Moser, why don't you
16 proceed and then we'll hear from the other parties.
17 CLOSING STATEMENT BY MS. MOSER
18 MS. MOSER: Great. Good afternoon, Judge
19 Howard and Commissioners.
20 My name is Sommer Moser and on behalf of
21 AWEC, I have just a few brief comments regarding the
22 settlement stipulation and agreement on Tacoma LNG.
23 AWEC's testimony on Tacoma LNG in this case
24 was focused on this rate-making treatment for the
25 project and, therefore, that will be the scope of my

Page 469	Page 471
<p>1 comments this afternoon.</p> <p>2 The record in this case demonstrates that</p> <p>3 the Tacoma LNG settlement is lawful, supported by an</p> <p>4 appropriate record, and consistent with the public</p> <p>5 interests in light of all of the information available</p> <p>6 to the Commission.</p> <p>7 The proposed rate-making treatment of the</p> <p>8 Tacoma LNG project will also result in rates that are</p> <p>9 fair, just, and reasonable and as to the benefit of</p> <p>10 customers.</p> <p>11 Cost recovery through a tracker</p> <p>12 preserves traditional rate making and that only costs</p> <p>13 that are deemed prudent and used and useful as permitted</p> <p>14 for cost recovery, but also ensures that cost recovery</p> <p>15 is more transparent and follows the principle of cost</p> <p>16 causation.</p> <p>17 Importantly, the settlement explicitly</p> <p>18 provides that no party waives its right to challenge</p> <p>19 future LNG costs at the point that cost recovery is</p> <p>20 sought, and that includes PSE's initial filing that will</p> <p>21 be concurrent with its 2023 PGA.</p> <p>22 Investments included on a provisional basis</p> <p>23 will be subject to review and potential refund. This</p> <p>24 ensures transparency by affording parties ample</p> <p>25 opportunity to review costs and also creates a process</p>	<p>1 of the settlement?</p> <p>2 CLOSING STATEMENT BY MS. CARSON</p> <p>3 MS. CARSON: Sure. I would be happy to.</p> <p>4 Before I get to the LNG settlement, I guess</p> <p>5 I want to just look at the bigger picture. I think it</p> <p>6 is important to recognize that the settlements presented</p> <p>7 to the Commission today represent a carefully balanced</p> <p>8 and delicately crafted resolution of complex issues.</p> <p>9 These were negotiated together; the revenue requirement</p> <p>10 settlement and the LNG settlement.</p> <p>11 For purposes of making progress, we</p> <p>12 ultimately broke them apart, but there are gives and</p> <p>13 takes between the settlements that I think it's</p> <p>14 important for the Commission to recognize.</p> <p>15 It's also important to recognize just the</p> <p>16 background of this case. PSE filed a complex case back</p> <p>17 in January 2022. One of the first multiyear rate plans</p> <p>18 filed under the new statute.</p> <p>19 PSE filed testimony from 37 witnesses, more</p> <p>20 than a dozen parties intervened, and more than 30</p> <p>21 witnesses ultimately filed intervener testimony.</p> <p>22 The parties had the opportunity to fully</p> <p>23 investigate the case and they did.</p> <p>24 The exhibits show that PSE responded to over</p> <p>25 1100 data requests over the course of the case.</p>
Page 470	Page 472
<p>1 through which challenges can be raised resulting in a</p> <p>2 tracker that allows only prudent, used and useful costs</p> <p>3 to be recovered.</p> <p>4 Regarding cost causation, the settlement</p> <p>5 agreement ensures that costs are allocated only to sales</p> <p>6 customers as those customers are the beneficiaries of</p> <p>7 PSE's investment. This treatment is also consistent</p> <p>8 with the stipulation approved by the Commission in</p> <p>9 Docket UG-151663, wherein the stipulating parties agreed</p> <p>10 to allocate Tacoma LNG project costs to sales customers.</p> <p>11 And, finally, I just want to note that the</p> <p>12 opposition related to the Tacoma LNG settlement has been</p> <p>13 entered around the prudence of PSE's decision to</p> <p>14 construct the plant. No party has challenged the</p> <p>15 rate-making treatment for costs that are deemed prudent</p> <p>16 and used and useful, which serves to further underscore</p> <p>17 the benefits of Tacoma LNG cost-recovery mechanism as</p> <p>18 proposed in the stipulation pursuant to a separate</p> <p>19 tracker.</p> <p>20 So for these reasons, AWEC continues to</p> <p>21 recommend that the Commission adopt the Tacoma LNG</p> <p>22 settlement stipulation and agreement as filed.</p> <p>23 Thank you.</p> <p>24 JUDGE HOWARD: All right. Thank you.</p> <p>25 Ms. Carson, would PSE like to speak in favor</p>	<p>1 The parties engaged in prolonged settlement</p> <p>2 negotiations over a two-month period and the Commission</p> <p>3 has a substantial body of evidence before it to make a</p> <p>4 decision: Direct testimony; response testimony;</p> <p>5 settlement testimony; response testimony.</p> <p>6 So the point is, it was a complex case. The</p> <p>7 parties did their due diligence. They had the full</p> <p>8 allotted time and the Commission has the full benefit</p> <p>9 of their reviews.</p> <p>10 For these reasons, we ask the Commission to,</p> <p>11 again, consider these two settlements were negotiated</p> <p>12 together and consider the gives and takes that are</p> <p>13 between the settlements and not look at the LNG</p> <p>14 testimony -- LNG settlement stipulation in isolation.</p> <p>15 PSE respectfully requests the Commission</p> <p>16 approve the Tacoma LNG settlement without conditions.</p> <p>17 In the settlement, the parties accept the determination</p> <p>18 that the decision to build the regulated portion of the</p> <p>19 Tacoma LNG facility was prudent and PSE may include its</p> <p>20 investment in rates through a tracker with costs subject</p> <p>21 to refund and challenge if not prudently incurred.</p> <p>22 There is an extensive record in this case</p> <p>23 demonstrating that the decision to construct and operate</p> <p>24 the regulated portion of the Tacoma LNG facility for</p> <p>25 peaking needs on PSE's gas distribution system was</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 473</p> <p>1 prudent.</p> <p>2 With regard to the question about whether</p> <p>3 that decision should be delayed to the 2023 filing,</p> <p>4 PSE's response is, we ask, respectfully, no.</p> <p>5 Given the significant evidence in the</p> <p>6 record, the time that the parties have had to review</p> <p>7 this significant evidence on need and alternatives,</p> <p>8 it -- it would be burdensome to have a second proceeding</p> <p>9 where all of this was again presented.</p> <p>10 And, of course, we've had several months to</p> <p>11 look at the Tacoma LNG in this proceeding.</p> <p>12 So PSE respectfully requests that we -- that</p> <p>13 the Commission approve the language of the settlement</p> <p>14 that allows a determination that there is a need for</p> <p>15 this. And then in the tracker, all costs can be</p> <p>16 challenged if they are not prudently incurred.</p> <p>17 I think it's important to recognize that</p> <p>18 although the Board's decision and PSE's decision to move</p> <p>19 forward with the Tacoma LNG facility occurred in 2016</p> <p>20 and then was re-evaluated in 2018, before the equity</p> <p>21 standard was in the public -- equity was in the public</p> <p>22 interest standard, it's important to recognize that</p> <p>23 there are several benefits, as we heard today, to</p> <p>24 neighborhoods and areas surrounding the Tacoma LNG</p> <p>25 facility.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 475</p> <p>1 to engage with the Tribe, although, weirdly outreach by</p> <p>2 PSE at the manager level was ignored.</p> <p>3 PSE elevated outreach to the executive</p> <p>4 level.</p> <p>5 PSE provided the Tribe additional</p> <p>6 information on safety studies associated with the</p> <p>7 project's design and development.</p> <p>8 PSE came to understand that activities on</p> <p>9 the Hylebos Waterway was a major concern for the Tribe.</p> <p>10 And as a Shorelines Hearing Board decision, Exhibit</p> <p>11 RJR-33 shows PSE stipulated that it would not construct</p> <p>12 on the Hylebos Waterways and it abandoned that portion</p> <p>13 of the project.</p> <p>14 Also important to recognize that the Tacoma</p> <p>15 LNG facility was designed and constructed so it can be</p> <p>16 operated safely. PSE extensively considered safety</p> <p>17 concerns in its design and construction of the Tacoma</p> <p>18 LNG facility.</p> <p>19 And in addition to PSE, safety was</p> <p>20 extensively considered by the City of Tacoma as part of</p> <p>21 its EIS. The PCHB in hearing the appeal of the air</p> <p>22 permit.</p> <p>23 The pipelines safety subdivision in its</p> <p>24 reviews during construction of the facility and ongoing</p> <p>25 reviews of facility operations and Tacoma fire to</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 474</p> <p>1 In fact, the record shows that the Tacoma</p> <p>2 LNG facility will have a profound positive impact on the</p> <p>3 communities surrounding the Port of Tacoma.</p> <p>4 Mr. Roberts testified that the facility</p> <p>5 reduces criteria pollutants in the air.</p> <p>6 In addition, there are improved</p> <p>7 environmental conditions on-site and in waterways around</p> <p>8 the Port of Tacoma.</p> <p>9 The record shows that PSE replaced creosote</p> <p>10 pilings with steel pilings, which benefits water and</p> <p>11 sediment conditions in the Blair Waterway.</p> <p>12 PSE installed a stormwater rain garden</p> <p>13 to decrease the flow of untreated water from a largely</p> <p>14 industrial peninsula into the Hylebos Waterway.</p> <p>15 PSE engaged in on-site mitigation in the</p> <p>16 Hylebos and off-site mitigation in Commencement Bay by</p> <p>17 removing overwater structures which directly benefits</p> <p>18 juvenile salmon.</p> <p>19 And PSE revegetated portions of the 50-foot</p> <p>20 marine buffer at the project, again, benefiting salmon</p> <p>21 and improving water quality.</p> <p>22 PSE also engaged with the Puyallup Tribe</p> <p>23 during the lead-up to the decision to build the Tacoma</p> <p>24 LNG facility.</p> <p>25 Starting in 2014, PSE made numerous attempts</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 476</p> <p>1 confirm Tacoma LNG facilities fire protection and safety</p> <p>2 systems conform to applicable LNG codes and standards.</p> <p>3 In summary, the construction of the LNG</p> <p>4 facility is complete. Commissioning was completed in</p> <p>5 February 2022. PSE met all the prongs of the</p> <p>6 Commission's prudent standard in developing and</p> <p>7 constructing the facility as is set forth in testimony</p> <p>8 and, therefore, PSE respectfully requests that</p> <p>9 Commission approve the Tacoma LNG settlement stipulation</p> <p>10 without conditions.</p> <p>11 Thank you.</p> <p>12 JUDGE HOWARD: All right. Thank you.</p> <p>13 I believe that would essentially conclude</p> <p>14 the statements in support of the settlements.</p> <p>15 I would consider if one more party would</p> <p>16 like to speak in favor of the Tacoma LNG settlement, I</p> <p>17 might allow them a couple of minutes. A few minutes.</p> <p>18 MR. ROBERSON: I need about a minute, Judge</p> <p>19 Howard. I will be very brief.</p> <p>20 THE COURT: Please proceed.</p> <p>21 CLOSING STATEMENTS BY MR. ROBERSON</p> <p>22 MR. ROBERSON: Staff also signed onto the</p> <p>23 settlement, urges the Commission to adopt it.</p> <p>24 From Staff's perspective, the movement of</p> <p>25 these costs to a tracker allows complete certainty in</p>

Page 477

1 terms of rate making. The costs here involve a deferral
2 pro forma plant, tester plant, forecasted O&M.
3 Moving things to a tracker allows Staff to
4 review them at the end of the rate year when all those
5 costs are known and measurable. Part of what staff
6 bargained for here was the ability to challenge all
7 those costs for whether they were known and measurable,
8 used and useful, prudent.
9 You know, Staff is not done with its review
10 of this project. It's just removing it to a later time
11 which will allow for a better review.
12 Thank you.
13 JUDGE HOWARD: All right. Thank you.
14 So that was the statements in support of the
15 three multi-party settlements.
16 I now turn to the parties who have opposed
17 any aspect of the settlements. And I would include The
18 Energy Project if the -- because The Energy Project
19 intends to oppose, if I recall correctly, Tacoma LNG on
20 the briefs.
21 So we have -- we have Public Counsel, we
22 have Puyallup Tribe, we have CENSE, and The Energy
23 Project.
24 I would turn first to Public Counsel. If
25 Public Counsel would like to give a closing argument in

Page 478

1 opposition to any of the settlements.
2 CLOSING ARGUMENT IN OPPOSITION
3 MS. GAFKEN: Yes. Thank you.
4 Public Counsel's position in this case is
5 nuanced. It's not completely straightforward because
6 we're seeking different positions depending on which
7 issue we're talking about. And I know that's not
8 necessarily a simple path.
9 But, you know, we heard earlier that Public
10 Counsel supports the Green Direct settlement; Public
11 Counsel opposes the Tacoma LNG settlement; and with
12 respect to the revenue settlement, we support portions
13 of it; we take no position on other portions and we
14 specifically oppose the capital structure and return on
15 equity terms. That is the only part of the revenue
16 settlement that we specifically opposed.
17 My comments today are not intended to cover
18 all of the arguments that Public Counsel will present in
19 our closing brief.
20 I addressed the Green Direct settlement
21 earlier. I won't talk more about that one now.
22 I will briefly highlight areas of the
23 revenue settlement that Public Counsel does support, and
24 then I'll spend probably the bulk of my time talking
25 about the issues that Public Counsel contests with

Page 479

1 respect to the proposed settlement.
2 Just briefly in terms of the -- the terms
3 that Public Counsel supports from the revenue
4 settlement, those include the electric and natural gas
5 rate spread and rate design terms, the A&I terms,
6 Colstrip cost recovery, low income issues, time varying
7 rate pilot, distributional equity analysis, gas line
8 extension terms, decarbonization and electrification
9 study, CETA costs, the PCORC terms, and the
10 performance-based rate-making terms.
11 I will go into more detail in our written
12 brief about what we support about those things. I agree
13 with a lot of the statements that were made earlier on
14 those terms.
15 But I do want to turn to the terms that
16 Public Counsel opposes.
17 And I want to start with the capital
18 structure and the ROE terms. The revenue settlement
19 sets PSE's return on equity at 9.4 percent and the
20 equity ratio at 49 percent.
21 Our witness finds that that is excessive and
22 it results in customer rates that are too high. Public
23 Counsel recommends that the Commission reject this part
24 of the revenue settlement and set PSE's return on equity
25 at 8.8 percent and the equity ratio at 48.5 percent.

Page 480

1 The settling parties have not demonstrated
2 that increasing PSE's equity is justified. In contrast,
3 Public Counsel's recommended 48.5 percent equity is in
4 line with PSE's historical capitalization which PSE has
5 successfully used to finance its operations and maintain
6 its credit rating.
7 Various proxy groups have been presented in
8 this case. The proxy groups contain companies with
9 similar characteristics as PSE, except the proxy group
10 companies have average common equity ratios that are
11 well below 48.5 percent.
12 They range from the low -- or the high 30s
13 to low 40s. Even though Public Counsel's recommendation
14 is still higher than the average common equity ratio of
15 the proxy group, it is closer to the proxy group than
16 the settlement.
17 Similarly, the settling parties propose ROE
18 as 9.4 and that is too high in light of market
19 conditions and company risk. ROE is supposed to
20 compensate investors for the risk they take with their
21 investment. Public Counsel's witness, Dr. Woolridge,
22 demonstrated in his testimony that 9.4 percent ROE is
23 excessive and that a more fair ROE is 8.8 percent.
24 While the interest rates have increased
25 during 2022, authorized ROE has not reflected the

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 481</p> <p>1 historically low rates in recent years. Dr. Woolridge 2 points out that even though interest rates declined 3 about 150 basis points in recent years, authorized ROEs 4 for electric utilities declined nationally by only about 5 20 percent -- or 20 basis points. 6 Moreover, even with the recent interest rate 7 increases, interest rates are still at historically low 8 levels. Similarly, while the 40-year high 9 year-over-year inflation rates are as high as 9.0 10 percent, investors expect long-term inflation to be 11 significantly lower at about 5 -- I'm sorry, 2.5 12 percent. 13 Additionally, while the stock market 14 declined in the first half of 2022, utilities stock 15 consistently outperformed the S&P 500 indicating the 16 utility equity return requirements have not increased. 17 In responding to the proposed settlement, 18 Dr. Woolridge also points out flaws in Staff's response 19 testimony presented by witness Parcell. This critique 20 undergirds Dr. Woolridge -- I'm sorry -- undergirds 21 Dr. Woolridge's concerns about the cost of capital and 22 capital structure presented in the revenue settlement. 23 Despite witness Parcell's recommendation on 24 ROE of 9.25 percent, his analysis supports a much lower 25 ROE closer to Public Counsel's recommendation. The</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 483</p> <p>1 In addition to the prudent standard, the 2 Commission must consider the public interests with 3 respect to PSE's rates, services, and practices. The 4 public interest, as defined in RCW 80.28.425 subsection 5 (1) includes environmental health and greenhouse gas 6 emission reductions, health and safety concerns, 7 economic development, and equity. 8 The Tacoma LNG project fails on all 9 standards. 10 The Commission should reject the Tacoma LNG 11 settlement and disallow all costs associated with the 12 LNG project. 13 Dr. Earle, witness for Public Counsel, sets 14 out his analysis of the Tacoma LNG project in his 15 testimony, both his direct testimony on behalf of Public 16 Counsel and his opposition testimony to the settlement. 17 Dr. Earle explains how PSE's forecast 18 declined over time, how forecasted needs never 19 materialized, and how forecasts consistently 20 exceeded actual outcomes. 21 Dr. Earle explains how PSE does not take 22 these factors into account nor how -- nor did it 23 consider viable alternatives in its assessment of need. 24 Additionally, PSE inadequately communicated 25 with its Board of Directors. As Dr. Earle describes in</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 482</p> <p>1 settlement presents a capital structure that is too 2 heavily weighted with equity and contains an ROE that is 3 higher than necessary. 4 By contrast, Public Counsel's capital 5 structure and ROE proposal are more reasonable and we 6 encourage the Commission to adopt them. 7 I'd like to turn to the Tacoma LNG issue, 8 briefly. 9 The Commission is being asked to find the 10 Tacoma LNG investment prudent and that costs associated 11 with the project be included in a tracker that will 12 ultimately become part of customer rates. 13 With respect to prudence, the Commission 14 looks at what a reasonable Board of Directors and 15 utility management would have done given what they knew 16 or reasonably should have known to be true at the time 17 they made a decision. This test applies to the need and 18 the appropriateness of the expenditures. 19 The Commission has identified four factors 20 that it typically focuses on but no single set of 21 factors determines prudence. 22 The four factors that have been identified 23 are the need for the resource, evaluation of 24 alternatives, communication with and involvement of the 25 Board of Directors and adequate documentation.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 484</p> <p>1 his testimony, PSE presented over 1800 pages of Board 2 materials. And those materials did not discuss 3 declining forecasts or disappearing projected needs. 4 PSE's management also did not present alternatives for 5 the LNG project to the Board. 6 In short, PSE failed to act prudently as it 7 decided to move forward with the LNG project and as it 8 decided to continue with the project. 9 Not only does the LNG project fail the 10 Commission's prudent standard, but it also fails the 11 public interest standard. 12 While it may provide some economic 13 development with jobs located at the facility, it is 14 undeniable that the LNG facility will negatively impact 15 the environmental health of the Puyallup Tribe of 16 Indians whose land the facility abuts. 17 Any greenhouse gas emissions reductions 18 realized from switching marine fuel to LNG is 19 irrelevant, because the marine fuel component of the LNG 20 facility is a non-regulated activity. 21 And locating the LNG facility on the border 22 of the Puyallup Tribe's land perpetuates systemic harm 23 by continuing to overburden an already overburdened 24 population. This is certainly not equitable. In fact, 25 it's the opposite of equitable. It is indeed</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 485</p> <p>1 inequitable. 2 Dr. Sahu, one of the Tribe's witnesses, 3 explains in greater detail how the LNG project fails the 4 public interest standard in his rate testimony. 5 Public Counsel recommends that the 6 Commission rejects the Tacoma LNG settlement and 7 disallow recovery of cost associated with the LNG 8 project and rates. 9 Thank you for your time. 10 JUDGE HOWARD: All right. Thank you. 11 I would turn next to the Puyallup Tribe. 12 CLOSING STATEMENTS IN OPPOSITION 13 MR. THOMAS: Sure. Thank you, Your Honor. 14 Good afternoon, Commissioners. 15 I'll be brief. But I'd like to start with 16 the discussion over the last 20 minutes or so regarding 17 whether or not Tacoma LNG presents a greenhouse gas 18 benefit or disbenefit. 19 And I want the Commissioners to be aware 20 that this issue is still in active litigation. And this 21 is an issue on which the Attorney General of the State 22 of Washington has appeared in Court proceedings in an 23 amicus capacity challenging the determination that 24 Tacoma LNG presents greenhouse gas benefits, as well as 25 the methodology by which that conclusion was reached.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 487</p> <p>1 If you are observing, please keep your lines 2 muted. 3 I'm sorry, Mr. Thomas. I won't count 4 against your time. 5 MR THOMAS: Your Honor, thank you. 6 So I was talking about the FEIS and safety 7 risks presented by a facility like this. 8 So before the Commissioners right now, the 9 settling parties are distilled to its essence asking the 10 Commission to publicly determine that it was prudent to 11 build a facility that pollutes the air and presents a 12 risk of explosion on the border of an Indian 13 reservation. 14 The Commissioners -- the Tribe requests -- 15 should determine it is not prudent to make that 16 determination on the company's parts and we will expound 17 on that in our closing briefing. 18 At the very least -- and Commissioner Doumit 19 raised this a little bit earlier. At the very least, 20 PSE has more work to do to establish prudence. And 21 that's discussed in both the testimony submitted by 22 Dr. Sahu for the Tribe and the testimony submitted by 23 Gary Saleba. So equity matters and the public interest 24 also matters. 25 The Commissioners heard from the community</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 486</p> <p>1 So with that said and just -- you know, I 2 wanted to make sure the Commissioners were aware. I'll 3 turn to some other items. 4 From the Tribe's perspective, equity 5 considerations have an important role in deciding this 6 case. And we submit that equity matters today; equity 7 mattered in 2018; equity mattered in 2016. 8 Now, the Tacoma LNG is not pulling pollution 9 out of the air; it is adding pollution to it. No 10 permitting agency -- I'll repeat -- no permitting agency 11 says otherwise. 12 When you only look at the FEIS as an 13 example, the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency recognizes 14 that this is a new source of air pollution; otherwise, 15 it would not need an air permit. 16 Now, staying on the FEIS for a second, that 17 document also states that the facility presents safety 18 risks. There is no serious argument to the contrary. 19 The UTC understands this well. The UTC has 20 an important role in assessing -- 21 (Audio disruption) 22 MR. THOMAS: Your Honor, should I wait for 23 this person to go on mute? 24 JUDGE HOWARD: Okay. The wrong person is 25 muted right now. I see -- okay.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 488</p> <p>1 located near Tacoma LNG the evening of September 28th. 2 Respectfully, Mr. Roberts does not speak for them. They 3 can speak for themselves and they spoke pretty 4 resolutely. 5 Every comment concerning Tacoma LNG was 6 strongly against the facility. And as this Commission 7 is aware, the community opposed this facility in 2016, 8 the community opposed the facility in 2018, and the 9 community opposes the facility now. 10 Washingtonians and the Tribe are requesting 11 that this Commission protect them from financing a 12 facility that, one, we heard today is predominantly, if 13 not entirely, for TOTE and, two, presents potentially 14 harmful impacts to those located near it. 15 So thank you so much for allowing me to 16 provide these remarks and I will leave it there. 17 Thank you. 18 JUDGE HOWARD: All right. Thank you, 19 Mr. Thomas. 20 Would CENSE like to give an approximately 21 ten-minute closing argument? 22 And this would be in addition to your brief 23 which will be due later on October 31st. 24 CLOSING STATEMENTS BY MR. HANSEN 25 MR. HANSEN: We just have about -- less than</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 489</p> <p>1 two-minute closing -- 2 JUDGE HOWARD: Please go ahead. 3 MR. HANSEN: -- comments. We've got three 4 items, Your Honor, and I'll just read them here. 5 Mr. Lauckhart has pointed out in his 6 testimony, RL-1T on page 17 that PSE has failed to meet 7 any of the four factors that WUTC looks for in a 8 prudency review. 9 Number 2, Mr. Lauckhart has identified seven 10 fatal flaws in the load flow studies they ran to justify 11 Energize Eastside. 12 See Exhibits RL-3, slides 20 through 37. 13 PSE has chosen not to rebut the Lauckhart 14 seven fatal flaws, so that testimony by Mr. Lauckhart is 15 un rebutted in this proceeding. 16 Three, the Lauckhart-Schiffman Load Flow 17 Study Report Exhibit RL-4, finds that one or more of the 18 seven fatal flaws are corrected that EE is not need. 19 The evidence is convincing that EE is imprudent. And we 20 thank you very much for the opportunity to present our 21 testimony today. 22 Thank you. 23 JUDGE HOWARD: All right. Thank you. 24 I would -- would The Energy Project like to 25 give any oral closing argument with respect to its</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 491</p> <p>1 questions about the prudency of PSE's decision by 2 carefully reviewing the need for the plant, the 3 evaluation of alternatives, and the documentation 4 provided to the Board of Directors. 5 The Commission should review Public 6 Counsel's testimony and conclude that the decision to 7 build the project was not prudent. 8 TEP urges the Commission to carefully 9 evaluate the equity and public health concerns raised by 10 the Tribe. This is an environmental justice issue. The 11 Commission should conclude that the Tacoma LNG 12 settlement perpetuates environmental injustice and is 13 not in the public interest. 14 Thank you. 15 JUDGE HOWARD: All right. Thank you. 16 Did I miss any parties who oppose any aspect 17 of the three settlements? 18 All right. I don't believe I did. 19 But hearing none, do we have any questions 20 for counsel from the bench? 21 COMMISSIONER DOUMIT: Yes, Your Honor, if I 22 might, please. 23 THE COURT: Yes, go ahead. 24 COMMISSIONER DOUMIT: Just following up on 25 the question that I was pursuing prior to the closings,</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 490</p> <p>1 opposition to the Tacoma LNG settlement? 2 MR. ZAKAI: Yes. Thank you very much, Your 3 Honor. Yochi Zakai for The Energy Project. I have a 4 brief statement in closing. 5 JUDGE HOWARD: Please go ahead. 6 CLOSING ARGUMENT IN OPPOSITION 7 MR. ZAKAI: TEP opposes the Tacoma LNG 8 settlement because the settling parties have not 9 demonstrated that it's in the public interest. 10 SB 5295, which applies to this rate case, 11 established the Commission's public interest standard to 12 include an evaluation of equity and environmental health 13 impacts. 14 The Tribe's testimony clearly describes the 15 equity, environmental health and safety impacts on the 16 community in which PSE cited the LNG plant. The LNG 17 plant is located in the Tribe's community, a highly 18 impacted community with vulnerable populations. 19 The Commission must give appropriate weight 20 to these facts when determining if the Tacoma LNG 21 settlement is in the public interest. 22 Public Counsel's testimony also questions 23 the process that PSE used to approve the decision to 24 build the LNG facility. 25 Public counsel's testimony raises legitimate</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 492</p> <p>1 which I think the question that I posed was answered by 2 Ms. Erdahl then and reinforced by Ms. Carson and 3 Mr. Roberson and that's the prudency on the LNG costs 4 can be determined in the tracker that is filed. 5 I just want to go a little further and note 6 that the LNG costs are recovered under the rates under 7 the settlement at paragraph 18. 8 And the question I have is will the 9 Commission be correct in understanding that because LNG 10 distribution costs would be included in the rates unlike 11 the LNG facility costs, they would not be subject to 12 later review and possible refund? 13 MR. ROBERSON: I'll take that one. Yeah. 14 The distribution costs, because they are on base rates, 15 they wouldn't be subject to retrospective review. But 16 everything that is in the tracker would be subject to 17 refund depending on what the Commission does at the time 18 PSE trues-up the tracker. 19 COMMISSIONER DOUMIT: All right. If there's 20 no disagreement on that question, I have a follow-up, 21 Your Honor. 22 JUDGE HOWARD: Go ahead. 23 MS. CARSON: That is my understanding as 24 well. I agree with Mr. Roberson. 25 COMMISSIONER DOUMIT: Thank you.</p>

Page 493

1 Can someone explain how the four miles of
2 pipeline connecting the Tacoma LNG facility to PSE's
3 distribution system are used and useful for core gas
4 customers before the facility is able to serve as a peak
5 shaving resource?
6 MS. CARSON: Well, I'm happy to try to
7 address that.
8 My understanding is the facility is ready to
9 serve as a peaking resource. It's just the weather
10 isn't cold enough yet for that need to -- to be
11 actualized, but it is ready. It is ready to be used and
12 useful. The pipes are in the ground and ready. And
13 when the weather turns cold, it will be a resource. It
14 will be a -- it's a resource today. But it will be a
15 used resource at that point in time.
16 COMMISSIONER DOUMIT: Thank you.
17 No further questions for me, Your Honor.
18 JUDGE HOWARD: All right. Any further
19 questions for counsel?
20 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: None from me. Thank
21 you.
22 CHAIR DANNER: None from me. Thank you.
23 JUDGE HOWARD: All right. In that case,
24 I'll just turn to a couple of administrative matters.
25 We have a deadline for post-hearing briefs

Page 494

1 already in the schedule for October 31st.
2 The -- were the Commissioners comfortable
3 with the page limits we discussed earlier?
4 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Yes.
5 CHAIR DANNER: Remind me, Judge, what those
6 were.
7 JUDGE HOWARD: I think it was 30 pages
8 allocated to each of the three settlements -- well, 30
9 pages for Tacoma LNG; 30 pages for revenue requirement;
10 10 pages for Green Direct, and that will be in support
11 of or in opposition to any of those settlements.
12 CHAIR DANNER: Yes. And that's fine with
13 me, yes.
14 JUDGE HOWARD: All right. So for -- for our
15 post-hearing briefs, we have the one round of
16 post-hearing briefs and the page limits would be
17 essentially based on the settlement the brief is
18 addressing. The brief can -- a party can address more
19 than one settlement, if that's within the scope of its
20 participation in the case.
21 So parties may submit 30 pages of briefing
22 in support of or in opposition to the revenue
23 requirement settlement, 30 pages of briefing in support
24 of or in opposition to the Tacoma LNG settlement, and
25 ten pages of briefing in support of or in opposition to

Page 495

1 the Green Direct settlement.
2 The 30-page limit, I should clarify, for the
3 revenue requirement settlement includes the Energize
4 Eastside issue.
5 Are there any questions about post-hearing
6 briefs or page limits?
7 MS. CARSON: I do have a question. I want
8 to make sure I understand.
9 Are you talking about three different briefs
10 or are you talking about one brief that would
11 potentially be up to 70 pages?
12 JUDGE HOWARD: I would say that if a party
13 does not have any conditions on its participation in the
14 case or has voluntarily limited its scope of
15 participation, if a party has addressed all the issues
16 in the case, it may submit one brief up to 70 pages if
17 it is addressing each of the three settlements at issue.
18 Those would be additive page limits for the brief.
19 MS. CARSON: Thank you.
20 JUDGE HOWARD: Any further questions on that
21 topic?
22 MR. HANSEN: Yes, I have a question, Your
23 Honor.
24 JUDGE HOWARD: Yes.
25 MR. HANSEN: For the Energize Eastside

Page 496

1 brief, it wasn't clear to me how many pages we would
2 prepare.
3 JUDGE HOWARD: It would be the 30-page limit
4 for the revenue requirement settlement. And then
5 because CENSE -- CENSE's participation is limited to the
6 prudence of Energize Eastside, which is one aspect of
7 that settlement, CENSE could devote all 30 pages to the
8 Energize Eastside issue. Your page limit is effectively
9 30 pages.
10 MR. HANSEN: Okay. Thank you.
11 MS. CARSON: And, Your Honor, I guess I
12 would just note that -- that presents the -- the
13 situation where a party who has one issue and the
14 revenue requirement settlement has 30 pages to address
15 it; whereas a party like PSE and many others who have
16 multiple issues in the revenue requirement settlement,
17 has 30 pages to address Energize Eastside as well as all
18 the other issues.
19 So I -- I guess I do have some concerns
20 about the fairness of that.
21 JUDGE HOWARD: Would any other party like to
22 address that concern?
23 I'm going to revisit my decision, because
24 this is an elaboration that I've added about the 30-page
25 limit and how to interpret that for Energize Eastside.

Page 497

1 I'm going to say that the Energize Eastside
 2 issue because it is one issue among others in the
 3 revenue requirement settlement up to 15 pages can be
 4 devoted to Energize Eastside. And that is within the
 5 30-page limit for the revenue requirement settlement.
 6 So that I -- I would change what I just said
 7 to -- to CENSE and I would say that CENSE is -- because
 8 of CENSE's limited participation in the case, CENSE
 9 would have a 15-page limit for its post-hearing brief.
 10 And I'm changing that decision given --
 11 given I am persuaded that if -- if a party is speaking
 12 in favor of or in opposition to the entirety of the
 13 revenue requirement settlement there are a number of
 14 issues beyond on Energize Eastside.
 15 Mr. Hansen, were you going to speak?
 16 MR. HANSEN: No, Your Honor. I was just
 17 saying, just to clarify, Energize Eastside will have 15
 18 pages and that's fine.
 19 JUDGE HOWARD: All right. Thank you.
 20 MS. CARSON: Thank you, Your Honor.
 21 JUDGE HOWARD: All right. And in terms of
 22 other administrative matters, we have the bench request
 23 for workpapers, which Commissioner Rendahl discussed
 24 earlier. And we have the supplemental aspect of that.
 25 And that will be issued shortly. And we plan on giving

Page 498

1 a 7-day turn around. It might be out the door here
 2 tomorrow, hopefully.
 3 Are there any other administrative matters
 4 we should address?
 5 Ms. Gafken.
 6 MS. GAFKEN: Yes, thank you.
 7 At the top of the hearing we talked about
 8 the public comment exhibit, and I've since been in touch
 9 with Andrew Roberts and he informs me that there is well
 10 in excess of a thousand comments. And so he is
 11 gathering the ones that has gone into the Commission.
 12 So I would -- I would ask that that date be
 13 moved from October 10th to October 17th. It's one week
 14 later.
 15 THE COURT: That should be --
 16 MS. GAFKEN: I was going to ask for a date
 17 during the week of October 10th, but we also have the
 18 AVISTA public comment due that same week.
 19 And so I think if we can move this one to
 20 the 17th, that would really ease the administrative
 21 burden. So if that works for you, that would be
 22 wonderful.
 23 JUDGE HOWARD: I think -- I think that's a
 24 reasonable request given the number of comments.
 25 And I would plan on marking that Bench


Page 499

1 Exhibit 3, because we have the supplemental. We have
 2 the bench request that's going to be -- for workpapers
 3 that will be due before that.
 4 Okay. Are there any other administrative
 5 matters?
 6 All right. Hearing none, I want to thank
 7 all the parties for their efforts in this proceeding.
 8 This process depends on the professionalism and the hard
 9 work of all the attorneys, the representatives, and the
 10 witnesses of record. It also depends on many advisors,
 11 accountants, legal support staff, and other individuals
 12 who may not be recognized by name today.
 13 I wanted to take a brief moment to recognize
 14 everyone's contributions in this complex case. And with
 15 that we are adjourned.
 16 Thank you.
 17
 18 (Hearing concluded at 4:20 p.m.)
 19
 20
 21
 22
 23
 24
 25

Page 500

1
 2 CERTIFICATE
 3
 4
 5 STATE OF WASHINGTON)
 6) ss.
 7 COUNTY OF KITSAP)
 8
 9 I, CRYSTAL R. McAULIFFE, a Certified Court
 10 Reporter in and for the State of Washington, do hereby
 11 certify that the foregoing transcript of the
 12 videoconference settlement hearing on OCTOBER 3, 2022,
 13 is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge, skill
 14 and ability.
 15 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand
 16 and seal this 10th day of October, 2022.
 17
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 24
 25

Crystal McAuliffe
 CRYSTAL R. McAULIFFE, RPR, CCR #2121



A				
A&I 479:5	438:23 483:22	411:10 422:25	247:23 330:20	278:12,19 292:16
a.m 247:2,5 253:16	accountants 499:11	435:3 439:17	410:15 462:10	320:9
253:17,23 313:8,9	accounted 351:23	475:5	493:24 497:22	affirms 455:23
313:13,13,14	accounting 247:12	additionally 458:1	498:3,20 499:4	affluent 449:15
314:16 362:9	247:14 331:3	481:13 483:24	administratively	afforded 346:16
AAG 248:20 271:7	accounts 438:13	additions 306:12	330:6	affording 469:24
abandoned 475:12	439:10	additive 351:25	admissibility	afternoon 253:21
abide 285:7	accrue 434:25	495:18	252:17 254:19	362:20 444:19
ability 283:15	accurate 281:18	address 252:13	268:1	450:24 456:12
411:6 427:22	307:14 334:24	253:5 257:8,16	admission 256:18	468:18 469:1
477:6 500:13	380:9 500:12	260:25 327:25	261:19 265:3,11	485:14
able 253:13,17	achieve 405:21	342:18 409:12,19	admitted 268:5,11	afuller@omwlaw ...
257:4 269:6	achieved 465:9	410:17 411:13	274:13 380:16,17	245:7
283:11 291:25	achieves 331:12,17	437:10 443:21	409:24 410:1	Ag 350:2
292:1 294:9	acquiring 458:13	446:2 450:15	admitting 267:16	Agencies 243:11
298:23 326:19	act 350:24 351:2	456:11 464:20	adopt 254:21 256:9	249:19,22 272:5,8
373:16 416:23	352:10 458:7	493:7 494:18	457:15 462:11	290:16,20
417:3,19,20,23	484:6	496:14,17,22	466:19 470:21	agency 434:5
425:11 426:5	action 396:20	498:4	476:23 482:6	486:10,10,13
432:15 449:11	active 418:3 485:20	addressed 356:7	adopted 327:14	aggressive 446:12
493:4	activities 475:8	386:25 409:5	350:7,12 372:21	ago 277:5 446:10
abreast 418:9	activity 484:20	410:16 460:2	adopting 254:6	451:4 453:23
419:5	actual 322:1 329:22	478:20 495:15	332:4	agree 261:7,12
abruptly 304:15	330:25,25 404:23	addresses 412:19	adoption 256:6	279:20,22 283:11
absolutely 348:16	419:14 483:20	431:25 449:2	advance 264:17	284:17 312:16
389:25 426:4	actualized 493:11	addressing 252:11	advanced 416:18	330:6,8 333:2
abuts 484:16	add 264:12 285:25	436:22 494:18	448:4	345:5 348:3
accept 262:13,19	302:21 345:6	495:17	advantaged 435:5	371:12 383:16
263:9 281:4	346:3 349:21	adequate 386:18,20	advise 259:1 324:9	391:23 436:3
382:10,13 436:1	391:14 435:6,8	428:24 482:25	advisor 452:17	448:14 449:6,7
456:4 472:17	added 324:4 326:1	adjourned 499:15	advisors 499:10	458:12 479:12
accepted 247:18	346:12 350:10	adjusted 284:22	advisory 455:12	492:24
262:12	355:6 401:11	adjustment 280:4	advocates 244:7	agreeable 256:17
accepts 372:8 373:2	496:24	281:7 282:2,5	250:22 273:11,17	agreed 280:8,19
436:6	adding 486:9	318:2,18 341:24	444:9 446:3	282:5,10 293:16
access 280:10 349:6	addition 282:23	345:21 436:10	456:11,17	306:17 319:4
455:16	431:18 433:24	adjustments	Affairs 275:23	325:5 330:14
accident 420:11,14	449:21 458:11	316:12,16 320:14	289:10 291:13	332:11 347:23
accidents 418:10	462:25 474:6	administer 463:22	affiant 262:14	354:6 375:10
419:6,22	475:19 483:1	administering	affidavit 262:8,11	383:4 400:19
accompanied	488:22	329:7,11	262:16	402:17 411:15
272:13 275:6	additional 265:25	Administration	affirm 277:24	448:13 461:8,23
accompany 250:3	266:20 282:16,21	397:15	363:10 414:9	470:9
account 352:3	324:11 326:1	administrative	affirmation 292:13	agreed-upon
	340:15 346:13	241:13 242:2	affirmative 278:2	406:13 446:14

<p>452:25 466:6 agreeing 432:16 agreement 258:8 259:18 281:17 285:7 293:16 302:25 306:13 315:7 316:11 322:2 328:2,24 339:7 344:13,14 372:7,25 375:9 383:3 400:19 402:9,9,14,16 420:24 432:11 456:23 457:3 463:2 468:22 470:5,22 agreements 341:7 343:10 344:7 432:4,13 agrees 327:12 337:14 Agriculture 349:22 Agriculture's 350:9 ahead 257:5 264:2 265:24 308:8 315:5 345:2 346:25 350:19 387:24 406:8,16 406:17 426:18 465:18 489:2 490:5 491:23 492:22 air 261:23 263:19 263:22 416:6,9,11 416:16,16,22 417:21 418:2 433:13 434:10 474:5 475:21 486:9,13,14,15 487:11 Al-Jabir 246:8 290:17,18 292:21 310:7 311:2 313:19,20 359:6</p>	<p>359:11 Alex 246:6 276:17 290:23 298:8,25 299:4 300:4 414:2 Ali 246:8 290:18 310:7 313:19 aligned 436:25 ALJ 277:10 Alliance 243:2 249:6 271:21 allocate 429:16 470:10 allocated 427:23 428:1 464:2 466:9 470:5 494:8 allocating 429:19 463:11 allotted 472:8 allow 253:15 260:6 267:10 304:19,21 369:7 371:6 372:17,21 375:1 399:19 401:3 417:11 441:5 442:9,14 448:18 449:9 455:21 476:17 477:11 allowed 261:3 allowing 253:10 257:19 262:25 312:9 381:21 388:7 488:15 allows 262:7 303:1 303:6 447:24 448:9 470:2 473:14 476:25 477:3 alternately 364:16 alternative 370:4,5 370:11,24 371:22 403:12 435:11 alternatives 369:23 370:1,7,25 371:23 382:6 386:18 449:8,23 473:7</p>	<p>482:24 483:23 484:4 491:3 ambiguity 328:21 336:10 357:16 Ambiguous 392:18 amenable 361:14 AMI 453:18 amicus 485:23 amortized 338:21 amortizes 339:9 amortizing 339:8 amount 280:8,18 281:18 282:21 306:14 319:3 320:18 329:21 336:4 340:1 346:15 405:2 438:4 amounts 412:22 447:16 455:20 ample 389:21 469:24 analyses 306:24 analysis 346:24 371:1,24 382:5 386:18 392:11 393:5,20,21 394:15 404:12 430:13,19 450:3 452:20,22,22 479:7 481:24 483:14 analyst 276:6 analyzed 337:3 and/or 393:4 Andrea 440:8 Andrew 245:4 251:23 274:7 415:6 498:9 Ann 242:5 249:3 271:14 annual 335:5,6,21 341:14 342:10,25 346:9 351:23 376:24 377:2,9,14</p>	<p>378:4 392:1 397:8 annually 391:22 396:9 404:5,10 answer 303:15 319:15 321:8,12 332:23 334:3,18 334:21 343:3 347:6 371:8,12 372:3 373:16 377:1 393:19 407:12 416:24 417:3,8 428:8 430:1 464:9 answered 336:24 398:3 401:10 492:1 answering 286:6 425:23 answers 278:2 anticipate 255:4 280:25 285:21 415:7 anticipated 329:23 350:4 anticipating 254:14 269:1 338:11 anybody 351:11 anybody's 435:19 anyway 260:20 330:6 374:15 389:11 apart 471:12 apologies 344:3 apologize 257:3 265:20 270:1 275:3 298:21 440:14 appeal 475:21 appear 279:9 295:9 357:9 380:8 401:6 441:6 appearance 248:18 249:18 250:12,16 250:21 251:4,10 251:21 270:17,19</p>	<p>271:4 272:18,20 272:23 273:25 274:4,25 appearances 248:9 413:8 appeared 241:14 318:21 485:22 appearing 248:21 249:1 250:2,14,18 251:23 271:7,13 271:14,20 272:1,2 272:13 273:8,22 274:1,8 275:14 276:10 288:3,22 290:20 291:8 362:17 413:3 appears 254:22 355:14 401:25 429:24 441:1 appending 262:22 apple 382:18 applicable 476:2 application 267:20 405:9 applications 405:12 applies 482:17 490:10 apply 248:5 263:13 264:25 316:6 423:9 433:8 451:6 452:23 453:10 appreciate 260:24 261:12 279:24 284:10,14 286:2,6 345:12 346:17 356:8 439:17 approach 330:1 364:10 466:11 approaching 360:3 appropriate 255:22 255:23 257:9 261:14 263:22 264:8,11,14 304:8 345:8 357:25</p>
--	--	--	--	---

<p>409:7,17 469:4 490:19 appropriately 263:20 395:20 431:24 466:7 appropriateness 482:18 approval 453:10 approve 322:22 450:18 454:12 456:18 459:10 461:15 462:19 466:18 472:16 473:13 476:9 490:23 approved 280:5 281:13 460:10 470:8 approving 322:22 454:14 460:11 approximately 253:16 363:17 447:7 462:8 464:17 488:20 approximation 283:10 464:5,11 April 341:24 area 312:6 344:23 377:18,18 378:8 401:5 404:7,12 405:14 433:11 450:8 areas 473:24 478:22 argue 345:18 argued 261:2 argues 252:14 argument 246:18 255:13 261:1,13 441:9 442:18 445:9 477:25 478:2 486:18 488:21 489:25 490:6 arguments 436:15</p>	<p>441:3,6 442:13 443:15 467:23 478:18 arms 331:9 array 327:4 arrearage 455:14 ascertain 354:25 Ash 317:18 320:22 321:2,3,13 337:15 337:17 aside 256:21 267:15,24 343:17 asked 287:13 304:22 367:1 406:25 417:1,5 432:22 482:9 asked-and-answe... 303:16 asking 258:4 269:14 280:24 295:15,17 296:21 304:6 309:7,16 311:23 367:3,7 374:9 375:2 385:17 399:8 412:10 425:14 438:1 443:6 487:9 asks 461:14 462:18 466:18 aspect 267:6 443:19 477:17 491:16 496:6 497:24 aspects 285:18 438:15 aspiration 285:2 assess 322:23 323:2 323:9 325:12 464:17 assessed 404:10 assessing 357:25 486:20 assessment 377:5 395:12 404:9,18 483:23</p>	<p>assessments 376:25 377:3,10,14,16 378:4 395:25 396:9,11,18 397:9 397:17,20 assigned 277:10 assist 455:7 assistance 446:23 447:15 Assistant 242:8,20 249:1,4 271:13,15 associate 277:4 416:13 associated 319:2 326:16 337:15 430:16 475:6 482:10 483:11 485:7 Associates 290:19 assuage 330:17 assume 329:17 430:9 440:3 assumed 320:21 354:12 404:18 406:12,15 Assumes 417:10 assuming 318:16 388:4 assumption 330:7 assumptions 330:3 390:18 394:7 Atrium 292:6 attached 351:6 attempt 264:6 302:19 attempts 300:10 474:25 attend 260:20 attending 262:23 278:11 attorney 242:8,9,20 242:21 243:13 249:1,4 251:8 271:13,15 273:23 275:11 302:19</p>	<p>326:13 365:15 379:12 380:1 485:21 attorneys 499:9 attractive 285:19 audio 269:8,9 272:17 278:15 294:11 334:6 486:21 August 351:1 420:17 421:9 author 262:16 authorities 397:10 authorizations 451:16 authorize 345:8 authorized 480:25 481:3 authorizing 247:11 availability 288:10 358:18 available 256:9 262:14,24 286:6 291:21 302:2,3 349:4,4 352:13 361:3 379:15 387:15 396:4,5,7 427:8 469:5 Avenue 242:22 243:13 244:9,14 244:18,23 245:5 average 448:21 480:10,14 AVISTA 498:18 avoid 333:23 421:14 avoided 282:14 284:24 avoiding 282:21 461:3 avoids 462:6 aware 266:22 269:8 295:24 296:18,21 299:22 303:24 306:20 326:22</p>	<p>338:9 341:11 342:5,20 364:15 389:3 390:15 397:2,6 400:3,6,8 400:18 402:7 418:9 419:5,9,13 419:15 420:10,13 420:14 485:19 486:2 488:7 AWEC 249:7,10 271:17 289:25 290:2 352:8 414:4 414:5 432:2 445:5 467:7,10 468:9,21 470:20 AWEC's 468:23 awkward 362:4 awkwardly 304:15</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">B</p> <hr/> <p>Bachelor 415:16 back 293:6 313:9 313:17 314:15 329:25 330:1 331:6 333:21 345:16 362:10 365:14 367:16 369:14,21 370:12 370:20 401:19 409:11,14 410:11 428:16 433:1 434:15 435:1 441:17 442:1,7 467:25 468:2 471:16 background 344:22 405:11 415:13 471:16 Baker 250:3 272:14 275:6 balance 447:11 balanced 423:20 471:7 balancing 461:6 Baldwin 244:3 250:7,8 272:24,25</p>
---	--	---	---	---

<p>298:25,25 299:3 300:4,7,7,18 301:15 Ball 254:6 401:12 Ball's 254:15 255:5 bargained 477:6 base 317:25 321:7 327:20 339:13,16 339:18 394:5 429:16 492:14 based 282:4 321:11 324:18 329:6,22 355:5 382:11 394:17 401:13 402:24 416:20 417:19 422:10 463:22 494:17 baseline 281:7 326:17 455:23 basically 262:21 351:25 436:24 basing 284:13 basis 280:5 281:10 282:2 309:1 333:19 334:5 346:11 352:14 355:7,21 401:20 411:13 436:4 469:22 481:3,5 battery 343:13 Bauman 440:7 Bay 474:16 BDJ-JDT 340:10 BDJ-JDT-9 340:7 began 395:10 beginning 248:9 275:14 362:17 395:13 413:4 433:3 behalf 248:20 249:1,10,15 250:9 250:14,18,25 251:24 261:8 271:13,21 272:1,2 273:1,4,8 274:8</p>	<p>276:10 283:18 290:20 291:8 292:6 304:3 313:20 362:24 363:3 374:11 465:16 468:20 483:15 Behle 244:3 250:8 272:25 believe 254:9,17 256:2,14 259:22 266:3,19 268:23 272:17 289:18 291:20 293:11 300:25 303:4,14 304:7 307:13 310:7 311:5 313:6 328:16 329:12,20 330:22 333:10 334:20 335:24 349:25 350:16 354:4 361:11 362:2 363:5 365:22 366:24 367:20 368:20 371:9 378:6 379:16 380:10 383:20,25 385:21 393:14 397:16,21 398:3,4 407:20 412:11 426:12 431:23 438:16 444:5 445:6 452:23 457:23 464:25 465:9 466:24 468:2 476:13 491:18 believes 283:8 465:5 Bellevue 242:16 392:10 449:25 Ben 244:13 251:6 273:21 288:5 444:25 465:15 ben.mayer@klga...</p>	<p>244:16 bench 246:5,12 252:24 266:16 278:20 287:6 314:22,24 315:3 315:12,13,16,18 315:22 316:5 319:10 320:12 358:10 360:10 406:4 407:25 408:10,15 426:14 437:14,25 438:18 438:20 439:4,22 440:10,16,22 491:20 497:22 498:25 499:2 benchmarks 326:12,15 327:1 beneficial 435:4 beneficiaries 470:6 benefit 257:25 356:12 382:5 431:6,13 433:24 469:9 472:8 485:18 benefiting 474:20 benefits 282:16 330:15,15 351:8 351:25 352:9 403:3 433:11 434:7,25 448:24 451:18 452:5,8,11 452:12,13,15 454:3 455:22 457:10 458:11 462:3 463:9,11 464:1 466:8 470:17 473:23 474:10,17 485:24 benzene 416:21 best 254:12 256:10 347:4 500:12 better 282:7 285:24 294:19 334:11,16 461:24 477:11</p>	<p>Betty 246:9,10 289:23 348:2 361:1,19 362:14 362:24 376:3 413:20 Betty's 408:8 beyond 285:8 309:2 339:8,9 365:8 366:15 374:19 375:17 377:19,24 419:20,25 431:16 438:8 497:14 Bieber 246:5 291:3 291:4 292:20 293:11 294:8,10 294:15,19,23 298:4,12 314:8,8 359:24,25 414:23 biennial 457:18 bigger 471:5 bill 353:3,11 355:13,15,19 356:13 433:6 447:15 454:15 455:13 billion 447:18,22 Birud 275:25 289:11 340:11 bit 264:18 268:21 293:15 294:11 328:18 330:2 334:16 344:1,2 360:23 405:11 410:7 444:21 487:19 bite 382:18 black 286:18 Blair 474:11 board 263:18,21 382:7 386:19 451:12 475:10 482:14,25 483:25 484:1,5 491:4 Board's 473:18 body 472:3</p>	<p>Boehm 245:16,16 250:17,18 273:7,8 298:13 359:23 360:2 Bonneville 397:14 booted 467:16 468:1 border 484:21 487:12 borne 330:4 463:9 463:10 bottom 321:7 Box 242:9 BP 430:9 BPA 388:4 397:17 Brad 290:1,13 326:5,7 352:8 353:18 356:6 357:21 414:5 432:2 Bradley 246:7,7 305:17 308:6 361:2 breadth 388:25 break 253:15,21 313:7,8,8,12 314:17 361:16,18 362:6,8 408:23 409:12,14 410:9 442:1,3,4,5 breaking 253:18 Brew 243:18 250:2 272:13 275:5 Bridle 244:23 brief 252:10 258:10 267:10 270:17 385:12 408:23 461:20 465:16 468:21 476:19 478:19 479:12 485:15 488:22 490:4 494:17,18 495:10,16,18 496:1 497:9 499:13</p>
---	--	--	--	--

<p>briefing 487:17 494:21,23,25 briefly 264:1 265:22 409:2 410:19 441:19 445:2 478:22 479:2 482:8 briefs 253:25 327:24 477:20 493:25 494:15,16 495:6,9 bring 263:23 431:9 464:24 465:3 bringing 292:9 328:11 brings 463:19 broad 352:12 405:23 broader 327:19 broke 424:17 471:12 Brombaugh 285:15 285:17 288:9,18 brought 283:24 317:19 321:1,4 Brownfield 434:11 Brubaker 290:19 Brumbaugh 276:13,14 BTC-IT 353:6 budget 321:10 budgeting 466:13 buffer 474:20 build 326:17,25 436:2 472:18 474:23 487:11 490:24 491:7 building 326:24 427:15 built 388:5 446:20 449:15 bulk 394:25 395:6 395:23 396:15,25 397:4,13 398:1 429:24 478:24</p>	<p>bullet 317:18,21,24 318:5 bulleted 341:4 bullets 317:14 bunch 411:10 burden 458:4 462:10 498:21 burdened 447:8 burdens 451:18 452:5 454:3 burdensome 473:8 businesses 457:2 button 322:16</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">C</p> <hr/> <p>C 242:1 243:1 244:1 245:1 293:13 298:16 301:23 305:20 308:9 310:9 311:8 363:23 381:15 385:13 386:13 403:24 415:10 500:2,2 Cadeo 256:8 calculate 281:21 328:3 463:5,21 464:9 calculated 328:17 332:10,12,20 333:6 334:5 calculates 465:1 calculating 282:9 282:14 284:19 328:25 336:11 459:25 460:4,7 461:2 466:12 calculation 282:4 318:3 332:5,8,18 calculations 319:6 330:3 335:21 437:17 California 243:9,14 349:20 350:5,7 call 252:19 260:7 269:9 275:10</p>	<p>278:11,14 287:24 301:19 313:16,18 373:24 412:25 467:16,25 Callahan 248:22 271:8 called 452:9,24 calling 252:25 274:12,22 362:12 436:14 Calls 311:21 401:1 camera 270:14 291:23 381:12 440:4 cameras 248:4,8 275:17 287:23 288:25 358:16 362:19 408:20 413:6 440:2 Canada 421:25 422:2 423:21 425:20 canceled 388:6 capacity 285:23 331:8,14,18,25 332:10 428:16,20 448:8 450:13 485:23 capital 306:12 318:18 319:10,18 319:25 320:6 337:14 349:17 360:6,8,20,21 448:18,22 451:8 453:11 478:14 479:17 481:21,22 482:1,4 capitalization 480:4 captioned 247:8 capture 294:9 carcinogens 417:6 417:18 card 323:22 career 416:7,13</p>	<p>careful 259:6 391:12 carefully 471:7 491:2,8 Carson 242:14 246:11,12,14,17 248:12,13 255:8 256:1 263:6 264:12 268:4 269:16 270:13,22 270:23,25,25 291:18 292:9 316:1 334:12 370:16 388:8,24 390:7 392:17 399:5 401:1 403:23,25 406:2 409:20,21 410:5 417:9 426:11 436:22 444:1,20 445:4,18,20,21 459:3,8,9 461:22 464:23 467:10,15 467:23,25 468:1 468:10 470:25 471:2,3 492:2,23 493:6 495:7,19 496:11 497:20 Cascade 453:22 case 247:13,18 252:3 253:20 258:20 264:15 268:22 277:10,16 280:6 281:11 286:25 287:10 302:21 306:11 309:3 316:17 320:7 327:6 341:3 345:20 347:10 351:24 355:14 362:4 369:12 389:20 394:5 401:24 405:17 407:23 410:3,4 430:13 434:20</p>	<p>459:18 460:2,18 460:20,21 462:21 462:23 463:2,3 464:11,21 466:19 468:23 469:2 471:16,16,23,25 472:6,22 478:4 480:8 486:6 490:10 493:23 494:20 495:14,16 497:8 499:14 case-by-case 352:14 cases 267:20 284:20 285:3,22 312:5 342:11 424:11 459:14 461:4 462:9 466:15 cash 448:19 catch 270:20,20 categories 353:14 causation 429:21 469:16 470:4 cause 419:14 caused 420:12 caution 296:8 CCR 241:25 500:20 Cebulko 246:7 266:10,13 290:13 290:13 292:20 308:6,22,23 309:8 310:2 326:5,6,7 327:11 353:15,16 353:18,19 354:5,7 354:16,20 355:2 356:23,25 357:15 Cebulko's 309:2 353:6 357:21 358:5 CEII 385:25 400:9 405:9,12 CEIP 316:13 317:11 332:22</p>
---	---	---	---	--

<p>333:6,18 334:4,22 336:17,20,23 337:1,3 cell 278:14 CENSE 251:11,13 251:14 252:12 253:2,7 255:17 257:19 259:14,21 260:7 261:8,12 266:6,15,23 267:22,24 273:25 274:2,19 292:18 293:2,21 298:19 302:1 305:23 308:12 310:16 311:14 314:20 361:8 363:16 364:1 367:22 375:23 376:24 379:21 385:17 410:1 442:16 449:14 477:22 488:20 496:5,7 497:7,7,8 CENSE's 255:10 256:2 258:21 259:12 260:5 261:2 267:16 292:25 293:5 367:8 376:7 380:7 380:12 385:23 388:16 440:20 450:9 496:5 497:8 center 370:3,11 454:17 Centered 250:23 251:2 273:12,16 centers 456:21 458:4 CenturyLink 262:5 certain 320:16,18 320:20 442:17 444:7 certainly 269:18 285:21 297:1</p>	<p>299:25 317:11 345:6 347:8 350:25 352:21 357:22 358:3 424:9 433:4,19 434:3 442:2 484:24 certainty 462:4 465:8 466:14 476:25 certified 398:12,15 500:8 certify 398:7 500:10 CETA 433:5 479:9 Chair 242:5 247:24 270:9,11 271:6,11 271:18 286:9 287:2 288:4,7 314:11,12 322:15 323:12 324:15 325:3,9 326:4,6 327:8,10,21 329:1 329:17 330:18 331:5 332:3,24 333:7,13,20 334:23 335:2,10 337:10,24 338:13 338:18 339:11,20 340:5,8,16,19 358:11,23 360:16 408:17 439:23 441:24 493:22 494:5,12 Chairman 340:3 challenge 372:9 373:2 418:1 437:6 469:18 472:21 477:6 challenged 262:16 303:3 470:14 473:16 challenges 470:1 challenging 485:23 chance 294:7</p>	<p>299:17 311:10 437:10 change 285:8 346:7 423:25 497:6 changed 282:3,4,9 423:21 425:21 changes 425:20 456:19 457:20 458:11 changing 346:14 497:10 channels 447:15 characteristics 480:9 characterized 395:8 charge 279:6,6,13 280:1,5 281:11 465:24 466:6,12 charges 279:12 charging 349:15 chart 443:13 Chase 440:7 check 280:11,22 281:1,3,4 287:14 287:19 361:8 371:16 384:19 checking 391:5 398:24 chemical 416:15 chime 350:18 chosen 489:13 Chris 276:5 279:21 281:15 Cincinnati 245:17 circulated 265:12 267:15 circumstance 410:22 circumstances 285:7 420:13 citation 370:9 463:8 citations 373:24 cited 264:16 281:18</p>	<p>281:19 452:2,3 490:16 cities 393:6,7 City 244:5 370:4,10 389:18 392:10 393:20,22 397:18 398:2,7,12,15 434:8,15 449:25 475:20 claimed 401:11 claims 297:21 clarification 284:11,14 286:14 332:8 335:11 349:7 443:25 clarified 407:25 clarify 282:2 286:11 310:13 320:20 332:3 337:8 373:11 396:5 402:11,23 405:6 427:1,10 439:7,8 495:2 497:17 clarifying 279:2 283:1 380:1,2 clarity 312:12 371:14 381:5 439:18 classify 438:14 clean 289:15 317:12 332:13,16 351:6 411:4 446:6 446:12,17 447:9 451:25 486:13 cleaner 297:15 cleanup 434:11 clear 328:19 334:13 343:24 344:6,9 349:9 375:24 377:1 408:11 412:6 446:4 458:14 463:8 496:1 clear-cut 336:7</p>	<p>clearly 323:13 326:9 334:12 336:22 432:24 490:14 Cleve 243:3 245:10 249:9 climate 457:10 458:7 closed 378:13 closely 375:21 383:1 closer 294:16 370:10 480:15 481:25 closing 246:12,13 246:13,14,14,15 246:15,16,16,17 246:17,18,18,19 246:19 253:10 436:15 441:3,6,9 441:10,14 442:11 442:12,13,17 443:15,19 445:20 445:24 450:23 455:3 456:14 459:8 461:19 462:16 465:19 467:23 468:17 471:2 476:21 477:25 478:2,19 485:12 487:17 488:21,24 489:1 489:25 490:4,6 closings 442:4 491:25 Club 244:23 250:22 251:2 273:12,16 290:8,10 clumsy 425:15 co-representatives 270:16 CO2 421:11 Coalition 244:21 250:23 251:1,10 273:15 290:6</p>
--	--	---	---	---

code 393:24	comment 268:18	482:19 483:2,10	355:3,9,22 356:1	commit 348:4
codes 476:2	268:19,21 286:4	485:6 487:10	356:3,6,17,22,25	commitment
cognizant 463:17	345:1 352:9	488:6,11 490:19	357:4,18 358:6,12	260:17 458:7,7
Coie 242:15 248:13	460:11 488:5	491:5,8,11 492:9	358:13,22,24	commitments
271:1 467:21	498:8,18	492:17 498:11	360:11,12,14,18	455:23
coincident 331:13	comments 255:11	Commission's	406:6,7,9,24	committed 343:3
334:2	268:25 327:11	326:23 327:5	407:4,8,24 408:3	committing 331:24
cold 427:14 428:23	345:13 348:1	345:10 373:25	408:7,12,16	common 319:1
435:12,18 457:10	350:18 468:21	432:24 451:6	426:16,19 427:9	464:25 480:10,14
493:10,13	469:1 478:17	453:25 466:1	427:13,17 428:7,9	communicated
collaborative	489:3 498:10,24	476:6 484:10	429:1,11 431:4,21	483:24
460:17 462:22,25	commercial 457:5	490:11	434:17 435:22	communication
463:1 464:20	457:22	Commission-led	436:12,19 437:8	386:19 400:13
colleague 251:25	commission 241:2	348:6	437:15,15 438:7	482:24
274:9 391:12	241:4 242:7 247:9	commissioned	438:12,19 439:12	communications
432:22	247:16,23 260:15	426:24 427:2	439:19,24 440:18	262:5 399:16,18
colleagues 286:8	262:5,7,10,13,15	Commissioner	440:24,25 453:4	communities
322:12 346:20	262:19 263:13,13	242:5,6 247:25,25	487:18 491:21,24	435:21 450:12
collect 430:15	263:21 264:23	269:19,20,22,25	492:19,25 493:16	452:6,18 453:17
collectively 457:20	267:18 268:25	270:3,4,5,8	493:20 494:4	453:18,19 454:8
colloquy 435:2	269:3 276:6	274:16 276:21,22	497:23	456:3 458:3,3
color 324:12	279:22 280:5	276:23 277:8	commissioner's	474:3
Colorado 415:15	284:6 285:1	278:7,22,24 279:1	263:23	community 244:23
415:21	287:14 289:22,23	279:17,23 280:14	commissioners	487:25 488:7,8,9
Colstrip 317:19	322:21 323:2,9,23	281:2,14 282:1,22	242:4 247:24	490:16,17,18
320:22 321:13	324:7,10 325:7	284:8 285:5,14,17	252:19 269:14	companies 480:8
337:12,15 338:2,4	326:24 327:15	286:1 287:7,13	270:17 271:6,12	480:10
338:6,11,20,24	332:14 335:23	314:14,14 315:1	271:19,25 272:6	company 245:15
339:13,17,19,21	345:6,19 346:23	315:17 316:8,24	272:25 273:4,8,14	250:19 266:19
458:15 479:6	347:4,8,15,19,22	317:8 318:12,25	273:21 274:7,11	268:3 273:9 291:4
combination	347:23 348:4	319:14,21 320:3	275:22,25 276:5	315:25 321:23
325:10 455:14	363:3 369:10	320:19,24 321:14	289:6,9 292:5	322:24 323:19
come 263:1 315:19	384:8 385:15	321:19 322:5,9	314:10 348:21	324:8 325:12
319:18 321:16	411:10 412:2	334:7 335:14,16	352:18 353:18	328:10,22 330:14
370:19 386:4	436:6,7 450:18	336:15,21 337:7	358:21 383:23	331:11,17 332:2
394:8 409:11,14	453:5,9,10,22	340:22 341:16,19	409:4 445:23	333:18 336:1,6
429:6 442:1	454:12 456:4,12	341:22 342:14,17	450:25 455:5	343:2 344:17
452:20	459:10,19 460:12	342:22 343:1,8,25	456:16 465:21	347:18,18 351:15
comfortable 494:2	461:10,15 462:10	344:24 345:3,11	466:18 468:19	352:4 355:23
coming 256:3 334:9	462:11,18 463:1	346:17,22 347:1	485:14,19 486:2	356:21,24 368:23
361:7 382:23	466:15 469:6	347:25 348:10,19	487:8,14,25 494:2	412:10 413:11
422:1 428:19	470:8,21 471:7,14	348:22 349:12	Commissioning	416:15 432:22
443:24 447:4	472:2,8,10,15	350:3,15,22 351:1	476:4	438:14 439:3
Commencement	473:13 476:9,23	352:7,16,22 354:4	Commissions	445:12 480:19
474:16	479:23 482:6,9,13	354:10,16,18,23	272:11 290:18	company's 282:18

<p>284:24 285:12 324:6,25 328:20 332:13 341:9 343:23 344:4,22 357:23 381:23 436:9 458:13 487:16 company-by-com... 348:9 compared 319:12 compelling 307:17 compensate 283:6 480:20 compensated 283:21 competing 447:12 compile 268:20 Complainant 241:5 complete 264:4 309:18 403:2 416:3 426:22 463:4 476:4,25 completed 416:2 476:4 completely 478:5 completes 301:12 305:9 307:24 309:23 310:25 313:1 385:8 403:19 completion 402:25 complex 253:19 471:8,16 472:6 499:14 compliance 289:7 317:1 327:23 332:13,17 341:2,7 341:12,15,17 342:10,25 343:4 416:9 449:12 451:11,11 complies 465:1,6 complimenting 327:3 comply 349:19</p>	<p>component 297:1 435:6 484:19 components 434:3 434:9 Compound 392:18 comprehension 285:8 comprehensive 306:7 457:12 comprised 449:14 compromise 427:22 465:23,25 compromised 448:11 computer 272:16 concede 415:1 concern 327:22 342:23 345:23 384:4 412:20 475:9 496:22 concerned 302:23 383:24 388:14 concerning 488:5 concerns 268:8 277:14,20 309:5 330:17 342:19,20 345:17 348:12 358:21,22,23 377:18 385:17 411:22 447:2 460:9 475:17 481:21 483:6 491:9 496:19 conclude 253:13 380:19 436:14 476:13 491:6,11 concluded 401:14 434:24 499:18 concludes 380:21 conclusion 341:3 394:10 401:2 485:25 conclusions 394:9 concurrent 469:21 concurs 461:21</p>	<p>condition 398:6,10 453:5 462:19 conditional 398:6 398:10 403:15 449:24 conditions 450:19 459:11 461:16 472:16 474:7,11 476:10 480:19 495:13 conduct 312:20 conducted 295:14 299:16 302:17 303:11 306:10 conducting 255:16 415:4 confer 258:24 391:12 conference 460:23 confirm 260:11 281:18 304:11 316:15,20 317:3 337:17,23 338:23 339:15 391:8 392:11 409:23 476:1 confirmed 395:11 395:13 405:25 conflict 350:8,10 350:11,13 conform 328:1 476:2 conformance 325:8 confused 267:8 confusion 412:3 connecting 493:2 connection 266:6 connections 272:21 conservation 457:18 consider 255:18 266:22 267:1,11 288:15 292:12 295:1,10 363:6 367:6 381:20</p>	<p>422:15 451:17 454:3 472:11,12 476:15 483:2,23 considerable 451:13 consideration 350:14 358:3 449:8 458:17 considerations 486:5 considered 259:20 306:24 316:18 352:11 475:16,20 considering 247:17 260:4 considers 312:17 431:24 consistency 285:20 consistent 332:12 333:5 336:11 339:25 349:24 350:1 353:23 429:20 453:24 454:5 469:4 470:7 consistently 332:20 481:15 483:19 consists 261:21 consolidated 241:5 247:6,14 constantly 447:11 constituents 433:13 constraints 428:19 construct 470:14 472:23 475:11 constructed 425:10 425:16 426:1 475:15 constructing 476:7 construction 426:21 475:17,24 476:3 consult 452:14 consultant 290:19 392:9 consumers 243:2</p>	<p>249:7 271:21 283:15 contact 268:24 269:2 398:21 contain 480:8 contained 389:23 432:8 434:14 contains 420:25 482:2 contest 432:15 contests 478:25 context 302:24 312:6 336:16 429:22 contingencies 394:8 contingency 450:6 continually 404:10 continuation 347:13 continue 252:25 253:21,22 256:25 334:25 404:11 430:25 447:13 450:14 464:21 484:8 Continued 243:1 244:1 245:1 continues 461:10 470:20 continuing 343:9 434:18 484:23 contract 341:11 342:6 421:5 425:8 contracted 393:4,6 393:20 contracts 283:22 342:13 448:7 contrary 486:18 contrast 480:2 482:4 contributing 430:5 431:14 contribution 430:22</p>
--	--	---	--	--

<p>contributions 499:14</p> <p>control 263:17,20</p> <p>convenient 432:14</p> <p>conversation 354:2 409:9 410:7</p> <p>convinced 265:4</p> <p>convincing 489:19</p> <p>cooperate 315:5</p> <p>coordination 451:24</p> <p>copy 268:15 310:19 377:2 380:9</p> <p>core 427:12,24 428:2 429:20 436:10 454:1 493:3</p> <p>cornerstone 455:15</p> <p>corporate 451:8,16 453:11</p> <p>correct 279:13 297:8,24,25 301:9 301:10 304:13 305:7,8 307:22 309:21,22 310:23 310:24 312:24 315:20 318:19 321:18 324:19 331:21 332:1,6 333:9 338:17 340:18 341:21 342:16 354:15,20 356:19 365:24 366:7 368:21 371:16 372:12 373:5,8 375:16 377:4 383:9,15 385:6 386:21 387:10 390:2,22 392:5,16 394:2,14 395:1,7,24 396:16 397:1,5,15 398:2 398:9,14,15 400:5 400:12,22 402:22 402:23 403:7</p>	<p>407:15 415:17,18 417:5 419:23 420:21 421:2,7,8 421:20,22 422:14 423:5,17 424:6 425:1,5,12,18 426:3,5 444:2,11 445:1 492:9</p> <p>corrected 394:2 489:18</p> <p>correcting 390:18 391:21 456:25</p> <p>corrections 265:17 287:18,21</p> <p>corrective 396:20</p> <p>correctly 264:10 353:15 440:15 477:19</p> <p>corrects 457:9</p> <p>Corridor 388:5</p> <p>cost 280:4,6 281:7 282:2,5,14,15 284:24 289:12 303:1 316:17 339:3 341:4,8,17 341:24 345:15,20 345:21 360:6,7,20 360:21 381:25 382:5,15 401:14 407:16 429:21 431:11 435:11,11 436:4 446:15 448:22 449:12 456:21 457:1 464:18 466:8 469:11,14,14,15 469:19 470:4 479:6 481:21 485:7</p> <p>cost-effective 458:8</p> <p>cost-recovery 470:17</p> <p>costly 456:23</p> <p>costs 276:1 282:21 303:2 318:16</p>	<p>321:22 329:7,10 330:8,20,21,25 331:4 338:1,21,24 338:25 340:23 341:1 343:11,14 343:17 345:25 351:22 381:21,24 382:17 383:14,19 383:19 384:1 403:6 407:10,19 407:20,22 429:16 429:17,19 430:5 430:16,20 431:15 435:3 436:24 437:6,7 439:9 448:10,18 452:12 452:13,15 458:15 463:9,11 464:1 469:12,19,25 470:2,5,10,15 472:20 473:15 476:25 477:1,5,7 479:9 482:10 483:11 492:3,6,10 492:11,14</p> <p>counsel 242:19,21 248:24 249:2 258:10 268:17 271:10,14 276:10 277:1 283:2,5,8 303:16 342:21 359:22 414:14,22 435:23,24 436:16 437:10 440:7 442:16 443:6,17 444:23 459:4,20 462:14,18,25 465:4 477:21,24 477:25 478:10,11 478:18,23,25 479:3,16,23 483:13,16 485:5 491:20 493:19</p> <p>counsel's 276:8 283:12 342:19</p>	<p>345:17,23 440:11 478:4 480:3,13,21 481:25 482:4 490:22,25 491:6</p> <p>count 487:3</p> <p>counter-designate 410:25 411:12</p> <p>counter-designat... 411:7,25</p> <p>counter-designat... 411:5</p> <p>counter-designat... 411:17</p> <p>counting 333:24</p> <p>County 244:12,17 251:4,6 273:19,22 276:14 285:19,25 394:25 395:7,24 396:16,25 397:5 397:14 398:1 444:25 445:2 459:21 465:16,22 466:3,13,14,18 500:6</p> <p>County's 276:12</p> <p>couple 326:8 403:23 423:22 425:21 476:17 493:24</p> <p>course 257:25 335:1 347:15 361:7 432:23 471:25 473:10</p> <p>court 259:2,7 268:16 294:9,14 301:21 360:3 391:13 456:13 467:5 476:20 485:22 491:23 498:15 500:8</p> <p>cover 430:20 478:17</p> <p>covered 439:7</p> <p>covering 431:11</p> <p>crafted 471:8</p>	<p>Crane 440:8</p> <p>create 452:8,11 463:18</p> <p>created 383:14 403:6</p> <p>creates 469:25</p> <p>creating 452:15</p> <p>Credentials 364:22</p> <p>credible 450:11</p> <p>credit 279:6 280:1 280:6 281:11,22 282:12 283:5 284:19 448:20 459:25 460:5,15 461:2,7 463:5 464:7,17 465:2,25 466:6,12 480:6</p> <p>credits 279:13 339:5 351:6</p> <p>creosote 474:9</p> <p>criteria 294:24,25 295:1,8,10,11,24 374:3 382:2,3 400:24 401:13,18 401:21,23 433:19 454:14 474:5</p> <p>critical 333:3</p> <p>critique 481:19</p> <p>cross 246:5,6,6,7,7 246:8,8,9,9,10,11 252:23 253:2 257:15,22 258:19 259:13 260:7 261:3,14 266:23 266:25 267:2,16 278:6,17 292:25 314:19,20 360:7 361:9 375:23 376:7,10 381:3,3 381:7 399:20 410:1 414:22 415:1,4 426:13 440:6,13,20</p> <p>cross-exam 409:22</p> <p>cross-examination</p>
---	--	---	---	--

<p>252:12,16 253:12 262:14,20,24 263:2 264:6,7 265:15,21 266:1,4 266:13,17 292:18 292:22 414:15 cross-examinatio... 361:15 cross-examine 258:6 259:15 266:15 363:16 378:16 381:9 cross-examines 253:7 cross-examining 370:20 cross-exhibit 259:21 260:3,5 267:22 cross-exhibits 253:6 256:22 266:10 267:17,24 274:14,19 385:23 cross-questions 261:8 cross-subsidizati... 461:25 crossed 368:4 crosses 361:17 crossing 258:22 cryogenic 421:17 422:8 CRYSTAL 241:25 500:8,20 CUP 389:18 current 281:23,25 282:13 317:16 350:13 433:8 448:13 currently 256:8 279:7,10 314:17 338:14 349:22 351:15 438:17 449:19 452:9 453:6</p>	<p>Curt 273:8 customer 355:1 425:3,6 430:16,20 431:9,20 446:20 452:2,3 455:22 456:2,24 479:22 482:12 customers 279:7,10 279:11 283:6,19 283:20,23 284:19 338:6,15 348:13 349:6 351:9,17 352:1 353:10 354:13,14 355:4 355:12,20 356:11 375:14 383:8 402:21 403:3 405:8 420:21,22 421:23 423:10,11 424:10 427:3,12 427:24 428:2 429:7,8,20 431:7 431:12,13 433:11 435:4,15 436:11 447:1,3,7,8,16,20 448:24 450:12 452:4 455:8,17,22 456:3 457:6,6,13 457:16 458:2 459:21,22 460:1,5 460:8,13,18 461:3 461:8,9,9,13 462:1,24 463:6 464:2 466:3,9 469:10 470:6,6,10 493:4 customers' 283:18 cut 251:16 cutting 278:8,10 cybersecurity 448:2</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">D</p> <hr/> <p>d 333:3 385:13 403:24 Damon 243:18</p>	<p>250:1 272:12 274:24 275:4 304:2 Dan 246:10,11 362:14,20 385:21 Dan'l 253:6 267:16 274:20 307:12 Danner 242:5 247:25 270:10,11 271:6,11,18 286:9 287:2 288:4,7 314:11,12 322:15 322:15 323:12 324:15 325:3,9 326:4,6 327:8,10 327:21 329:1,17 330:18 331:5 332:3,24 333:7,13 333:20 334:23 335:2,10 337:10 337:24 338:13,18 339:11,20 340:4,5 340:8,16,19 358:11,23 360:16 408:17 439:23 441:24 493:22 494:5,12 data 373:9 376:23 379:21 380:7 396:11 400:11 402:8 405:21,25 471:25 date 241:24 373:13 391:2,8 406:22 427:11 498:12,16 dated 391:10 dates 406:11,18 Dave 242:5 322:15 David 242:14 248:16 440:8 Davison 243:3 245:10 249:9 day 366:24 374:25 409:15 435:12,13 435:18 500:15</p>	<p>days 264:22 287:16 316:1,2,4 371:17 412:14 428:14,20 428:23 DC 243:20 deadline 316:6 493:25 deal 255:15 dealing 306:11 deals 369:22 dealt 352:13 416:15 Deb 254:15 decade 446:10 448:23 decarbonization 446:4,7 447:9 456:20 457:8,11 458:12 479:8 decarbonization-... 444:10 December 338:25 339:4 decide 345:7 376:15 decided 383:20 484:7,8 deciding 486:5 decision 295:23 306:13,14 381:24 382:14 384:9 390:9 432:25 436:1 470:13 472:4,18,23 473:3 473:18,18 474:23 475:10 482:17 490:23 491:1,6 496:23 497:10 decision-making 382:8 434:2 decisions 386:20 433:9 declined 481:2,4,14 483:18 declining 484:3 decommissioning</p>	<p>338:24 decrease 474:13 decreasing 433:25 deem 265:7,8 deemed 469:13 470:15 deep 351:15 deeper 446:17 defending 261:15 defer 322:7,12 347:8 deferral 477:1 deferred 247:12 355:2 437:16 deficiencies 404:7 404:12 deficiency 368:24 378:7 395:11 404:19,22 405:5 449:3,19 450:15 define 327:15 defined 329:16 373:22 381:17 483:4 defines 331:7 definitely 343:2 degree 330:13 degrees 416:18 delay 316:13 318:9 318:10,13 delayed 406:11 473:3 delaying 436:8 delicately 471:8 deliver 446:11 delivering 451:19 467:23 delivery 431:2 453:12 delta 430:22 demand 324:22 331:13,24 334:2 343:13 344:10 370:24 371:22 458:8,13</p>
--	--	--	---	--

372:10 373:3 400:21 demonstrated 296:19 299:23 303:25 306:21 364:16 387:8 480:1,22 490:9 demonstrates 449:18 469:2 demonstrating 389:22 472:23 demonstration 295:13 296:16 299:15,20 302:16 303:10,22 306:9 306:19 364:13 382:5 386:17 387:6 denied 265:8 268:14 deny 260:6 262:9 312:3,4 Department 349:22 350:2,9 depending 478:6 492:17 depends 354:7 499:8,10 deposited 416:23 417:22 depth 374:5 deputy 251:7 273:23 DER 329:8 452:24 453:1,20 derived 330:16 describe 416:5 described 268:2 341:8 401:9 422:23 453:3 describes 262:17 329:5 483:25 490:14 describing 282:7 400:10	description 416:1 453:25 design 387:3 398:9 398:13,17 422:25 429:5 435:12 475:7,17 479:5 designated 420:6 429:8 designed 339:2 423:23 425:19 428:13 433:18 455:7 475:15 desk 418:17 Despite 481:23 detail 355:10 479:11 485:3 detailed 255:4 355:11 details 263:22 375:21 419:13 determination 303:1 373:13 382:11 384:2 401:20 404:3 436:1,8 449:7 472:17 473:14 485:23 487:16 determine 295:22 297:2 368:17 381:20 382:1,17 387:2,5,11 394:16 403:17 409:16 454:15 487:10,15 determined 319:8 329:13,18 333:19 383:20 384:4 389:22 393:23 492:4 determines 284:22 482:21 determining 323:16,16 383:18 490:20 detriment 324:18 develop 451:16	455:12 457:3,12 developed 329:13 353:9 developing 329:7 329:11 357:19 463:4 476:6 development 330:20 348:14 450:14 475:7 483:7 484:13 devote 496:7 devoted 497:4 dex@smxblaw.c... 243:21 diesel 433:23 difference 295:12 295:15,20 299:14 299:19 302:15 303:9 306:8 373:14 420:19 430:23 differences 319:13 different 279:12 281:20 283:2 284:1 320:14 321:10,11 357:6,7 357:8,11 386:4 388:15 430:7 438:15 443:8 446:10 464:24 478:6 495:9 differentiate 302:19 differently 365:16 differs 364:11 difficult 447:4 difficulty 334:8 diligence 472:7 diligently 464:19 diminished 294:12 424:9 direct 246:14 247:20 252:22,23 258:11,14 261:21 262:22 264:5	270:15 271:2 274:23 275:11 277:16,21 278:6 278:17 279:3,5,7 279:11 281:22 282:12,17 283:5,6 283:7,14,18,19,20 284:5,16,19,23 288:1,11 293:9 315:8 347:5,21 349:17 387:17 402:2,6 426:20 443:3,7 444:22 445:2 456:9 458:23,25 459:2 459:10,17,20,22 460:1,3,5,13,14 460:17,22 461:3,7 461:9,12,13,15 462:1,19,24 463:6 463:9,12,20,25 464:2,8,12,14,16 464:18 465:2,4,8 465:14,22,24 466:3,7,9,9,19,23 472:4 478:10,20 483:15 494:10 495:1 directed 254:14 256:15 354:17 414:23 directive 466:1 directly 255:15 321:12 396:17 466:4 474:17 Director 275:22 289:6,10 291:13 316:25 Directors 386:19 482:14,25 483:25 491:4 Directors' 382:7 disadvantaged 348:13 433:12 disagree 294:5,25	295:6 297:12,19 299:11,13 300:15 302:10,12 306:3 307:9 308:17 311:19 312:14 364:7 365:3 366:12 383:25 389:15 432:14 disagreement 330:2 492:20 disallow 483:11 485:7 disappearing 484:3 disbenefit 485:18 discomfort 330:13 discount 455:13 discourse 329:21 discovery 342:4 378:13 discretion 345:10 discuss 353:21 366:21 376:10 484:2 discussed 337:18 337:19 397:25 414:17,20 433:3 442:21 487:21 494:3 497:23 discussing 256:25 437:19 discussion 258:3 259:2 334:6 336:25 337:2 338:19 391:6 393:11 418:12 465:4 485:16 discussions 324:13 460:14,17,19 464:21 466:1 dispersion 416:6,11 displace 351:21 disposal 337:15,19 dispose 247:18 disputed 256:22 386:5
---	--	---	---	--

<p>486:21 distilled 487:9 distinction 295:24 distribute 452:4 454:3 distributed 343:12 344:10 distribution 423:16 424:4,24 428:4 429:15,17,19,23 430:5,11,15 431:17,18,20 438:24,25 439:8 451:18,20 452:1,1 452:21 453:12 472:25 492:10,14 493:3 distributional 346:24 452:19,22 454:2 479:7 distributions 451:24 diverse 459:19 461:24 divided 445:25 docket 262:4 280:12,14 302:22 302:22 326:23 327:15 332:22 333:19 334:22 347:11 382:25 418:1 466:2 470:9 dockets 241:3 247:6,8 document 263:16 297:8 299:6 300:24 320:10 321:25 379:18,21 380:3 486:17 documentation 296:4 370:6,15 371:2,25 377:8,13 378:3 386:20 389:14 390:2 396:3 482:25</p>	<p>491:3 documented 401:18 documents 372:4 378:11,19 388:22 415:14 doing 262:9 286:13 286:15 313:15 361:15 380:1 389:10 dollars 349:16 door 498:1 double 331:3,4 333:23 458:13 double-check 360:25 Doumit 242:6 247:25 269:19,20 269:22,25 271:6 271:12,19 276:21 276:22,23 277:9 287:7 314:14 346:22,23 347:1 347:25 348:10,19 350:22 351:1 352:7,16,22 354:4 354:10,18,23 355:3,9,22 356:1 356:17 358:13,24 360:18 408:16 426:16,19 427:9 427:17 428:7,9 429:1,11 431:4,21 434:17 435:22 436:12,19 437:8 439:24 440:24 453:4 487:18 491:21,24 492:19 492:25 493:16 downstream 421:18 422:8 dozen 471:20 Dr 323:18 325:11 326:11 329:5,7,8 329:24 331:8,12</p>	<p>331:14,18 333:23 335:4 336:22 411:1,12 420:2,5 440:14 441:20 453:19 464:3,10 480:21 481:1,18 481:20,21 483:13 483:17,21,25 485:2 487:22 draft 349:23 350:2 370:25 371:3,23 372:1 drafted 453:21 dramatic 433:20 drew 374:1 drive 330:2 DRK 379:17,18 385:25 DRK-12 371:10 DRK-28X 267:17 DRK-29X 267:21 268:13 274:20 376:8 379:20 385:24 410:2 DRK-34X 267:18 DRK-35X 267:21 268:13 274:15,20 399:4,24 410:2,3 dry 317:18 320:22 321:2,3,13 337:15 337:17,18 dstele@perkins... 242:18 due 253:25 256:3 262:10 352:10 463:25 472:7 488:23 498:18 499:3 duplicative 330:19 durability 285:20 durable 284:18 285:3,13 459:24 460:7 461:1 463:4 463:18 465:5 466:11</p>	<p>duration 286:16 DVR 355:1</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">E</p> <hr/> <p>E 242:1,1 243:1,1 244:1,1 245:1,1 245:17 293:13 298:16 301:23 305:20 308:9 310:9 311:8 363:23 381:15 385:13,13,13 386:13 403:24,24 403:24 415:10 500:2,2 Earle 276:9,10 279:20,20 280:13 282:25 440:8 464:3,10 483:13 483:17,21,25 earlier 287:13 292:13 336:7 363:5 386:3 391:23 404:4,13 410:20 413:8 435:1 478:9,21 479:13 487:19 494:3 497:24 earliest 286:24 early 336:10 395:11 407:1 416:7 460:22 earning 344:19 446:23 earnings 343:14,18 344:8,15 Earth 250:25 273:14 Earthjustice 244:8 ease 498:20 easier 330:5,11 easily 425:20 east 449:3 450:13 eastside 244:21 251:10 253:4 258:22 259:18</p>	<p>260:8 266:9,19 293:4,7 297:23 300:10 301:8 302:23 304:13 305:6 307:21 308:25 309:20 310:23 312:23 361:6,10 362:13 366:21 368:18 369:4,11,24 370:1 372:8 373:1 375:11,13 377:10 377:15,18 378:5 382:15 383:4,7,15 386:16 389:23 390:19 392:5,8,15 393:2,18,22 394:11,13 395:17 398:9,14,17 400:19 402:17,20 403:7 404:6,7,12 406:4,12,19 444:8 446:1 449:1,12 450:8,11 489:11 495:4,25 496:6,8 496:17,25 497:1,4 497:14,17 easy 428:16 463:21 echo 327:11 economic 463:22 483:7 484:12 economically 435:5 economics 292:6 415:17 ED 325:20 education 416:5,20 417:20 EE 489:18,19 effect 456:19 effective 437:1 457:1 effectively 496:8 efficacy 456:22 efficiency 325:19 457:19</p>
---	--	--	--	---

<p>efficient 258:1 effort 318:21 347:22,24 efforts 499:7 EIS 393:6 403:10 434:7,12,15 449:24 475:21 either 287:1 355:6 410:2 423:12 456:9 459:5 468:10 elaborate 404:16 433:14 elaboration 496:24 electric 302:22 304:6 322:24 333:23 348:24,25 349:4,15 395:6 396:15,25 397:4 397:13 398:1 435:15 450:5 479:4 481:4 electrical 325:12 394:25 395:23 electrification 317:13 450:15 456:1 457:1,4,12 457:17 458:5 479:8 electrify 457:17 elegant 463:21 element 332:15,16 448:25 elevated 422:1 475:3 Eli 256:7 eligible 343:14,18 344:7,14 eliminate 466:14 email 399:2 400:9 embedded 324:24 325:4 emission 483:6 emissions 416:10 416:16 457:21</p>	<p>484:17 emitted 416:21 417:7,19 emphasize 284:3 304:20 emphasized 451:3 EMV 357:25 358:1 enable 458:6 enabling 353:1 355:13 356:12 encompasses 348:8 encountered 421:18 422:8 encourage 287:19 368:8 378:25 379:1 456:20 457:1,16 460:13 482:6 ends 252:7 298:2 Energies 276:18 Energize 253:4 258:21 259:18 260:8 266:9,18 293:3,7 297:23 300:10 301:8 302:23 304:13 305:6 307:21 308:25 309:20 310:23 312:23 361:6,10 362:13 366:21 368:18 369:4,11,23 370:1 372:8 373:1 375:10,13 377:10 377:15 378:5 382:15 383:4,7,14 386:16 389:23 390:19 392:5,8,15 393:2,18,22 394:11,13 395:17 398:9,14,17 400:19 402:17,20 403:6 404:6 406:4 406:11,19 444:8 446:1 449:1,12</p>	<p>450:11 489:11 495:3,25 496:6,8 496:17,25 497:1,4 497:14,17 energy 241:7 242:13 243:2,7 244:21 247:10,11 247:14 249:7,12 249:15 250:23 251:1,1,11 257:14 266:2,7 267:4,7,9 271:1,21,23 272:2 272:3 273:15 275:23 279:5,6,13 279:25 280:5 281:11 284:19 289:15,16 290:6 290:12,14,18,24 292:7 317:12 325:19 326:7 332:13,16 343:13 351:6 353:19 362:21 413:15 418:6 419:1 424:15 442:16 444:8 446:2,6,12 446:17 447:8,9,13 448:8,8 451:25 453:25 454:24 455:16 456:3 457:18,22 458:4 459:15,25 460:4 461:2,7 465:24 466:6,12 477:18 477:18,22 489:24 490:3 Energy's 280:4 engage 460:17 475:1 engaged 418:4 472:1 474:15,22 engineer 415:16 416:8 engineering 415:20 415:22</p>	<p>engines 420:20 enhance 448:1 enhanced 446:22 ensure 328:23 438:17 446:15 ensures 466:8 469:14,24 470:5 ensuring 461:25 entails 346:6 enter 356:18 entered 342:7 453:23 464:15 470:13 enterprise-wide 451:14 entire 404:5 415:8 431:18 444:18 entirely 402:23 488:13 entirety 390:11 407:10 411:15 412:8,11 497:12 entities 397:11,19 entity 397:20 environmental 244:7 250:22 273:11,16 383:13 385:16 393:7 403:5,9,17 416:8 416:14 434:5,7 444:9 446:3 449:24 456:11,17 474:7 483:5 484:15 490:12,15 491:10,12 envision 329:19 envisioning 443:24 equal 264:25 464:7 464:18 equation 434:19 equipment 348:24 348:25 349:18 353:11 424:12,12 426:23 equipment-owned</p>	<p>349:5 equitable 446:7 451:13,17 484:24 484:25 equitably 452:4 454:4 equities 434:21 equity 346:24 431:25 432:7,8 433:3 434:4,9,19 444:8 446:2 448:12,14 451:1,4 451:6 452:16,16 452:19,21,22 453:16,22 454:15 454:17 455:9 456:21 458:5 473:20,21 478:15 479:7,19,20,24,25 480:2,3,10,14 481:16 482:2 483:7 486:4,6,6,7 487:23 490:12,15 491:9 equity-related 452:8,11 ER 411:21 Erdahl 246:9,10 254:5,21 289:22 289:23 313:23,24 348:2,2 361:1,13 361:20 362:14,24 362:24 363:5 374:9 375:23,24 376:3 381:4,6,11 384:20,24 385:11 385:15 386:24 406:16,18 407:3,6 407:14 408:2 413:20,20 492:2 especially 412:20 essence 487:9 essential 455:17 466:13 essentially 256:18</p>
--	---	--	--	--

<p>283:14 328:8 330:24 333:11 344:12,21 352:1 392:21 430:13 476:13 494:17 establish 284:18 368:10 377:17 392:5,8,14 393:1 393:18 455:13 487:20 established 303:7 308:21 327:12 349:20 393:24 490:11 establishes 466:11 establishing 460:4 estimate 322:2 438:5 estimated 253:11 329:6,10 407:10 estimates 330:11 ethane 422:1 423:10 EV 333:22,24,25 evaluate 324:8 326:19,20 327:6 357:6 373:19 394:6 429:1 432:25 491:9 evaluated 336:23 403:13 evaluating 306:24 311:24 351:16 356:10 357:7,11 evaluation 312:20 356:15,18 357:1 357:21,23 382:6 482:23 490:12 491:3 evening 488:1 event 316:5 405:4 427:16 events 339:8 428:23 eventually 321:10</p>	<p>372:21 everybody 348:8 everybody's 285:8 everyone's 499:14 evidence 262:3,13 263:12,14 264:24 376:9 379:4 380:13 386:7 389:6 396:3 410:4 417:10 472:3 473:5,7 489:19 evidentiary 256:25 EVSE 349:15 350:5 350:17,21 exact 370:8 exactly 323:20 340:17 430:18 examination 246:4 275:12 362:5 380:19,21 examinations 386:4 examine 378:5 examined 377:10 377:15 examiner 389:20 390:5 393:23 Examiner's 390:9 example 262:1 320:23 325:19 429:23 434:8 486:13 exceed 444:20 exceeded 394:20 395:17 404:21,25 404:25 405:2 483:20 exception 268:12 274:14 361:1 385:24 413:9 excerpts 261:21 264:5 377:6,19,24 396:10 excess 498:10 excessive 479:21</p>	<p>480:23 exchangers 421:15 exclude 337:14 excluded 316:16 exclusion 454:10 excuse 267:5 348:23 441:20 excused 260:13,23 288:10,16 359:1,6 359:15 360:1,24 excusing 358:19 executive 243:11 249:19,21 272:4,7 290:16,20 475:3 exhibit 257:6 261:19,22,24 262:2,8,25 265:12 265:22 267:15 268:12,15,18,21 297:3 298:19 300:2 302:1 305:23 307:4 308:12 310:16 311:14 315:6 316:10,12 319:6 320:1,1,5 337:20 340:7,10 364:1,24 365:18,21 369:21 369:25 370:17 376:7,8,22 380:12 380:17 384:12,16 384:21 385:1 386:6 387:13 390:20 392:10 396:13 398:20,22 398:25 399:1,9,12 399:13,14,15,20 399:24 402:1 410:20 420:3 475:10 489:17 498:8 499:1 exhibits 252:18 256:19 257:6 260:2 265:1,3,11 265:13,16 267:16</p>	<p>267:19 268:2,5,11 274:13 293:21 370:12 386:5 392:7 399:6 409:22 410:1 414:22,25 471:24 489:12 exist 464:16 existing 324:25 434:11 449:4,16 457:5 expand 447:15 expect 248:7 261:15 293:5 295:22 481:10 expectation 285:5 286:20 287:1 354:9 460:12 expectations 336:12 expected 328:25 expects 286:12 expediency 381:5 expenditures 318:24 482:18 expense 339:14 expenses 320:22 321:2 339:16 experience 300:19 experienced 282:16 experiencing 458:3 expert 258:1 262:17 296:23 299:25 300:20 307:2 364:21 373:17 394:5 411:16 412:7 expert's 369:15 expertise 416:6,20 417:20 experts 377:19 explain 256:22 262:11 281:9 318:13 319:16 338:3 368:3 404:1</p>	<p>406:14 427:25 429:18 431:7 493:1 explained 262:7 312:4 441:4 explaining 365:16 412:15 explains 319:7 464:10 483:17,21 485:3 explanation 333:2 explicit 354:2 explicitly 410:2 469:17 exploration 415:23 explored 370:9 explosion 419:10 419:15 420:12 487:12 expound 487:16 expressed 342:23 expressly 463:13 extended 448:7 extension 430:13 456:25 479:8 extensive 403:10 472:22 extensively 475:16 475:20 extent 328:21 336:2 351:20,21 430:21 433:4 extra 412:3 eye 269:11 eyes 368:23</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">F</p> <hr/> <p>F 500:2 face 447:4 facilities 418:11 419:7,7,22 430:25 476:1 facility 261:24 317:21 338:5 420:11,15 423:13 423:23 424:3</p>
---	---	--	---	--

425:10,11,16,17 425:19 426:1,22 427:2,7,8 429:2 429:25 430:6 432:15 434:7 436:2,4 439:9 458:15 472:19,24 473:19,25 474:2,4 474:24 475:15,18 475:24,25 476:4,7 484:13,14,16,20 484:21 486:17 487:7,11 488:6,7 488:8,9,12 490:24 492:11 493:2,4,8 facility's 427:20 fact 286:22 324:2 344:6,13,16 351:4 394:19 423:7 474:1 484:24 factor 296:16 299:20 303:22 306:19 307:1 364:13 387:6 404:2 factors 294:2,6,7 295:7 299:9,12 302:8,11,13 306:1 306:4,6 308:15,18 311:17,20,24 312:15,16,18 364:5,8,9 369:22 386:15 387:2,3 482:19,21,22 483:22 489:7 facts 262:11,13 417:10 490:20 fail 484:9 failed 484:6 489:6 fails 450:4 483:8 484:10 485:3 failure 325:1 fair 329:21 416:1,3 443:11 463:4 469:9 480:23	fairly 260:22 286:18 334:13 336:3 343:24 344:6 416:11 464:12 465:1 fairness 496:20 fallback 347:23 falls 332:2 familiar 309:9,11 309:14 312:19 338:8 365:17,21 368:10 375:21 380:3,9 386:6 399:8,11,13,15,18 400:13 405:14 416:11 far 297:9 319:25 389:3 435:21 467:24 faster 447:9 fatal 297:8,11,13 297:20 300:9,14 300:16 307:7,10 365:1,4 366:11,13 367:18 387:19 388:1,4,23 389:16 390:1,18 391:21 391:23 394:2 489:10,14,18 favor 462:14 466:22 467:2 470:25 476:16 497:12 FEA 313:20 359:5 features 326:1 422:25 February 391:10 476:5 fed 424:24 federal 243:11 249:19,21 272:4,7 290:16,20 352:2 450:5 feed 421:11 423:2 424:13,15,21	feedback 272:16 335:20 451:23 feel 248:11 257:8 262:2 264:10 278:24 459:6 FEIS 486:12,16 487:6 fell 353:14 FERC 396:16,17 438:13,23 439:10 ffitch 249:16 265:19,20,25 266:21 267:13 272:3 308:19 309:6 310:3 field 300:1 fifth 242:22 245:5 317:24 figure 269:3 file 264:20 411:15 411:18 412:10 438:18 filed 247:13 255:10 255:11,11 262:8 265:16 267:17 309:2 385:24 405:12,16 406:20 407:17,19,23 446:21 460:20 463:2 470:22 471:16,18,19,21 492:4 files 400:4,6,9 filing 318:20 319:13,25 320:13 341:2,7,12,15,17 341:17,20,22,24 341:25 342:10,15 342:25 343:5,7 351:22 436:10 437:1 449:13 451:11 469:20 473:3 filings 317:6 final 319:10 350:12	398:8,13,16 401:14 453:14 finalize 358:1 finalized 343:6 finally 455:25 470:11 finance 480:5 financial 330:15 331:2 446:16,22 447:4,17 448:19 financially 446:13 financing 488:11 find 280:16 322:16 370:8 385:7 394:18 482:9 findings 371:3 372:1 457:7,9 finds 375:13 383:6 402:19 479:21 489:17 fine 258:24 260:19 269:4 359:9,21 367:12 409:11 459:4,5 468:14 494:12 497:18 finish 253:22 270:1 finished 314:19 fire 388:2 475:25 476:1 firm 250:8 275:6 277:2,4 290:19 448:8 first 252:13 254:9 261:1,13 263:7 268:3 279:4 281:16 284:4 293:10 296:16 299:20 300:25 303:22 305:22 306:19 309:9,15 310:11 316:15 317:1,14 326:8 327:19 336:4 349:13 353:5 356:23 359:2	363:19,25 364:13 384:2 387:6,21 388:1 392:22 406:20,23 414:18 428:3 430:4 442:21 445:12 446:22 451:8,10 451:22 455:11 459:1,4 462:4 467:3,14 468:8,11 468:12 471:17 477:24 481:14 firsthand 300:24 301:4 308:22 368:6 fish 434:10 five 287:16 292:18 316:2 323:5 333:9 371:17 394:22 395:17 404:13,15 411:7,25 450:16 466:2 five- 343:5 five-business-day 255:17 five-minute 442:1,3 five-tier 455:13 fixed 431:11,15 435:3 447:3 flaw 388:2,4 flaws 297:8,11,14 297:20 300:9,14 300:17 307:8,11 365:1,5 366:11,13 367:19,21,22 387:19 388:23 389:16 390:1,18 391:21,23 394:2 481:18 489:10,14 489:18 flexibility 345:7 Floor 243:19 flow 296:19,20,23 297:1,11 299:23 299:24 300:14
---	---	---	--	---

<p>303:25 304:1 306:21,22,23 307:2,8,15 364:16 364:17,21 365:2 366:11 368:17,19 373:18 387:9,9,20 390:16 391:20,25 392:16 393:13,14 394:1,4 400:4,11 404:11 448:19 474:13 489:10,16 flows 429:23 focus 389:2 454:1 focused 255:5 349:10 468:24 focuses 482:20 focusing 432:7 folks 258:6,7 280:16 357:11 follow 264:24 356:4,23 357:20 follow-up 335:16 405:18,19 431:4 492:20 following 287:16 292:19 336:20 341:14 395:14 437:4 491:24 follows 422:11 469:15 Font 256:7 force 264:25 forecast 394:17,19 483:17 forecasted 477:2 483:18 forecasts 483:19 484:3 foregoing 500:10 foreseeable 285:13 foresight 360:23 form 392:17 412:24 forma 477:2 formaldehyde 417:2</p>	<p>formally 254:21 263:11 275:11 forms 328:11 forth 421:4 476:7 forum 263:21 forward 263:23 317:19 320:21 321:1,4,16 323:20 327:16 433:1 434:3,21 460:6 465:3 473:19 484:7 fossil 456:24 458:8 found 262:15 280:21 297:8 307:17 334:22 390:19 394:13,24 395:6 399:4 400:10 434:9 450:10 foundation 323:15 327:13 365:7 371:5 463:3 four 294:2,5,7 295:6 299:9,11 302:8,10,12 306:1 306:3 308:15,17 311:17,19 312:15 312:16,18 353:7 357:7,8 364:5,7 369:22 386:15,19 394:21 401:9,10 404:13 444:6 451:5 453:25 482:19,22 489:7 493:1 fourth 242:15 244:14 317:21 370:24 371:22 frame 341:25 342:24 343:6 433:2 framework 327:14 Francisco 243:9,14 free 248:11 278:25</p>	<p>289:5,6 316:24,25 317:11 318:19 319:5,20,24 320:5 320:23 321:3,18 322:1,8 337:22,22 338:8,17 339:1,18 341:10,10,18,21 342:6,16,20,25 343:2 352:1 408:6 408:7 413:13,13 437:19 438:2,2,10 438:16 439:5,17 459:6 Freeport 420:11,15 freeze 421:11,17 422:7 423:7 frequently 312:5 Friday 255:12 256:3 399:14 fro 291:6 front 250:23 251:2 273:12,15 298:22 300:11 430:21 434:16 fuel 420:24 423:4 429:10 433:23 484:18,19 full 264:21 265:5 295:13,21 299:15 302:16 303:10 306:9 313:15 315:9,14 377:2 382:1 384:24 392:15 393:2,18 427:22,25 428:10 456:5 472:7,8 Fuller 245:4 246:11 251:22,23 257:1,2 261:20 264:1,2,3 265:9 274:6,7 415:6,6,11 417:15 418:13,21,23 fully 329:15 332:21 427:2 453:24 471:22</p>	<p>functional 427:6 funding 339:24 340:1,16,17 351:17,19 447:16 455:24 funds 351:20 352:4 352:6 further 251:17 261:5 277:20 286:7 287:6 322:10 337:9 350:20 352:17 356:1 358:9 399:20 406:2,19 408:5,14 426:8 437:9,13 439:22 441:2,16 463:18 470:16 492:5 493:17,18 495:20 Furthermore 389:21 395:16 future 279:11 284:20,22 285:3 285:13,22 316:18 317:6,7 338:16 375:12 383:5 402:18 460:14 461:4 466:15 469:19</p>	<p>487:23 gas 302:22 304:5 317:25 318:6 321:6,11,15 322:23 388:2 418:10 419:7 420:19,20,21,23 421:11,17 422:1,7 422:16 423:2,11 423:21 424:13,15 424:19,21,23 425:20 427:3,12 427:24 428:2,18 429:20,23 431:2 435:15,19 436:9 436:11 456:24 457:5,7,13 458:9 472:25 479:4,7 483:5 484:17 485:17,24 493:3 gases 433:25 Gates 244:14 251:6 273:21 gather 268:25 gathering 498:11 gears 431:21 general 242:8,9,20 247:13 249:1,4 271:13,15 317:24 321:6,7 322:10 345:20 350:23 462:1 485:21 General's 242:21 generally 262:12 285:23 296:21 328:7 330:13 338:9 400:6 418:9 419:4 generate 452:3 generation 370:10 generators 388:3 generic 326:23 getting 260:22 265:22 267:8 356:11 407:1</p>
---	---	---	--	---

G

Gafken 242:20
 246:15,18 248:25
 249:1 268:23
 269:6,11 271:11
 271:12 414:19
 418:15,15 442:23
 442:24 443:23
 462:16,17 465:12
 478:3 498:5,6,16
gallons 427:23
 428:1
garbled 344:2
garden 474:12
Garrett 440:8
Gary 440:15

<p>415:8 GHG 457:21 Gig 427:7 give 248:11 252:9 253:10 255:17 261:16 269:14 270:17,19 277:25 280:16 293:22 294:7 302:3 320:1 322:3,3 340:4,8 363:11 367:4 382:13 384:24 405:11 414:10 467:19 477:25 488:20 489:25 490:19 given 252:3 254:3 267:5 268:22 330:12 344:1 350:4 352:11 410:23,24 411:11 473:5 482:15 497:10,11 498:24 gives 471:12 472:12 giving 497:25 Glenn 440:8 Gloria 290:9 359:19 go 252:11 256:20 264:2 265:24 267:2 270:18 308:8 309:2 313:9 315:5 345:2,16 346:25 350:18 351:9 354:21 382:15 387:24 406:8,16,17 426:18 430:12 433:1,18 434:12 435:1,19 436:24 441:16 442:21 445:14 458:25 465:18 467:6,14 468:8,10,11,12 479:11 486:23</p>	<p>489:2 490:5 491:23 492:5,22 goal 451:25 464:25 465:10 goals 327:6 goes 263:18 267:11 278:13 348:11 416:12 431:16 going 248:7 252:4 252:10 254:2,5 257:5 258:18 260:6,6 265:7,7 265:21 266:22 267:1,15 270:14 275:12 280:7 282:19,20 293:1,5 300:21,22 304:14 308:19 309:7 312:3 313:16,16 315:13 316:4 320:4,21 327:11 327:16 328:24 330:8,19 331:6 333:21 336:7,9,23 350:8 352:4,5 353:22 354:21 355:10 356:23 361:19 362:12 365:11 368:1 369:8,20 371:6 372:17 375:1,19 384:13 385:22 388:10,24 391:1 392:19 399:23 401:3,19 404:17 407:9,12 411:18 411:22 417:11 434:21 441:5 444:3,6 445:6 496:23 497:1,15 498:16 499:2 good 247:4 248:12 248:19,25 249:8 249:13,20,25 250:7,13,17,24</p>	<p>251:5,12,22 256:5 270:11,12,22 271:5,11,18,24 272:6,11,24 273:3 273:3,7,13,20 274:6,6 275:21,24 276:4,5,9,13,17 279:1 286:9 289:5 289:14,22 290:1,5 290:9,13,17,23 291:3,7,12 292:5 313:7 362:20 423:11 436:18 450:24 460:19 464:5 468:18 485:14 governing 285:24 government 291:13 352:2 graduated 415:15 grant 258:18 300:21,22 303:17 365:11 368:1 375:19 388:10 390:10 392:19 399:23 granted 259:11 292:22 gray 312:6 GRC 403:9 453:23 great 271:3 292:8 313:25 314:7,9 316:3 327:2,2 337:22 418:18 434:8 445:18 455:2 468:18 greater 485:3 green 246:14 247:19 252:22,23 258:11,13 270:15 271:2 274:23 275:10 277:16,21 278:6,17 279:3,4 279:6,11 281:22 282:12,17 283:5,6</p>	<p>283:7,13,16,17,18 283:20 284:4,16 284:19,23 288:1 288:11 315:8 443:3,7 444:22 445:2 456:9 458:23,25 459:2 459:10,17,22,25 460:3,5,13,14,17 460:22 461:2,7,9 461:12,15 462:1 462:19,24 463:5,9 463:12,20,25 464:2,8,12,13,15 464:18 465:2,4,7 465:14,22,24 466:3,7,8,9,19,23 478:10,20 494:10 495:1 greenhouse 433:25 483:5 484:17 485:17,24 grid 448:3 ground 416:23 417:22 493:12 grounds 263:15 group 256:8 452:16 452:17 455:12 464:23 480:9,15 480:15 grouping 357:11 groups 353:8,10 354:6 356:10 357:8 449:15 452:14 454:10 480:7,8 grown 331:23 growth 450:8,14 456:24 guess 310:11 315:2 316:15 324:6 325:22 328:5 332:21 343:20 344:16 351:13 353:5 354:10</p>	<p>368:22 373:6 389:13 432:1,12 434:23 437:23 471:4 496:11,19 guidance 266:1 432:25 453:22</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">H</p> <hr/> <p>H2O 421:11 habitat 434:10 half 353:1,3 355:15 355:15,19,20 356:11,12 481:14 halfway 362:4 hand 256:4 257:1 259:25 261:4 277:23 288:5 292:15 326:5 359:2 363:8 414:8 441:17 500:14 handle 254:12 handled 408:9 hands 345:1 Hansen 244:22 246:5,6,6,7,7,8,8 246:9,9,10,19 251:12,13,16,18 255:20,23 257:21 257:24 258:4,18 259:3,14,17 261:2 261:7,10 274:1,1 274:3 293:8,11,14 294:13 295:2 296:7,10,13,15 298:1,6,8,15,17 299:4,7,8 300:12 300:23 301:1,3,11 301:17,20,24 303:12,13,14,20 303:21 304:6,10 304:14,24 305:3,4 305:9,15,18,21 307:24 308:4,7,10 308:21 309:7,12 309:13,23 310:1,5 310:8,10,25 311:5</p>
---	---	--	--	--

311:7,9,23 312:9 312:11,13 313:1 361:14,19,22 362:2 363:20,21 363:24 365:13,19 365:20 366:4,16 366:18 367:2,10 367:14,16 368:3,7 368:12,14 369:13 369:19 370:22 371:11,21 372:22 372:24 374:7,12 374:13,20,23 375:5,7,22,25 376:12,18,19 378:10,12,14,17 378:18,21,23 379:6,25 380:18 380:20 381:2,9,13 381:14,16 384:14 384:16,18,22 385:1,6,20 386:2 386:9,12,14 388:12,18,21 389:1,7,10,12 390:13 391:1,7,11 391:16,19 392:20 392:24,25 393:10 393:12 396:22,23 398:19,24 399:2,4 399:7,10,17,22 400:1,15,16 401:16 403:19 409:8 440:21 488:24,25 489:3 495:22,25 496:10 497:15,16 hansennp@aol.c... 244:25 happen 336:16,25 410:23 happened 335:22 happening 262:21 283:13 437:3 happens 381:25	happy 349:13 444:21 459:3 467:6 468:12 471:3 493:6 Harbor 243:4 245:11 427:7 hard 259:7 280:25 321:8 465:2 499:8 harm 484:22 harmful 424:11 488:14 hate 436:12 Hayes 243:9 head 279:17 326:3 health 416:14 433:20 434:25 446:16 448:20 483:5,6 484:15 490:12,15 491:9 healthy 446:13 hear 248:24 249:6 249:12 250:6 255:13 269:6,20 270:4,6,23 271:10 271:16 273:10,18 275:18,20 276:3,8 276:16 281:1 289:1,20,25 290:4 290:22 291:6,24 291:25 292:2 294:19 334:12,13 334:14 353:15 375:5 409:9 413:19 450:21 467:4 468:16 heard 265:2 278:19 326:9 334:24 346:1 348:18 473:23 478:9 487:25 488:12 hearing 241:9 246:1 247:6 248:2 252:6,10 253:9,14 254:2,16 255:5,16 256:9,13 257:12	257:20 260:12 261:23 262:23 264:8 265:12 268:10,10,19 269:15 277:20 278:5 286:5,11 287:17 288:15 315:19,19 358:20 358:25 360:1,24 361:4 375:12 380:15 383:6 389:18,20 390:4,8 393:23 402:19 406:25 439:25 440:12,19 443:24 444:14 458:21 460:11 475:10,21 491:19 498:7 499:6,18 500:11 hearings 263:18,20 403:16 hearsay 262:1 263:15 heat 421:15 424:10 424:16,19 457:10 457:11 heating 424:15,25 428:21 heavies 422:20,24 423:22,23 424:13 heavily 482:2 heavy 421:17 422:7 422:10,12 423:1,3 held 460:23 Hello 353:18 415:12 help 280:12 339:24 340:2 457:6 helpful 279:19 358:7 370:14 374:8 helps 284:11 446:15 hereunto 500:14 hesitant 399:19	Higgins 246:6 291:7,8 292:20 301:19,22 304:4 305:12 314:5,5 413:24,24 414:23 high 423:10 479:22 480:12,18 481:8,9 higher 280:3 281:12,24,25 480:14 482:3 highlight 455:9 464:19 478:22 highly 433:12 452:6,17 453:17 454:8 458:2 490:17 hired 392:10 historical 347:14 480:4 historically 481:1,7 hits 422:20 hold 285:2 416:18 holistically 432:18 homes 449:15 457:1 Honor 248:12 249:8,13,25 250:4 250:7,13,17,24 251:5,12,22 256:5 257:2 258:14 260:10 261:20 263:6 265:9,20 266:1,14 267:13 268:4 269:16 270:22 271:24 272:24 273:3,7,13 273:20 274:6,24 275:7,21,24 276:5 276:9,13,21,23 277:17 278:23 280:13 282:25 287:8 288:4,18 289:5,9,11 290:5 290:17 291:7,18 291:18 292:5	298:13 304:2 305:13,18 307:25 308:2,7,19 310:3 311:3,7,21 312:1 313:2,5 314:3,5 315:2 346:22 348:20 350:22 351:3 352:17,20 356:2,3 358:13 359:4,10,11,13,23 360:2,17,18 370:16 376:2 388:8 399:5 403:20 408:16,17 409:1,15,16 410:18 414:19 415:7 426:16 436:20 437:11 439:20,24 440:24 440:25 441:18,20 441:24 444:1 445:22 454:23 456:10 462:17 485:13 486:22 487:5 489:4 490:3 491:21 492:21 493:17 495:23 496:11 497:16,20 hooked 430:10 hooks 431:9 hope 285:1,12 327:13 351:3 hopeful 253:13 hopefully 278:13 336:12 412:19 427:16 498:2 hoping 359:6 horizon 394:17 hot 405:1 hour 280:2,3 281:8 281:12 360:4 361:8,16 hours 253:12 427:20 448:9 household 455:16
--	---	--	--	---

<p>housekeeping 409:2 Houston 416:15 Howard 241:13 242:3 247:4,22 248:17,19,23 249:5,11,18,23 250:5,11,15,20 251:3,9,15,20 252:2 254:4,13 255:3,8,14,25 256:2,14 257:10 258:9,16 259:5,19 260:14,21,25 261:11 263:3,25 264:2,19 265:10 265:24 266:21 267:14 268:7 269:5,13,18,23 270:2,7,9,12,24 271:3,5,9,16,23 272:4,9,15 273:2 273:6,10,18,24 274:3,10,19 275:1 275:8 276:2,7,11 276:15,20,22 277:8,19 278:3,7 278:10,13,24 287:5,9 288:6,13 288:17,19 289:17 289:24 290:3,7,11 290:15,21 291:1,5 291:10,15,24 292:3,8,17 293:12 294:8,15,21 296:7 296:11 298:5,9,14 299:3 300:21 301:13,16 303:12 303:14 304:14 305:1,11,15,19 308:1,3,8 309:4 309:25 310:4 311:1,4 312:2 313:3,6,14,21,25 314:7,9,13 315:18</p>	<p>315:21 316:3 334:7,10,13,15 335:1 346:25 350:25 352:21 356:5 358:9,14,25 359:8,12,17,20,25 360:12,15,19 361:21,25 362:3 362:10,22 363:1,4 363:15 365:11 366:17 367:2,12 368:1,8 369:7,17 370:19 371:6,11 371:14 372:17 374:7,22,24 375:19 376:4,17 378:12,15,20,22 378:24 379:8,11 379:20,25 380:5,8 380:11,15,18,23 381:1,2,11 384:14 384:17 385:4,9,10 385:20 386:10 388:10 389:1,9 390:10 391:11 392:19 398:22 399:2,7,17,23 401:3 403:21 406:3,8 408:14,18 409:8,19,25 410:6 410:11 411:14 412:5 413:18,22 414:1,4,6,13 415:3 417:11 418:13,19 426:9 426:12,18 436:12 436:21 437:12 439:21,25 440:19 441:1,22 442:2,7 443:11 444:13 445:10,19 450:20 450:25 454:19 455:2,5 456:6 458:18 459:6 461:17 462:13</p>	<p>465:11,18,20 466:21 467:9,15 467:18,22 468:4 468:15,19 470:24 476:12,19 477:13 485:10 486:24 488:18 489:2,23 490:5 491:15 492:22 493:18,23 494:7,14 495:12 495:20,24 496:3 496:21 497:19,21 498:23 hundreds 389:5,5 hydro 448:8 hydrocarbons 421:17 422:7,11 422:13 423:2,3 hydroelectric 448:7 Hylebos 474:14,16 475:9,12</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">I</p> <hr/> <p>I-5 388:5 ideal 436:16 ideas 465:3 identification 297:13,19 300:16 307:10 365:4 366:13 386:17 389:15 identified 266:10 281:23 296:22 317:9 357:5 404:8 407:5 411:25 482:19,22 489:9 identifies 294:2 299:9 302:8 306:1 308:15 311:17 364:5 370:1 387:19 452:16 identify 275:13 277:22 288:2,22 289:3 317:9 362:16 369:23 395:10 403:11</p>	<p>413:2,11 438:13 438:22 identifying 326:18 341:20 367:22 412:15 452:2 iDot 452:10 ignored 475:2 immediate 433:21 immediately 253:18 435:19 impact 393:7 424:10 433:21 435:4 449:24 453:17 474:2 484:14 impacted 355:24 357:12 433:12 452:6,17 453:17 454:8 458:2 490:18 impacts 318:22 320:17 357:7 383:14 403:6,13 403:17 421:23 434:13 435:21 488:14 490:13,15 implement 330:6 330:11 455:13 implementation 317:12 332:14,16 451:25 implicitly 454:10 implying 445:13 important 284:4,5 395:16 446:5,19 448:10,11,25 449:13 451:19 462:5 471:6,14,15 473:17,22 475:14 486:5,20 Importantly 466:10 469:17 impose 453:5 improper 433:8 461:11</p>	<p>improve 448:19 450:12 improved 447:10 474:6 improving 474:21 imprudent 489:19 inadequately 483:24 inadmissible 262:3 inappropriate 311:25 incent 344:19 incentive 323:17 324:17,21,23 325:17 327:1 329:5,22 330:16 330:23,24 331:1,2 331:15,19 332:2 345:8 349:17 455:20 incentives 325:6,25 326:15 351:5 352:12 457:16 incident 419:13,16 incidents 418:10 419:6 inclined 412:9 include 253:3 264:6 321:23 324:25 325:6,17 333:22 334:1 335:7 338:1 339:16,18 341:4,5 358:1 396:19 404:7,7 412:24 438:21 439:4,6 456:1 472:19 477:17 479:4 490:12 included 265:13 306:15 317:4,16 317:22,25 318:1,2 318:7 319:11,11 319:24 320:6,10 320:21 321:15 324:3 341:11</p>
---	--	---	---	---

<p>342:15 348:13 352:15 353:7,10 357:9,12,13 372:11 373:4 377:20,25 392:10 396:12 400:22 403:1,1 406:21 407:11 408:10 437:17,24 438:9 438:23,24,25 469:22 482:11 492:10 includes 265:14 266:19 325:16 351:5 457:9 469:20 483:5 495:3 including 351:5 356:12 358:4 405:1 434:12 435:4 448:1 450:14 460:3 inclusion 262:24 402:24 inclusive 324:3 325:21 329:8 income 339:22 340:13 348:13 353:1,3,10 354:14 354:25 355:5,6,7 355:8,12,20,24 356:11 444:9 446:3 447:14 455:7,12,17,21,24 456:1,3 479:6 incomes 447:3 incorporate 452:12 incorporated 318:10 319:6 394:7 406:12,15 incorporation 446:7 incorrect 371:3 372:1,5 390:18 392:6 450:7</p>	<p>increase 318:22 339:24 340:1,12 340:17 349:6 447:16 448:14 450:13 455:19 increased 450:14 480:24 481:16 increases 481:7 increasing 480:2 incremental 331:8 331:14,18 332:5 340:15 incur 381:24 incurred 383:20 430:6 472:21 473:16 independent 331:1 393:21 405:13 INDEX 246:2 Indian 487:12 Indians 257:5 274:9 484:16 indicate 321:22 371:15 415:15 indicated 252:22 257:15,18 266:3 266:24 267:7 268:14 270:13 277:12 278:4,6,17 292:25 304:4 314:20 361:9 363:18 414:14,16 426:13 440:6,13 440:20 indicating 261:12 267:14 279:19 468:5 481:15 indicium 262:18 indifference 464:6 indifferent 463:24 individual 440:5 individuals 399:19 499:11 industrial 430:8 474:14</p>	<p>industry 446:9 inefficiency 461:3 inequitable 485:1 inferring 445:13 inflation 350:23 351:2 352:10 481:9,10 inform 257:3 274:11 324:13 information 307:17 324:11 336:2 342:2,15 373:9 388:1 402:8 412:22 418:9 419:6 434:14 469:5 475:6 informs 498:9 infrastructure 338:15 377:17 378:8 448:2,4 inherent 262:18 initial 310:18 341:9 353:6 354:12 391:3 422:19 469:20 injected 423:15 428:4 injustice 491:12 innovative 456:19 457:24 input 400:11 inquiring 357:10 insecurity 455:16 installed 474:12 integrate 457:17 integrated 435:9 integrity 396:21 intend 252:8 293:9 298:6 301:19 341:6 intended 284:18,20 323:14,20 357:13 478:17 intends 445:8 477:19</p>	<p>intensive 344:19 intent 335:18 344:4 345:9 349:14 intention 266:4,12 328:7,20 343:22 355:4,18 357:15 357:24 intentionally 405:7 interest 370:16 379:8 380:2 411:3 446:8 454:16,17 459:13 461:1,24 462:12 473:22 480:24 481:2,6,7 483:4 484:11 485:4 487:23 490:9,11,21 491:13 interested 342:18 411:5 451:23 interests 447:2,12 461:6 469:5 483:2 interject 276:25 internet 294:18 interpret 496:25 interpretation 279:16 325:22 337:5 interrupt 291:19 intervene 466:15 intervened 471:20 intervener 471:21 intervening 285:22 intimately 338:8 introduced 434:19 invented 383:12 403:4 inventory 427:15 invest 447:22 invested 447:18 investigate 471:23 investigation 347:12 investment 349:18 372:10,19 373:4</p>	<p>400:21 428:2 447:21 452:8 470:7 472:20 480:21 482:10 investments 318:21 337:14 446:24 447:25 448:1,3 469:22 investors 480:20 481:10 invite 433:14 invited 348:16 involve 477:1 involved 348:7 382:25 393:7 418:4 434:6 466:2 involvement 482:24 involves 410:24 IRA 351:9,16 Irene 257:22 258:19 291:12 358:17,19 irk 259:9 IRP 452:24 irrelevant 484:19 isolation 472:14 issue 252:13 256:19 258:22 263:18,19 266:6,9,19 267:16 275:3 277:18 284:25 286:23 294:18 311:11 315:23 329:21 330:21 335:25 345:15 349:23 367:8 375:3 385:15 386:3 389:25 404:22,23 409:12 412:21 421:24 424:19 460:1 461:4,7,22 463:15,16 465:6 478:7 482:7 485:20,21 491:10</p>
--	--	---	---	---

495:4,17 496:8,13 497:2,2 issued 262:5 350:2 393:25 453:22 497:25 issues 247:18 253:20 256:21,25 265:22 267:8 304:5,7 315:8 412:4 434:11 435:20 442:17 444:7,10 445:25 446:3,4 459:13 460:3 464:20 471:8 478:25 479:6 495:15 496:16,18 497:14 items 316:12,16 317:3 320:25 341:4 351:5 486:3 489:4 IV 241:10	355:25 job 418:8 jobs 484:13 Joel 246:9 253:3 259:13 361:22 362:14 363:2 396:12 407:15 John 291:20,22 292:5 433:15 join 252:19 258:11 269:15 369:2 442:10 460:19 joined 247:24 251:7 258:14 267:5,9 443:17 joint 244:7 250:21 273:11,16 284:12 441:9 442:11 443:15 444:3,9 446:3 456:10,17 Jon 275:22 279:15 280:23 289:9 343:20 347:7 348:15 351:13 413:16 430:2 Josh 256:10 289:14 jparekh@earthj... 244:11 judge 241:13 242:2 247:4,23 248:17 248:19,23 249:5 249:11,18,23 250:5,11,15,20 251:3,9,15,20 252:2 254:4,13 255:3,8,14,24,25 256:2,14 257:10 257:24 258:9,16 259:4,5,19 260:14 260:21,25 261:10 261:11 263:3,25 264:2,19 265:10 265:24 266:21 267:14 268:7 269:5,13,18,23	270:2,7,8,9,12,24 271:3,5,9,16,23 272:4,9,15 273:2 273:6,10,18,24 274:3,10,19 275:1 275:8 276:2,7,11 276:15,20,22 277:8,19 278:3,7 278:10,13,24 287:5,9 288:6,8 288:13,17,19 289:17,24 290:3,7 290:11,15,21 291:1,5,10,15,24 292:3,8,17 293:12 294:8,15,21 296:7 296:11 298:5,9,14 299:3 300:21 301:13,16 303:12 303:14 304:14,24 305:1,11,15,19 308:1,3,8 309:4 309:25 310:4 311:1,4 312:2 313:3,6,14,21,25 314:7,9,13 315:18 315:21 316:3 323:23 334:7,10 334:13,15,25 335:1 346:25 350:25 352:21 356:5 358:9,14,25 359:8,12,17,20,25 360:12,15,19 361:21,25 362:3 362:10,22 363:1,4 363:15,22 365:11 366:17 367:2,12 368:1,8 369:7,17 370:19 371:6,11 371:14 372:17 374:7,22,24 375:19 376:4,17 378:12,15,20,22 378:24 379:8,11	379:20,25 380:5,8 380:11,15,18,23 380:25 381:2,11 381:14 384:14,17 385:4,9,10,20 386:10 388:10 389:1,9 390:10 391:11 392:19,24 398:22 399:2,7,17 399:23 401:3 403:21 406:3,8 408:14,18 409:8 409:19,25 410:6 410:11 411:14 412:5 413:18,22 414:1,4,6,13 415:3 417:11 418:13,19 426:9 426:12,18 436:12 436:21 437:12 439:21,25 440:19 441:1,22 442:2,7 443:11 444:13 445:10,19 450:20 450:25 454:19 455:2,5 456:6 458:18 459:6 461:17 462:13 465:11,18,20 466:21 467:9,15 467:18,22 468:4 468:15,18 470:24 476:12,18 477:13 485:10 486:24 488:18 489:2,23 490:5 491:15 492:22 493:18,23 494:5,7,14 495:12 495:20,24 496:3 496:21 497:19,21 498:23 judgment 312:18 324:12 judicial 351:3 July 262:6 405:15	420:2 jump 303:16 304:15 408:22 432:1 436:13 467:13 June 420:10,15 jury 412:22 justice 250:25 273:14 453:25 454:2,6 491:10 justification 463:23 justified 480:2 justifies 449:19 justify 300:10 489:10 Justin 246:5 291:3 293:11 314:8 juvenile 474:18
<hr/> J <hr/> J 245:16 440:9 Jacob 289:14,14 Jaimini 244:8 250:25 273:14 January 426:24 471:17 Jason 254:15 JBN 260:2 JBN-9X 259:22 267:23 268:12 274:14,17 376:7,9 379:3,14 380:12 380:17 410:1 Jeff 242:8 248:20 271:6 jeff.roberson@ut... 242:11 Jefferson 243:19 JGN-9X 259:22 Jhaveri 275:24,25 289:11,12 292:11 340:3,6,10,11,18				<hr/> K <hr/> K-o-c-h 253:7 K&L 244:14 251:6 273:21 kboehm@bkillaw... 245:18 keep 248:3,8 269:11 411:10 440:3 487:1 keeping 411:3 keeps 338:12 Kennewick 419:12 Kevin 246:6 291:8 413:24 key 446:13 454:13 Killing 256:10 kind 304:14 321:8 332:17 347:12 385:12 434:9 454:9 kinds 435:20 King 244:12,17 251:4,6 273:19,22 276:12,14 285:24 394:25 395:7,24 396:16,25 397:5 397:14 398:1

<p>444:25 445:1 459:21 465:16,22 Kirkland 244:24 KITSAP 500:6 knew 482:15 know 256:11 263:9 264:16,23 266:2 267:4 269:2 278:8 280:20 286:8 303:4 306:6 307:12,13 324:17 326:25 327:14 347:20 349:16 352:5 357:7 368:23 373:16 374:14,24 375:4,6 378:24 398:22 410:15 418:19 427:16 428:22 432:3,4,9,12,19 432:23 434:20 439:15 444:22 454:25 477:9 478:7,9 486:1 knowing 382:15 knowledge 263:14 300:24 301:4 308:22 368:6 382:7 386:7 399:21 419:24 500:12 known 296:19 299:23 303:25 306:21 319:4 387:9 417:7,18 459:17 477:5,7 482:16 knows 399:9 Koch 246:10,11 253:6 267:17 274:20 307:12 361:12 362:14,18 362:20,20 363:7 363:13,16 370:13 370:21 381:7</p>	<p>385:21,24 389:13 390:12 391:9 399:11 401:8 404:1 406:17 409:22 450:2 Koch's 390:8 Kroger 245:15 250:16,18 273:6,9 291:2,4 359:22 414:23 Kronauer 246:6 276:17,18 290:23 290:24 292:12,20 298:8,15,21 299:2 299:5 300:6,9,23 301:10,14 414:2,2 414:24 Kurt 245:16 250:18 Kurtz 245:16 kV 449:4,5</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">L</p> <hr/> <p>labeled 260:2 LACEY 247:1 lag 269:7 laid 300:25 365:7 371:5 Lake 244:5 370:5 370:11 449:3 450:13 land 385:15 484:16 484:22 landscape 446:9 language 374:2 473:13 large 253:20 412:22 416:9 420:12 430:8,9 431:8,10,12,20 largely 461:21 474:13 larger 428:11 lastly 355:22 440:20 Latimer 244:3 250:8 273:1</p>	<p>Lauckhart 261:9 294:2 295:14 297:10 299:9,16 300:13 302:8,17 303:11 306:1,10 307:7 308:15 311:17 364:5,25 365:9 366:10,24 367:25 369:25 387:19 390:15 399:16 400:3,7,8 400:14 401:11 405:10,19 406:1 440:21 450:3 489:5,9,13,14 Lauckhart's 293:20 297:3,13 297:19 298:19 300:2,16 301:25 305:23 307:4,10 308:11 310:15 311:12,13 364:1 364:24 365:4 366:12,25 376:21 384:11 385:25 389:15 390:20 394:2 405:15 Lauckhart-Schif... 390:17 489:16 laundry 328:6 Laura 250:3 272:14 275:6 Lauren 246:8 290:6 327:9 332:25 349:11 law 241:13 242:2 243:13 247:23 264:15 351:3,5 462:5 465:1 lawful 469:3 lead 267:3 347:11 347:24 434:23 467:14 lead-up 474:23 leading 347:20</p>	<p>leak 419:9 leave 362:5 409:16 488:16 leaves 409:22 left 373:12 421:10 429:9 legal 311:22,24 312:7,8 401:1,5,7 433:8 436:23 499:11 legislature 283:14 451:2 legitimate 490:25 length 342:9 412:17 lengthy 336:13 lens 451:7 let's 248:9 269:13 275:16 288:1,21 288:24 294:22 313:7 314:15 348:24 362:5,10 362:16,18 369:7 370:19,19,19 408:22 410:6,11 413:2,5 430:9 442:2,7 458:21 466:25 467:22,24 letter 412:15,16 letting 265:5 level 354:25 404:20 405:2 423:23 448:15 464:17 475:2,4 levels 355:5,6,8 422:1 423:10 481:8 liability 450:12 Libicki 411:1 Libicki's 411:12 lieu 411:20 life-extending 458:15 lifetime 329:7,10 light 266:2 370:4</p>	<p>370:10 397:18 398:2 469:5 480:18 Likewise 283:23 limine 372:16 limit 266:17 296:8 330:14 336:4,12 427:21,21 441:8 441:10 495:2 496:3,8,25 497:5 497:9 limited 258:20 279:10 288:10 293:3 358:18 442:19 443:20 495:14 496:5 497:8 limits 494:3,16 495:6,18 line 261:13 296:19 297:2 299:23 303:18,25 306:21 306:25 307:16 309:16 315:9 329:3 331:10 334:11 338:11 352:17 356:4 364:16 376:22 384:6,12,16,17 385:2 387:8,12 409:4,9 430:13 449:4,16 456:24 479:7 480:4 lines 338:4,12 339:19 412:21 426:21 427:19 429:23 487:1 Liotta 243:12 249:20,21 272:6,7 311:3 359:3,4,4 359:10 liquefaction 421:12 421:16,24 422:6 422:11,17,21 423:3,6 424:14</p>
--	--	---	--	---

<p>429:25 Lisa 242:20 248:25 271:12 418:15 lisa.gafken@atg... 242:23 list 265:12 267:15 268:12,15 317:9 320:5 328:6 341:4 376:11 388:15 399:14 listed 302:13 317:3 317:14 343:17 listen 391:14 465:2 listening 406:25 418:20 lists 316:12 litigation 372:15 485:20 little 251:16 293:15 294:11,12,13,16 328:18,19 344:2 349:7 355:16 365:16 405:11 425:15 444:21 454:25 487:19 492:5 live 447:3 LNG 247:21 261:24 315:8 317:21 321:22 322:2,6 408:21 409:18 410:13 413:1 416:22 417:3,7,19 418:2 418:8,11 419:3,7 419:9,11,20,22 420:11,15,24 421:1,4,5,24 423:1,13,14,14 424:3,3,22,23 425:3,4,5,9,10,11 425:16,17 426:1,2 426:15,22 427:2,6 427:7,11,19,23 428:1,3 429:2,9</p>	<p>429:14,17,25 430:5,6,7,9,10,19 430:25 431:13,13 431:24 432:15 436:24 437:18,21 438:3 439:2,9 443:4 445:5 456:9 458:23 466:25 468:6,22,23 469:3 469:8,19 470:10 470:12,17,21 471:4,10 472:13 472:14,16,19,24 473:11,19,24 474:2,24 475:15 475:18 476:1,2,3 476:9,16 477:19 478:11 482:7,10 483:8,10,12,14 484:5,7,9,14,18 484:19,21 485:3,6 485:7,17,24 486:8 488:1,5 490:1,7 490:16,16,20,24 491:11 492:3,6,9 492:11 493:2 494:9,24 load 296:19,23 297:11 299:23 300:14 303:25 306:21 307:2,8,15 333:22,23,24 364:16,21 365:1 366:11 368:17,19 370:3,11 373:18 387:9,20 390:15 391:20,25 392:16 393:13,14 394:1,4 394:13,17 400:4 400:11 404:11,20 404:24 405:1,5,6 405:7 424:10 430:8,17 431:10 431:14,20 450:7 489:10,16</p>	<p>loads 404:23 located 419:11 484:13 488:1,14 490:17 locating 484:21 logistical 409:12 long 428:23 430:19 451:4 453:23 long-standing 432:24 long-term 457:12 459:15 481:10 longer 284:23 404:22 407:21 look 259:22 264:16 295:9 298:24 313:16 321:20 324:7,10 329:25 333:18 342:13 365:22 370:12 385:16 386:15 415:19 428:17,22 433:25 434:10,22 435:15 471:5 472:13 473:11 486:12 looked 383:19,21 411:4 429:4 looking 284:11 296:25 297:4,5,7 300:3 307:5 330:1 333:7 353:6 357:8 364:25 381:23,25 384:1 385:2 398:25 432:4,6,18 434:21 looks 294:3,6 295:7 299:10,12 302:9 302:11 306:2,4 308:16,18 311:18 311:20 312:15 353:8 364:6,8 482:14 489:7 lot 323:13 336:24 352:5 411:22</p>	<p>412:3 416:10,15 434:14 479:13 low 339:22 340:13 348:12 353:1,3,10 354:13 355:7,12 355:20,24 356:11 444:9 446:2 447:14 455:7,12 455:17,21,24 456:1,2 479:6 480:12,13 481:1,7 low-income 458:2 lower 261:5 423:19 448:23 481:11,24 lowest 435:11 Lowry 245:16 323:18 329:5 331:7 332:6 Lowry's 329:2,24 333:21 lunch 253:18,21 360:4 361:8,16,18 362:6</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">M</p> <hr/> <p>M 293:13 298:16 301:23 305:20 308:9 310:9 311:8 363:23 381:15 385:13 386:13 403:24 415:10 main 244:4 326:11 438:5 439:8 444:5 maintain 396:20 448:13 480:5 maintenance 339:8 major 339:8 448:2 475:9 majority 252:18 385:23 making 262:14 333:4 469:12 471:11 477:1 MALE 353:17 366:3 management</p>	<p>451:13 455:14 482:15 484:4 manager 275:25 276:18 289:12 290:24 475:2 managing 292:6 mandated 464:6 manner 252:20 456:21 458:8 marine 474:20 484:18,19 marked 259:22 385:25 391:9 market 456:25 480:18 481:13 marking 498:25 Martinez 244:17 251:8 273:23 materialized 483:19 materials 484:2,2 matter 247:10 271:8 277:6 329:25 409:3 410:15 420:1 mattered 486:7,7 matters 277:11 367:24 383:24 486:6 487:23,24 493:24 497:22 498:3 499:5 Mattheis 243:18 250:1 272:12 275:4 MaxETA/Synapse 370:25 371:3,23 372:1 393:17,20 394:1,3,12,24 395:5 Mayer 244:13 246:16 251:5,6 273:20,21 288:5,6 288:7,17 445:1 465:15,15,19,20 McAULIFFE</p>
---	--	---	---	--

<p>241:25 500:8,20 McCloy 246:8 290:5,6 292:21 311:6,23 313:4 314:2 327:9,10 332:25 333:1 345:2,3 349:11,12 350:11 359:14,17 McGuire 276:4,6 279:21,21 281:14 281:15 282:8,24 mean 279:11 299:18 323:5 330:23 405:6 406:15 442:12 means 252:21 293:18 318:16 349:8 441:12 meant 331:8 measurable 477:5 477:7 measure 326:19 356:15 455:20 measures 322:23 323:5,6,7,16,17 324:8 325:2,6,11 325:18,24 326:16 327:4,16,25 328:4 336:22 337:2 351:7 357:25 measuring 327:5 mechanics 331:21 332:1 438:8 mechanism 285:20 324:21,23 327:1 330:17 354:13 383:13 403:5 446:24 470:17 mechanisms 323:17 325:1,17 325:25 meet 325:1 423:4 426:2,4,6 430:17 435:11 458:6 489:6</p>	<p>meetings 405:19 462:22 meets 295:23 megawatt 280:2,2 281:7,12 megawatts 331:11 331:12,15,16,17 331:19,24 333:8 405:3 452:24 member 277:1 members 452:17 453:19 454:7 memo 393:5 mentioned 267:25 437:1 met 372:9 373:10 400:20 402:10 425:20 449:9 476:5 metering 448:4 methane 421:6 422:1 423:4,8,14 423:19 424:2,6,9 425:4,7,9,12,17 426:2 method 284:13 285:2 357:11 358:2 459:24 460:7 461:2 methodologies 333:5 methodology 282:8 284:18 353:1 459:25 460:4,9 461:8,23 463:5 485:25 methods 349:4,19 451:12 452:21,23 453:7,9,11 metric 335:20 metrics 322:19 323:3,10,13,14 324:1,11,18 325:5 326:25 327:4 328:7,23 335:5,6</p>	<p>335:7 453:16 Michael 241:13 242:3 247:22 microphone 294:16 389:8 microphones 248:8 Microsoft 245:9 250:12,14 252:12 257:13,21 258:11 258:14 273:2,5 291:14 Microsoft's 258:10 258:18 259:10 291:11 292:22 358:18 mid-morning 253:16 313:7 midday 253:17 Mihaly 243:8 249:14 272:1 miles 493:1 million 340:13,15 340:17 427:22 428:1 429:7 MILT 242:6 mind 295:12 299:14 302:15 303:9 306:8 328:16 334:17 367:11 418:14 mine 416:9 mineral 415:23,24 Mines 415:16,21 minimum 349:3,19 411:4 421:6 424:2 424:6,8 425:12 mining 415:16,20 415:22,24 minor 415:17 minute 269:17 280:16 291:19 322:3 340:4 370:8 370:14 384:13 431:22 455:1 476:18</p>	<p>minutes 253:12 292:18 361:11,12 361:13 362:1 363:17,18 414:15 414:16 415:8 418:17 441:11,15 442:19 443:3,4,5 443:10,20,22 444:16 476:17,17 485:16 mirrors 342:10 misrepresents 390:7 missed 408:8 mistaken 371:17 mitigation 474:15 474:16 MNL-1T 331:7 MNL-IT 329:3 Mobil 416:8 modeling 416:6,11 modernization 448:3,4 modification 424:25 modifications 423:24 425:22 molecule 416:21 417:2,21 molecules 421:13 moment 257:10 259:24 260:1 263:4 269:14 270:14 276:20 293:22 294:22 302:4 320:2 366:20 367:10 369:16 375:25 376:14 379:7 384:19 388:19 389:7 390:14 391:2 393:10 396:22 397:23 398:19 400:15 467:22,24 499:13</p>	<p>moments 257:17 Monday 247:5 264:22 400:4 money 352:1 months 346:1 405:16 473:10 morning 247:4 248:12,19,21,25 249:3,8,13,20,25 250:7,13,17,24 251:5,12,22 256:5 260:22 270:11,12 270:22 271:5,11 271:18,22,24 272:6,11,24 273:3 273:4,7,13,21 274:6,7 275:21,24 276:4,5,9,13,17 279:1 286:7,9 289:5,14,22 290:1 290:5,9,13,17,23 291:3,7,12 292:5 410:20 Moser 243:3 246:16 249:8,9 271:18,20 308:2 445:5 467:4,6,7 467:12,14 468:5 468:11,13,15,17 468:18,20 motion 255:10,12 255:15,19 372:15 mouth 428:10 move 303:18 339:13 376:4,5,9 379:3,5 386:7 446:17 447:9 456:9 473:18 484:7 498:19 moved 434:3 498:13 movement 327:19 476:24 moving 252:9 256:24 452:10</p>
--	--	---	---	--

<p>477:3 muffled 294:13 334:8 Mullins 246:7 290:1,1 292:20 305:17 308:1 314:2,4 352:8 361:2 414:5,5 432:1 multi-party 247:17 265:14 441:14 477:15 multiple 403:15 443:22 455:6 496:16 multiyear 321:16 321:17 322:22,24 323:2,10,24 324:9 324:13,19 325:13 326:17,20 327:7 327:17 336:17 351:10 387:3 403:9 407:21 434:20 446:21 471:17 Murphy 245:5 251:23 252:1 274:8 277:2 mute 248:3 252:7 259:1 272:17 322:16 367:13,14 369:17 372:2 384:22 391:13 409:8 418:18 486:23 muted 248:8 316:21 334:11 486:25 487:2</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">N</p> <hr/> <p>N 242:1 243:1 244:1 245:1 293:13,13 298:16 298:16 301:23,23 305:20,20 308:9,9 310:9,9 311:8,8</p>	<p>363:23,23 381:15 381:15 385:13,13 386:13,13 403:24 403:24 415:10,10 name 247:22 271:20,25 448:5 467:19 468:20 499:12 named 399:3 456:3 names 248:11 narrow 389:6 narrowed 405:22 Nash 248:21 271:8 nation 457:25 nationally 481:4 natural 304:5 318:6 321:15 388:2 418:10 419:7 421:16 422:7 423:11 479:4 nature 268:22 403:18 near 488:1,14 nearby 388:7 nearly 256:18 403:11 necessarily 260:19 281:24 282:3 295:25 306:7,25 307:13 336:13 382:10 383:16 432:6 478:8 necessary 396:20 405:20 421:13 449:14 482:3 need 253:20 269:9 278:14 280:11,25 287:21 296:17,18 297:2 299:21,22 303:23,24 304:17 306:20,20,25 307:16 315:4 316:22 336:13 339:6 349:18</p>	<p>352:13 364:14,15 365:14 368:18,24 369:23 377:10,15 378:5,7 382:5 386:17 387:7,8 389:22 390:19 392:5,8,15 393:2 393:18,21,24 394:6,11,13,16,19 395:17 403:12 404:3,14 409:18 412:3 418:21 447:17 449:8,20 449:22,23 459:24 460:6 462:7,7 466:14 473:7,14 476:18 482:17,23 483:23 486:15 489:18 491:2 493:10 needed 387:12 405:21 420:19,20 430:10 463:18 needing 405:4 needn't 409:13 needs 260:11 296:22 404:8,18 423:20 426:3 428:11 429:3 472:25 483:18 484:3 negatively 484:14 negotiated 471:9 472:11 negotiations 462:21 472:2 neighborhood 277:5 449:15 neighborhoods 244:21 251:10 473:24 neighboring 397:9 397:16,19 neither 285:23 353:12 368:16</p>	<p>NERC 377:9,13 378:3 392:2 395:24 396:1 neutral 432:16 never 263:13 277:5 427:16 483:18 new 263:7 296:6 297:2 306:25 324:21 328:13 341:5,6,11 342:3 342:13 346:12,16 430:9 431:10 448:7 471:18 486:14 Newcastle 389:19 390:4,8 393:21 398:6,8,13,16,21 449:25 Newcastle's 393:23 newer 328:13 NICHOLAS 245:4 Nick 277:17 Nicolas 251:25 274:9 Nightingale 246:9 253:3,3 259:13,15 260:2,7,8 361:12 361:22 362:15 363:2,2,7,14,17 363:19 366:19 367:17,21 369:9 371:8,9,11,13,19 372:13,18 375:4,6 375:20 376:5,6,10 376:13,16 379:1 379:13,14,16,22 380:4,6,10,19,22 380:24 386:25 401:12 Nightingale's 366:15 376:11 396:13 nods 279:17 non-Green 459:20 461:12</p>	<p>non-Puget 431:12 non-regulated 484:20 non-settling 335:19 non-subscriber 463:14 465:7 non-subscribers 463:10,12,24 non-utility 344:9 nonlegal 303:5 Norm 251:13 274:1 371:20 440:21 normal 255:17 normally 347:9 430:12 NORMAN 244:22 Northeast 242:15 NorthernGrid 397:1 Northwest 243:19 250:23,25 251:1 273:15 290:6 note 315:21 316:4 324:24 328:6 330:12 331:22 346:6 385:22 431:16 448:11 458:10 470:11 492:5 496:12 noted 259:21 309:5 389:8 451:3 460:22 notes 332:15 notice 263:10 351:3 389:9 notify 257:7 November 437:2 438:6 nthomas@omwl... 245:8 nuanced 478:5 Nucor 243:17 249:24 250:2 272:10,13,22 275:5 291:8 304:3</p>
--	---	---	--	--

<p>413:23,25 414:24 Nucor's 291:6 number 252:3,6 253:20 280:12,15 293:24 296:24 316:12 322:4 354:7 370:3,4,4 379:18 384:21 385:2 386:16,18 387:23 398:23 399:1 418:20 421:6 423:14 424:2,7 425:4,7,9 425:12,18 426:2,5 426:6 453:16 489:9 497:13 498:24 numbering 274:21 379:17 numbers 331:22 387:16 numerous 474:25 NWEC 273:12 333:4 NWEC's 290:4</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">O</p> <p>O 293:13,13 298:16 298:16 301:23,23 305:20,20 308:9,9 310:9,9 311:8,8 363:23,23 381:15 381:15 385:13 386:13,13 403:24 415:10,10 o'clock 442:1 O&M 477:2 o0o- 247:3 oath 292:12 363:6 object 257:15 266:4 266:12,25 308:19 309:1 347:19 366:14 388:24 392:17 417:9 436:7 objected 257:21</p>	<p>259:12 261:18 385:23 399:6 objection 257:4,6 257:17,23 258:19 259:10,16,20 260:4,6 263:7,10 264:13,25 265:2,8 268:14 292:22 300:18,22 303:17 304:17 311:21 312:3 365:6,12 367:20 368:2 369:5 372:13 374:18 375:17,20 388:8,11 390:7 399:24 401:1 410:19 411:13 objections 252:11 252:14 253:5 257:13,20 261:1 261:13,16 263:9 267:1,12 268:8 277:14 288:13 292:25 312:4 380:11 objects 459:23 obligation 435:14 observation 353:7 354:6 observe 264:24 observers 248:7 observing 487:1 obtain 310:19 obviously 256:25 351:22 438:21 occur 287:1 346:10 404:19 409:18 occurred 264:7 382:24 404:24 405:20 419:10,16 419:22 420:11,14 473:19 occurs 346:8 October 241:24 246:3 247:1,5</p>	<p>253:25 488:23 494:1 498:13,13 498:17 500:11,15 Odgen 274:7 277:2 Off-record 391:6 393:11 418:12 off-site 474:16 offer 287:3 411:9 445:8 offered 374:11 410:4 411:15 offering 443:1 offers 465:5 Office 242:9,21 244:17 offset 339:5 Ogden 245:5 251:23 252:1 oh 296:10 345:2 371:13 Ohio 245:17 Oil 416:8 okay 269:11 270:25 275:2 278:5,13 279:23 281:2 282:1,22 284:10 286:5 293:12,15 293:23 294:1,19 294:23 295:12 296:10,13 297:7 297:17,22 298:1,9 298:18 299:2,7,14 299:20 300:2,6,9 300:10 301:1,7,25 302:5,7,14 303:20 305:3,9,22,25 307:6,19,24 308:8 308:14 309:12 310:21 311:13,16 312:14,21 313:21 316:3,8,22 317:8 318:12,25 319:14 320:3,5,19 322:8 325:3 329:17 330:18 332:3</p>	<p>333:13 335:10 336:15 337:7,8 338:18 339:11,20 340:16,22 341:19 341:22 342:14,17 343:8 345:14 347:25 350:3,15 350:20 357:18 358:6 359:20 363:21 364:4,24 366:8,10,16 367:10,14,16 369:4,14,20 370:23 371:19 372:6,25 374:12 374:20,24 375:8 375:25 376:18 378:2,9,14,21 379:6 382:2,20 383:2 387:13 390:15 391:16,22 392:24 393:10 394:12,23 397:24 399:22 400:17 401:22 406:18,24 407:8,24 408:3 409:19 410:18 415:3,19 417:1,5 417:24 419:15,19 420:5,9,14,17,24 421:9 422:22 424:1,21 426:7 429:11 431:21 434:17 435:22 436:21 438:7,12 439:12,19 441:1 441:19 443:23 467:6,18 468:4 486:24,25 496:10 499:4 Olympia 242:10 Olympic 398:8 on-site 474:7,15 once 329:18 332:21 357:24 383:17</p>	<p>453:2,10 ones 328:13,14 344:18 410:4 419:25 498:11 ongoing 475:24 online 291:21 open 336:1,6 347:11 357:22 opening 299:5 operate 472:23 operated 427:20 475:16 operating 322:24 325:13 339:16 operation 463:25 operations 362:21 415:24 451:4,7 454:4,17 475:25 480:5 opinion 287:3 299:19 311:22 367:4 383:23 opinions 458:22 OPL 398:13,16 opportunities 344:15 351:16 opportunity 253:24 257:19 262:20 263:1 264:16 335:20 344:20 378:16 410:25 411:11 437:5 441:5 445:23 456:15 469:25 471:22 489:20 oppose 267:7 449:16 477:19 478:14 491:16 opposed 345:21 437:21 443:18 477:16 478:16 488:7,8 opposes 449:13 478:11 479:16 488:9 490:7</p>
---	---	---	---	--

<p>opposite 484:25 opposition 246:18 442:15 470:12 478:1,2 483:16 485:12 490:1,6 494:11,22,24,25 497:12 opt-in 354:21 optimal 429:5 optimization 452:9 option 279:5,12 370:10 441:13 options 429:5 oral 253:10 257:16 441:6,13 442:12 442:17 443:15,19 489:25 order 247:11 252:20 253:1 258:20 262:6,6 283:20 293:4 445:17 451:23 453:23 460:11 466:2 467:7 orderly 347:10 Oregon 243:5 245:12 orientation 388:14 original 258:7 293:16 318:20 319:13 320:13 412:10 originally 404:18 407:17,19 423:24 425:19 428:19 outcomes 327:5 451:13 483:20 outline 364:10 outlines 374:5 outperformed 481:15 outreach 475:1,3 outset 302:18 outside 399:20 402:6 419:23</p>	<p>overall 322:11 overburden 484:23 overburdened 484:23 oversight 418:7 419:2 overwater 474:17</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">P</p> <hr/> <p>P 242:1,1 243:1,1 244:1,1 245:1,1 P-19087 418:1 p.m 362:6,9,11 408:23,24 410:8 410:10,10,12 441:4 442:6,6,8 499:18 P.O 242:9 page 246:4 284:12 293:21,24,25 297:7 298:20 302:1 305:23 308:12 310:16 311:14 315:8 318:6 321:7 322:4 326:10 329:3 331:6,11 353:7 357:4 364:2 369:21,25 384:15 384:17,18 385:2 387:16,17,22 397:22 406:10 426:20 427:18 438:3 489:6 494:3 494:16 495:6,18 496:8 pages 241:11 297:4 297:5 300:3 307:5 316:11 317:4 319:22 364:25 365:23 366:1,2 367:4 387:14 389:5 411:7,25 412:17 462:8 484:1 494:7,9,9 494:10,21,23,25</p>	<p>495:11,16 496:1,7 496:9,14,17 497:3 497:18 paid 283:18 Paisner 249:4 271:14 Palms 243:13 pandemic 447:5 panel 252:22 253:4 254:9,10,23 260:8 260:16,20,22 266:5,16,18,24 269:17 270:15 274:23 275:11,17 275:19 277:21 278:18,21 287:6 287:25 288:1,11 288:21,21 289:2 289:19 292:19 293:1,6 298:7 311:6 313:17 314:18,21,23,25 322:6 340:24 347:6 358:15 359:7,16 360:5,6 360:8,9,10,20,21 360:22,25 361:2,5 361:6,10 362:13 406:5 408:15,21 408:22,22 409:18 410:13 413:1,7,7 426:13,15 439:22 panelists 271:2 309:17 paragraph 279:4 281:5,5 284:16 322:21 326:10 337:16 339:23 347:2 349:3 352:23,24 429:14 436:2 492:7 Parcell 481:19 Parcell's 481:23 Parekh 244:8 246:14 250:24,25</p>	<p>256:4,5 273:13,14 311:21 313:5 359:12,13,19 456:10,14,15 Parsons 244:3 250:8 272:25 part 268:16 312:16 315:11 319:9 333:25 341:2 392:15 393:2,6,18 401:23 402:2 407:21 408:8 418:8 419:4,8 422:13,15 432:9 434:1 475:20 477:5 478:15 479:23 482:12 partial 421:19 422:9 partially 423:6 participant 418:3 participants 241:14 353:1,4 354:8 participate 258:2 260:15 296:24 348:17 417:25 453:2,19 460:14 participated 302:21 460:18 462:24 participation 258:21 277:15 293:2 354:22 494:20 495:13,15 496:5 497:8 particles 423:7 particular 296:5 328:23 330:12 335:25 343:23 344:5,17 346:15 348:5 399:24 401:5 411:16 467:11 particularly 265:1</p>	<p>328:22 336:3 428:3 433:12 particulates 433:20 parties 252:3,20 253:1,10,11 254:18 255:1 256:17 257:14,18 262:9 265:18 266:3,20,23 267:25 277:13 279:3 280:1 281:9 283:10 284:17,21 285:6 287:15 288:14 292:24 306:13 315:3,4,10 315:20 316:9,19 316:23 323:1 327:24 328:3,15 328:16 332:4 333:14 335:19 338:3 339:24 342:3,4,8,18 343:3,16 344:13 344:25 345:10,22 346:16 347:3,17 347:21 349:8 350:18 351:8 380:12 400:18 406:14 414:17 429:12,18 431:23 432:14 436:1,3,7 437:6 441:5,8,13 442:10,10,14,20 444:6 448:14 449:6,11 459:19 460:2,8,16 463:3 463:17 464:21 468:16 469:24 470:9 471:20,22 472:1,7,17 473:6 477:16 480:1,17 487:9 490:8 491:16 494:21 499:7 parties' 444:14</p>
---	---	---	---	--

<p>partner 292:6 393:6,7</p> <p>parts 432:17 448:17 487:16</p> <p>party 248:11 252:14,22 261:15 268:8 270:19 275:13 278:3,5,17 284:25 285:6 286:3 288:2,22 314:20 347:4 360:7 361:9 362:17 413:3 440:6,13,20 443:6 443:18 449:13 454:21 456:7 459:23 465:13 466:22 467:2,13 469:18 470:14 476:15 494:18 495:12,15 496:13 496:15,21 497:11</p> <p>party's 336:12 435:23</p> <p>path 460:6 478:8</p> <p>Paul 398:21 399:3</p> <p>pause 258:5 367:15</p> <p>paves 455:11</p> <p>pay 283:23 430:20 430:22,22,25 431:1</p> <p>payer 423:16 424:5</p> <p>paying 431:17</p> <p>payment 330:24 348:25 349:3,19</p> <p>PC 342:9</p> <p>PCA 341:14 342:15 343:4 346:9</p> <p>PCH 417:25</p> <p>PCHB 261:23 475:21</p> <p>PCORC 280:8,19 281:6,13,17,20,24 282:3,6,10 284:13 460:1,9,10,12,16</p>	<p>460:18 462:23 463:15 466:2 479:9</p> <p>peak 331:13 333:15 334:2 346:2 419:11,20 424:5 427:11 429:3,6 448:9 493:4</p> <p>peaker 370:3</p> <p>peaking 472:25 493:9</p> <p>penalties 325:7,18 326:15</p> <p>penalty 325:1,25</p> <p>pendency 351:9</p> <p>peninsula 474:14</p> <p>people 259:8 278:11 280:10 418:20</p> <p>Pepple 245:10 250:13,14 258:13 259:25 260:9,10 260:18,24 261:4 273:3,4</p> <p>percent 429:19 447:7 448:13,15 448:15 479:19,20 479:25,25 480:3 480:11,22,23 481:5,10,12,24</p> <p>percentage 329:6 429:17</p> <p>percolating 459:14</p> <p>perfectly 258:24 359:9 367:12 436:19</p> <p>perform 327:19 368:21 451:23</p> <p>performance 322:19,23 323:24 324:8,12 325:11 325:20 327:16,25 330:16,24 335:6 336:22 337:2</p> <p>performance-bas...</p>	<p>335:13 479:10</p> <p>performed 368:17 368:19 393:3</p> <p>period 286:20 318:18 412:12 428:15 472:2</p> <p>Perkins 242:15 248:13 271:1 467:21</p> <p>permit 261:23 393:25 398:7,11 403:16 418:2 475:22 486:15</p> <p>permits 385:16 449:25</p> <p>permitted 469:13</p> <p>permitting 253:9 434:6 436:15 450:10 486:10,10</p> <p>perpetuates 484:22 491:12</p> <p>person 411:1 486:23,24</p> <p>personal 399:21</p> <p>personally 393:4 399:15 417:23</p> <p>persons 451:23</p> <p>perspective 283:2 285:12 432:20 460:25 461:23 476:24 486:4</p> <p>perspectives 459:19 464:24</p> <p>persuaded 497:11</p> <p>petition 247:11,15</p> <p>PGA 321:24 436:25 469:21</p> <p>phase 403:13 422:19 423:7</p> <p>phases 456:23</p> <p>phone 272:15 278:14</p> <p>phrase 428:5</p> <p>pick 361:17</p> <p>picture 471:5</p>	<p>picturing 443:14</p> <p>piece 333:4 353:21 422:22</p> <p>pieces 326:8 328:15 419:16</p> <p>Piliaris 275:21,22 279:15,15 280:23 286:17 289:8,9 292:11 323:11 324:20 325:4,15 326:9 328:5 329:12,20 330:22 331:21 332:7 333:10,17 334:3 334:14,17,20 335:3,9,24 336:19 337:5 343:20,21 343:25 344:3 346:5 347:7,7 348:3,15,16 351:13,14 355:3 355:18 356:20 357:22 413:16,16 429:13 430:2,3 431:5,8 432:21 434:23 451:3</p> <p>Piliaris' 333:2 345:5</p> <p>pilings 474:10,10</p> <p>PILLARIS 280:23 285:4</p> <p>pilot 352:23 353:8 353:14,25 354:5 354:14 355:1,7,7 355:23,24 357:12 357:20 455:25 457:4,6,8 479:7</p> <p>pilots 353:2</p> <p>PIM 326:11 329:5 330:12,14,16 333:4,23,24,25 335:4,21 336:22</p> <p>pipeline 398:8 448:3 493:2</p> <p>pipelines 475:23</p>	<p>pipes 493:12</p> <p>place 284:6</p> <p>places 433:4</p> <p>plan 253:3 255:16 256:16 259:14 261:10 278:6,17 286:16 317:12,13 321:11,16,17 322:22,25 323:2 323:10,25 324:9 324:13,19 325:13 326:17,20 327:2,7 332:14,16 336:18 341:23 348:14,25 351:10 361:9 383:13 387:3 403:5,9 407:22 434:20 446:21 447:23,25 451:25 452:2 497:25 498:25</p> <p>planned 257:22 259:12 314:19 360:7 395:20 446:25</p> <p>planner 394:6</p> <p>planning 260:20 313:15 342:18 358:19 373:18 377:9,14 378:4 392:1 394:16 395:12,25 396:9 396:11,18 397:9 397:17,20 404:2 404:23 449:22 451:9,14,20,24 452:1,13 453:12 453:12 457:18</p> <p>plans 266:23 292:18 327:17 363:16 388:15 396:20 435:10 471:17</p> <p>plant 339:3 370:3 419:11,20 426:23</p>
---	--	--	---	---

436:10 437:21 438:23 439:2,8 446:24 447:19 470:14 477:2,2 490:16,17 491:2 plants 438:14,15,24 438:25 platefin 421:15 platform 248:2 play 446:13 please 248:2,8 257:11 259:5 269:13 272:18,19 275:1 277:23 292:15 293:20 297:3,18 298:18 300:2 301:25 302:4 304:22 305:22 307:4 308:11 310:15 311:13 315:5 345:2 346:24,25 350:18,24 351:12 354:18 359:15 363:8,20,25 364:24 369:17 371:20 376:1,21 384:11,23,25 388:19 389:7 390:14 391:2 397:23 398:19 400:15 406:8 414:7 417:14 426:17 427:10,25 429:18 430:1 445:19 456:13 465:18 476:20 487:1 489:2 490:5 491:22 Plenefisch 257:22 258:19 260:11,15 291:12,13 292:21 292:23 358:17,19 plus 282:20 Plymouth 419:11	419:20,25 point 264:3 265:4,8 283:1,4,5,12 286:21 304:20 319:25 322:9 334:4 370:17 381:8 383:21 395:21 422:25 425:6 433:3,17 437:5 469:19 472:6 493:15 pointed 464:23 489:5 points 481:2,3,5,18 policies 446:12 policy 287:25 288:21 312:5,7 314:18 327:14 373:25 374:4 382:23 387:4 401:4,13,20 456:25 457:24 pollutants 433:19 474:5 pollutes 487:11 pollution 263:17,20 486:8,9,14 population 484:24 populations 355:24 447:14 452:5,18 453:18 454:8 455:8 490:18 Port 433:21 474:3,8 portion 269:10 280:3 339:9 376:11 472:18,24 475:12 portions 403:2 411:12 412:15 474:19 478:12,13 Portland 243:5 245:12 pose 252:15 261:8 368:9 374:8 375:23 381:5	392:21,23 436:17 posed 492:1 position 258:5 330:5,10 343:16 367:8 478:4,13 positions 443:8 465:24 478:6 positive 474:2 possibility 285:10 possible 286:12 328:8 389:2 441:25 492:12 post-hearing 253:25 327:24 411:3 493:25 494:15,16 495:5 497:9 posted 267:19 potential 330:15 338:10,13 343:14 343:18 412:2 469:23 potentially 306:23 323:17 488:13 495:11 pound 419:16 power 280:4,6 281:6 282:2,5,15 283:16 296:20 297:1 299:24 304:1 306:22,23 340:23 341:1,4,6 341:8,16,24 343:9 344:7 345:15,20 345:21,25 346:16 364:17 387:9 397:14 405:8 446:15 448:10 power-cost-only 342:11 PowerPoint 365:24 PPA 464:18 PPAs 283:17,18,24 284:23 343:12,14 343:17 448:8	464:8,12,14,14,15 466:8 PPR 326:23 practice 347:14 401:5 practiced 277:4 practices 483:3 pre-file 268:1 pre-filed 252:18 256:18 265:13 268:11 274:12 310:17 377:20,25 389:24 392:7 395:10 412:23 464:3 pre-review 336:13 precisely 282:19 443:13 predictable 462:6 466:11 predominantly 325:1 488:12 preface 388:13 prefer 254:8 361:16 410:16 468:8,11 preference 468:13 prejudice 265:5 prepare 496:2 prepared 467:8 468:6 prescribed 325:2 presence 431:13 present 264:11 389:4 394:19 404:14 442:22 445:12,23 450:16 453:8 478:18 484:4 489:20 presented 264:9 307:14 318:3 389:17 471:6 473:9 480:7 481:19,22 484:1 487:7	presents 351:16 435:20 463:20 482:1 485:17,24 486:17 487:11 488:13 496:12 preserves 469:12 president 251:14 289:15 351:2 362:21 413:14 416:14 418:6,25 419:1 press 408:10 pressing 260:17 presume 347:21 pretreatment 421:13,16 422:6 422:12,13,15,16 422:18,23 425:22 pretrial 265:11 pretty 341:23,25 411:21 414:20,21 488:3 previously 389:18 Pricing 276:1 289:12 primarily 323:14 prime 435:16 principle 429:20 464:6 469:15 principles 284:5 415:22 446:8 prior 257:12 334:21 335:21 394:20 401:9 421:16 422:6,11 423:2 424:14 491:25 prioritize 456:2 458:2 prioritizes 456:21 PRK-29X 274:15 pro 477:2 probably 257:25 286:18 324:12 330:2 374:6 391:3
---	---	--	--	---

<p>409:3 411:7 478:24 problem 295:3 375:15 378:22 383:9 402:22 417:16 418:24 424:16 problematic 261:25 problems 269:1,2 400:10 423:18 450:3 procedural 454:6 460:21 procedure 374:16 374:25 382:21 402:4 proceed 254:2 293:8,12 294:22 298:9,11,15 301:17 305:15,19 308:4 309:10 310:5 351:12 363:19,20 381:13 386:11 414:17 418:21 445:18,19 456:13 467:12 468:16 476:20 proceeding 248:1 263:24 265:14 287:17 293:2,5 297:23 301:8 304:12 305:6 307:21 309:20 310:22 312:23 326:23 346:11 348:17 367:15 412:7 436:9 473:8 473:11 489:15 499:7 proceedings 324:14 342:13 411:16,23 417:25 450:10 466:16 485:22 process 262:10 306:17 336:14</p>	<p>345:21,24 346:9 347:3,5,12,20 348:6,9 351:23 356:10 357:24 358:2 382:24 392:2 393:22 405:13 421:12 422:13 449:24 451:14,25 452:13 453:4,6,8,15 457:18 458:1,5 465:25 469:25 490:23 499:8 processed 405:17 processees 357:25 processes 451:12 452:21,23 453:9 453:11 454:9,11 processing 415:24 produce 396:18 425:11,17 426:2 produced 392:9 423:14 produces 404:12 producing 427:6 product 462:20 production 339:5 professionalism 499:8 profile 448:20 profound 474:2 program 283:14 284:5 327:2 329:8 329:11 331:12 340:13,14 353:23 354:21,22 415:20 416:1 451:17 456:1 458:12 461:12 463:12,25 464:2,16 466:9 programming 457:19 programs 318:23 329:13 331:1 351:19 446:23</p>	<p>451:18 453:20 455:14,21 progress 460:19 471:11 prohibit 284:25 prohibited 263:14 263:14 286:13,15 286:17 463:13 project 243:7 249:12,15 251:1 257:14 266:3,8 267:4,7,9 271:23 272:2,3 290:12,14 293:4 302:23 308:25 312:19,20 326:7 353:19 369:4 382:6 388:5 388:6 393:25 394:11 395:20 401:14 402:25 403:2,10,12,12,14 403:17 404:6 407:10 431:3 433:1,10,18 434:1 434:2,16 435:8 442:17 444:8 446:2 449:2,9,14 449:20 450:11 451:17 454:24 456:4 468:25 469:8 470:10 474:20 475:13 477:10,18,18,23 482:11 483:8,12 483:14 484:5,7,8 484:9 485:3,8 489:24 490:3 491:7 project's 475:7 projected 351:22 484:3 projects 366:22 383:10 448:2 prolonged 472:1 promise 455:15</p>	<p>promote 455:9 456:24 prongs 476:5 pronounced 421:14 propane 423:10 proper 375:12 383:6 402:19 432:19 properly 374:10 422:14 463:10 proponents 328:23 proposal 266:14 268:8,9 329:9 482:5 proposals 351:17 358:3 propose 266:16 480:17 proposed 252:20 253:1 260:3,5 279:25 281:11 285:20 323:3,19 324:21 328:4,14 332:4 333:16,22 335:4,21 338:1 339:15 340:12 356:11,14 376:7 388:4 469:7 470:18 479:1 481:17 proposes 259:21 proposing 323:1,8 323:9 332:19 333:14 prosecuting 251:8 273:23 Prosecutor's 244:17 prospectively 330:9 protect 488:11 protection 353:3,11 355:13,16,19 476:1 protections 456:2</p>	<p>prove 373:10 402:10 provide 253:24 257:4 268:15 283:7,15 320:12 335:20 345:24 352:25 353:3 355:19,23 373:9 378:11,19 402:8 425:9 439:10,14 441:5,13 442:11 442:17 443:19 444:1 446:16 447:13 455:21 461:1 463:3 464:8 466:12 484:12 488:16 provided 266:5,8 266:18 297:22 301:7 304:12 305:5 307:20 308:24 309:19 310:22 312:22 315:10,11 332:5 335:7 336:2 342:2 342:7 358:4 368:23 373:20 389:21 393:5 396:10 397:11 400:3,7 404:9 405:10 406:1 429:6 464:12 475:5 491:4 provides 262:11 322:2 338:20 339:7 340:25 341:3,13,23 343:11 421:6 429:15 435:25 438:3,22 448:6 462:4 464:5 465:7 469:18 providing 324:17 403:2 447:19 provision 343:23</p>
---	---	---	---	---

<p>344:5 446:14 451:20 provisional 303:7 306:12 318:17 319:18 402:24 436:4 469:22 provisionally 303:1 306:15 372:11 373:4 381:21 382:16 400:21 provisions 279:9 349:1 432:8 448:18 455:6 proxy 282:13 284:24 480:7,8,9 480:15,15 prudence 293:17 293:18 294:6 295:7,13,18,21,23 299:15 302:16,20 302:20,25 303:6 303:10 306:9,13 308:24 345:19,24 346:8,10 372:10 373:3,12,23 374:17 381:18,19 381:20 382:1,10 382:11,14,14,17 382:22 384:1 387:2,5 400:20,24 402:5 428:12 432:24,25 437:2,6 449:7,11 470:13 482:13,21 487:20 prudency 258:21 293:3,7 294:3,24 295:14,21,22 296:3 297:23 299:10,12,16 301:8 302:9,11,16 303:10 304:13 305:6 306:2,4,10 307:21,23 308:16 308:18 309:20 310:23 311:18,20</p>	<p>311:25 312:15,17 312:20,23 341:13 364:6,8,9 367:18 367:23 369:22 372:7 373:1,10 374:3 375:12 382:4 383:6,12 386:16 400:19 401:10,15 402:10 402:19 403:4 436:8 489:8 491:1 492:3 496:6 prudent 306:14 375:14 383:7 384:5 402:20 428:2 436:2 469:13 470:2,15 472:19 473:1 476:6 477:8 482:10 483:1 484:10 487:10,15 491:7 prudently 472:21 473:16 484:6 PSE 247:14 248:10 248:14,15 252:14 253:6 255:10 257:6,14 261:1,19 261:22 263:5,10 264:20 268:4 270:13,16 271:2 275:15,20 276:1 279:15 282:16,21 283:17 288:24 289:3,7,10,13,18 291:20 300:10 313:22 315:4 317:1 333:16,22 334:1,9,10 337:13 337:19,23 339:13 341:1,3,6,10 342:2,17 349:3,16 351:14 352:25 353:3,15 354:25 356:8 357:19</p>	<p>362:18 370:2,6 372:9 373:2,9,19 377:2 385:21,22 389:21 391:20,22 392:6,12 393:3,3 393:24 394:24 395:6,10,23 396:8 396:15,24 397:4 397:13,25 398:7 398:12 399:6 400:3,9,20 402:8 405:4,10,12,16,17 406:20 411:14,23 412:8 413:4,13,15 413:17 418:7 419:1,1,5 420:25 421:1,5 424:4,7 425:8,8,9,16,25 425:25 427:11,24 428:2 429:15 431:6 436:3 438:2 438:22 440:3 444:7,23 445:20 446:5,12,15,21 447:1,2,8,11,12 447:18,20,20,22 447:24 448:10,11 448:16,18 450:2 450:17 451:10,15 451:22 452:4,7,20 453:15 454:2,7 455:11 457:13,22 458:1,6 459:9,14 459:23 460:13,20 461:10,14 462:25 463:2 464:15 467:24 468:8 470:25 471:16,19 471:24 472:15,19 473:12 474:9,12 474:15,19,22,25 475:2,3,5,8,11,16 475:19 476:5,8 480:4,9 483:21,24 484:1,6 487:20</p>	<p>489:6,13 490:16 490:23 492:18 496:15 PSE's 252:14 253:5 255:15 261:1,13 323:2 331:14,18 332:4 338:25 357:19 361:12 371:1,24 376:24 377:9,13 378:3 399:23 404:2 415:5 420:20 421:23 423:16 428:2 436:1 447:7 448:14,21,25 449:21 451:7 454:17 455:23 456:20 457:13 459:15,16 460:1,3 460:25 462:1,5,23 462:24 469:20 470:7,13 472:25 473:4,18 479:19 479:24 480:2,4 483:3,17 484:4 491:1 493:2 PSE/Quanta 297:11 300:14 307:8 365:1 366:11 387:20 400:11 PSE/TOTE 421:5 public 242:19,21 248:24 249:2 255:10 268:17,18 268:18,20 271:10 271:13 276:8,10 283:1,4,8,12 342:19,21 345:17 345:23 414:14,22 440:6,11 442:15 443:6,16 444:22 446:8 454:15,16 459:3,12,20 460:11 461:1</p>	<p>462:12,14,18,25 465:4 469:4 473:21,21 477:21 477:24,25 478:4,9 478:10,18,23,25 479:3,16,22 480:3 480:13,21 481:25 482:4 483:2,4,13 483:15 484:11 485:4,5 487:23 490:9,11,21,22,25 491:5,9,13 498:8 498:18 publicly 349:4 487:10 published 391:4 PUD 397:18 Puget 241:7 242:13 247:10,11,13 271:1 275:23 280:3 289:15 292:7 307:14 353:22 354:3,8,21 354:24 362:21 418:8 419:2 429:9 429:17,25 430:4,7 430:9,19,25 431:13 486:13 pull 293:22 320:2 370:15 379:19 391:1 398:20 pulled 309:15 311:15 328:8 pulling 486:8 pumps 457:10,11 purchase 341:7 343:9 344:7 459:16 purchased 283:17 425:5 436:9 purchases 346:16 purely 312:7,7,8 401:7 purported 390:1 purposes 247:16</p>
--	--	--	---	---

<p>254:17 471:11 pursuant 343:15 470:18 pursue 452:25 460:6 pursuing 491:25 purview 443:21 push 347:8 put 315:22 323:3 323:20 331:1,2 375:11 379:9 380:12 382:9 383:4 402:17 409:3 438:6,17 456:19 Puyallup 245:3 251:21,24 257:5 274:4,8 277:1,15 414:15 415:5 440:13 442:16 474:22 477:22 484:15,22 485:11</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Q</p> <p>qualified 373:19 quality 263:19,22 420:19,20,23 421:1,3 423:15,21 434:10,10 474:21 quantity 423:19 424:9 question 255:9 256:6 258:10 261:6 263:4 266:16 270:1 279:25 280:7,11 280:18,21,24 284:15 287:13 294:24 295:5,20 296:14 297:17 301:2,12 303:8,15 303:19 304:16,21 304:25 305:2,22 306:18 307:19 308:20 309:18 310:11,21 311:25</p>	<p>312:7,7,9,10,11 312:21 316:22 319:15 321:12 323:12 324:16 334:18 335:17 336:20 338:19 339:11,22 345:14 348:11,21 350:4 350:23,23 353:5 354:11,17,24 355:11 356:20,22 359:24 363:25 364:20 366:8 367:6 368:15 369:1,14,15,20 370:23 371:5,7,20 372:3,6,18,22 374:14,21 375:1,9 376:20 377:7 378:1,2,17,21 379:23 383:22 384:10 386:22 387:13,24 388:17 388:20,25 389:2 389:13 390:3 392:3,13,18,23 393:9,16 395:2,19 395:22 396:5,14 396:24 397:3,7,12 397:24 398:3,5,5 400:2,17 401:7,9 401:10,17 402:11 402:14,15 405:9 408:8 416:24 417:1,3,6,8,9,12 417:13,17 418:14 418:22 425:24,25 428:8 430:1 436:23 437:20,23 440:10 442:24 443:12 473:2 491:25 492:1,8,20 495:7,22 questioning 267:10 293:6 298:15</p>	<p>310:19 376:6 385:8 questions 246:5,12 252:15,24 254:1 254:14 255:4,4 256:12,15 267:3 278:20 279:2 286:7 287:6 293:10,19 296:9 298:2 305:10 307:25 309:2,8,16 309:23 310:25 312:6 313:1 314:22,24 321:20 322:7,10,13,18 335:12,15 336:24 337:10,11 339:21 340:23 343:4 346:19,20,23 348:23 350:17,20 352:18,18 356:4 358:8,10,11,12 359:14 360:10,14 360:16 361:23 368:9 371:12 374:8 375:24 376:2,3,12,15 379:9 381:6 386:8 392:21 401:4,6 403:19,23 405:18 406:2,4,7,25 408:5,15 415:13 426:8,14 436:13 437:9,13,16 439:22 440:16,22 441:2 490:22 491:1,19 493:17 493:19 495:5,20 quick 409:2 quickly 352:9 409:5 414:21 415:9 quite 296:24 330:2 361:23 405:23 425:13 446:9</p>	<p>quo 346:7 quote 262:16 279:6 329:6 338:20 412:17 420:18 421:10 422:5 451:7 464:5,6</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">R</p> <p>R 241:25 242:1 243:1 244:1 245:1 265:7 293:13 298:16 301:23 305:20 308:9 310:9 311:8 363:23 381:15 385:13,13 386:13 403:24,24 415:10 500:2,8,20 Rachel 276:14 285:14 288:9 rain 474:12 raise 268:8 277:3,7 277:13,23 292:15 363:8 409:15 411:21 414:8 raised 252:13 256:4 257:1 259:25 261:1,4 263:19 359:2 388:16 470:1 487:19 491:9 raises 490:25 raising 255:14 284:25 ran 390:15 393:14 489:10 Ranjit 420:2 440:14 Randall 440:9 randomized 355:21 range 352:12 480:12 rarely 262:7 263:14 rate 280:4,6 281:7 281:13,19,20,22 281:22,24,25</p>	<p>282:9,10,12,20,20 283:2,9,10 286:16 286:25 317:20,25 318:22 320:8 321:7,11,11,16,17 322:22,24 323:2 323:10,24 324:9 324:13,19 325:13 326:17,20 327:7 327:17 336:17 339:13,16,18 342:11 345:9,20 351:10 352:23 353:2 372:11 382:16 383:17 384:2 387:3 401:24 403:9 406:20 407:11,11 407:16,18,21,22 407:23 423:16 424:5 434:20 435:4 446:21 447:23,25 462:21 462:23 463:2,3 464:21 466:15 469:12 471:17 477:1,4 479:5,5,7 481:6 485:4 490:10 rate-making 468:24 469:7 470:15 479:10 ratepayers 424:7 424:24 429:3 458:16 462:1,5 rates 303:2 330:8 338:22,25 339:6 373:5 375:11 381:21 382:16 383:4,18 400:22 402:17,24 403:1,1 407:22 429:16 430:15 431:1 446:15 447:21 448:7 449:9</p>
---	---	--	---	---

455:25 469:8 472:20 479:22 480:24 481:1,2,7 481:9 482:12 483:3 485:8 492:6 492:10,14 rating 480:6 ratio 479:20,25 480:14 ratios 480:10 Raul 244:17 251:8 273:23 raul.martinez@k... 244:19 RC 397:5 RCW 322:20 325:14 327:23 339:25 343:15 462:2 463:7 483:4 re-address 378:2 re-evaluated 473:20 re-labeled 267:18 267:20 re-litigating 461:4 re-open 286:12 re-opened 285:11 286:21,23,24 re-wording 367:6 reach 336:10 459:24 464:25 reached 459:18 460:2,20,23 485:25 read 278:16 294:7 419:18 489:4 reading 326:2,14 331:20 388:15 ready 269:17 459:7 493:8,11,11,12 readying 270:14 realize 277:1 446:19 realized 484:18 really 299:17,18	321:3 325:24 327:12 347:13 429:5 433:18 498:20 reason 297:12,18 300:15 302:12 307:9 365:3 366:12 389:14 401:4 reasonable 283:9 284:23 294:25 330:7 345:8 383:18 394:7,7 435:11 464:17 465:23 469:9 482:5,14 498:24 reasonably 436:20 482:16 reasons 307:15 450:17 461:14 466:17,17 470:20 472:10 rebates 457:16 rebut 489:13 recall 323:18 326:2 334:19 354:2 370:9 372:19 477:19 recalling 366:20 receipt 287:16 receive 287:20 355:12,15,15 received 257:13 398:8,13 399:14 400:11,13 405:15 424:21 463:5 receiving 294:17 371:18 411:10 reception 334:11 recognition 460:6 recognitional 454:6 recognize 253:19 365:15 419:2 443:16 471:6,14 471:15 473:17,22	475:14 499:13 recognized 434:6 499:12 recognizes 447:2 454:10 466:7 486:13 recollection 334:24 recommend 280:24 327:24 470:21 recommendation 353:23 373:12 480:13 481:23,25 recommendations 357:20 372:19 recommended 480:3 recommends 375:10 383:3 402:15,16 479:23 485:5 reconciliation 320:13 reconnect 467:17 record 268:6,16 272:20 274:14 277:3,7 279:19 284:6 289:8 300:8 313:9,10 314:15 315:22 317:16 326:24 340:11 362:7,10 379:10 380:2 388:17 389:4 390:23 391:15 401:23 409:3,24 410:8,11 413:12 414:25 427:1,10 429:24 442:4,7 449:18 467:19 469:2,4 472:22 473:6 474:1,9 499:10 recover 429:15 436:3 447:24 recoverable 458:16 recovered 338:21	339:10 470:3 492:6 recovering 303:1 447:21 recovery 303:7 316:17 317:20 319:19 321:24,24 330:20,25 331:4 341:1 448:6 469:11,14,14,19 479:6 485:7 recruit 354:13 355:4 recruited 355:1 redirect 246:10,11 298:11 301:13,15 305:12,13 308:1 310:2 311:1 313:4 380:24 385:10 403:22 426:9,11 reduce 318:22 455:15 457:21 462:9 reduces 474:5 reducing 458:8 reduction 317:24 321:6,8 331:12,18 332:10 350:23 351:2 352:10 356:13 424:25 433:13 reductions 333:15 334:1 483:6 484:17 Reeves 256:7 refer 297:3 347:3 374:4 401:19 reference 320:21 357:3 384:25 402:1,12 referenced 284:12 317:4 390:4 391:24 references 387:13 referred 410:14	referring 247:19 296:1 310:14,17 316:10 371:10 390:12,20,25 395:3 467:10 refers 296:4 337:18 350:5,5 376:23 refill 428:17,20,21 refine 453:6 reflect 282:14 reflected 318:14,17 406:22 407:6 480:25 reflects 282:13 refrigeration 421:19 422:9 refund 330:9 375:11,14 381:22 383:5,8 402:18,21 446:24 449:10 469:23 472:21 492:12,17 regard 308:24 330:17 346:15 473:2 regarding 261:23 262:4 294:24 311:24 337:11 369:15 372:18 374:17 376:24 382:22 387:24 402:5,12 416:6 417:2 418:10 419:6 420:25 457:10 459:15 468:21 470:4 485:16 regardless 384:9 region 433:14 regional 397:9 regular 346:11 regulated 435:9 472:18,24 regulating 427:3,24 regulation 327:20
---	--	--	--	--

<p>regulatory 275:23 276:6 289:7,10 317:1 327:5 reinforced 492:2 Reinforcement 388:5 reiterate 301:1 reject 479:23 483:10 rejected 389:19 399:25 410:2 rejects 485:6 relate 327:17 412:4 related 277:6,15 322:10 324:22 325:19,20 333:24 335:12 338:4 339:3 343:9 385:25 389:5 418:1,10 419:7 453:16 470:12 relates 279:25 280:18 284:15 336:20 367:18 410:19 relating 334:2 460:3 relatively 415:9 445:17 relaxed 263:12 released 349:23 417:2 relevant 364:9 369:6 370:18 411:22,24 412:1 reliability 262:18 316:14 318:9 435:8 447:10 reliable 446:16 447:19 relied 392:4,6 393:3 rely 324:11 325:7 392:14 393:1,17 420:23</p>	<p>remain 256:12 338:5 339:4 361:3 416:22 417:21 424:23 remainder 358:20 360:1,24 361:3 remaining 401:15 remarks 269:10 488:16 remediation 338:25 remedy 375:15 383:8,13 402:21 403:5 remember 467:9 remind 287:12 293:2 494:5 reminding 275:9 removal 384:5 422:10,12,19,20 422:23 423:1,3 remove 345:10 421:13 424:14 removed 318:6 320:17,25 421:18 422:9 424:13 438:4 removes 338:23 removing 433:22 474:17 477:10 Rendahl 242:5 247:25 270:3,4,5 270:8 271:6,12,19 274:16 278:7,22 278:24 279:1,17 279:23 280:14 281:2,14 282:1,22 284:8 285:5,14 286:1 287:13 314:14 315:1,17 316:8,24 317:8 318:12,25 319:14 319:21 320:3,19 320:24 321:14,19 322:5,9 334:7 335:14,16 336:15</p>	<p>336:21 337:7 340:22 341:16,19 341:22 342:14,17 342:22 343:1,8,25 344:24 345:4,11 346:17 348:22 349:12 350:3,15 356:3,6,22 357:1 357:4,18 358:6,12 358:22 360:11,13 360:14 406:6,7,9 406:24 407:4,8,24 408:3,7,12 437:15 437:16 438:7,12 438:19 439:12,19 440:18,25 493:20 494:4 497:23 renewable 318:6 321:14 453:20 459:15 repeat 272:18,19 274:17,25 278:9 293:24 295:3,5 297:17 303:8 304:25 305:1 312:11 316:22 371:20 372:22 377:11,22 384:23 395:2 413:8 417:13 418:22 422:4 486:10 repeatedly 451:3 repeating 334:18 418:14 repetitive 401:8 rephrase 378:17 388:20 425:13 replace 307:16 replaced 474:9 report 335:22,22 370:25 371:3,23 372:1 391:3,8,9 391:17 392:9,14 393:1,17 394:12 394:24 395:5</p>	<p>453:16 489:17 reported 241:25 337:3 390:24 395:23 396:15,24 397:4,13,25 reporter 259:2,7 268:16 294:9,14 389:8 391:14 500:9 reporting 335:5,7 reports 328:11 373:19 389:22 represent 459:22 471:7 representation 421:20,22 representative 248:10 252:15 261:2,14,16 270:18 representatives 248:6 268:25 454:9 499:9 representing 248:14,15 251:13 271:1 272:7 273:15 275:5 represents 282:11 459:20 461:6 request 288:9,12 315:3,12,13,16 319:10,18 320:12 321:24 329:8 369:16 380:7,12 396:11 405:15,17 405:22,25 407:25 411:6 437:25 438:18,20 439:4 439:15 443:20 497:22 498:24 499:2 requested 263:8 265:17 317:7 321:22 400:4 405:21 448:12,16</p>	<p>requesting 265:25 439:16 442:18 488:10 requests 315:19,22 316:5 376:23 379:21 386:1 450:17 459:10 471:25 472:15 473:12 476:8 487:14 require 253:11 268:21 325:24 330:1 345:19 384:5 421:5 451:16 454:2,7 required 311:24 320:17 325:13 326:14 332:15 377:9,14 378:4 423:1 450:5,7 462:2 requirement 247:20 254:10,23 258:15 260:16 266:7,15,24 267:10 287:25 288:20 306:16 314:18 315:7,9,14 316:17 317:5,16 317:23 318:1,4,8 318:11 319:2,7 321:1 322:11,13 323:7 326:21 337:13,25 339:12 340:25 345:17 347:2 349:2 350:1 352:24 357:1 372:10 373:3,23 381:18 383:12 400:20 402:5 403:4 406:10,13 406:21,23 407:1 421:3 423:4 424:2 424:7 425:4,7 432:9,10 435:12</p>
--	--	---	--	--

437:18,21 438:4 439:1 443:5 444:5 444:7,16 445:11 445:16 446:1,14 449:1 450:18 454:22 455:6 456:5,8,18 458:20 464:1 471:9 494:9 494:23 495:3 496:4,14,16 497:3 497:5,13 requirements 289:7 316:25 332:14 393:25 400:25 481:16 requires 296:16 299:20 303:22 306:19 325:23 352:25 353:2 364:13 387:6 398:7 425:8 451:10,15,20,22 452:20 453:15 reservation 487:13 reserved 257:15 292:24 residential 355:7 457:5,21 461:9 residents 285:24 433:21 resolutely 488:4 resolution 460:20 471:8 resolved 463:16 resolves 459:13 465:6 resource 279:5,12 346:13 427:12 435:9 482:23 493:5,9,13,14,15 resources 282:17 341:5 342:1,3 343:13,13 344:18 346:13 452:3 458:14	respect 259:18 478:12 479:1 482:13 483:3 489:25 respectfully 450:17 459:9 466:18 472:15 473:4,12 476:8 488:2 respectively 247:8 respond 257:19,23 259:15 261:9 263:5,7,11 264:1 282:23 284:9 285:16 315:20 345:22 responded 471:24 Respondent 241:8 responding 356:8 481:17 response 255:18 256:2 260:5 294:23 315:11 323:12 324:22 326:11 331:25 332:15 343:13 344:10 356:16 380:6 390:8 400:12 408:11 430:24 437:24 458:14 472:4,5 473:4 481:18 responses 278:12 278:19 292:16 342:4 379:20 444:15 responsibilities 435:16 responsibility 405:14 419:8 responsible 416:9 418:7 419:2 rest 427:5 444:19 restate 304:22 result 282:11,17 405:5 463:2,11	469:8 resulted 465:25 resulting 265:5 448:22 470:1 results 329:22,23 355:23,24 356:15 388:23 404:11 479:22 resume 361:17 362:6,12 442:4 retail 420:21 retain 455:16 retains 345:7 retirement 338:6 retrospective 492:15 return 260:1 265:21 272:22 345:9 408:23 410:8 442:3 448:12 478:14 479:19,24 481:16 returned 424:4 returning 314:16 revegetated 474:19 revenue 247:20 254:10,22 258:15 260:16 266:6,15 266:24 267:9 287:25 288:20 289:7 306:16 314:17 315:7,9,14 316:17,25 317:5 317:23 318:1,3,7 318:11 319:2,7 320:17,25 322:11 322:13 323:6 337:13,25 339:12 340:25 345:17 347:1 349:2 352:24 406:9,13 406:21,22 407:1 431:11,14 432:9 432:10 435:3 437:18,21 438:4	439:1 443:5 444:5 444:7,16 445:11 445:15 446:1,14 448:25 450:18 454:22 455:6 456:4,8,18 458:20 471:9 478:12,15 478:23 479:3,18 479:24 481:22 494:9,22 495:3 496:4,14,16 497:3 497:5,13 revenues 430:14,19 review 294:4,6,24 295:7,14,21,22 296:3,24 299:10 299:12,16,18 302:9,11,17 303:11 306:2,4,10 308:16,18 311:10 311:18,20 312:15 312:17 335:20 336:1,4 346:8,9 346:10,16 351:23 364:6,8,22 369:22 386:16 403:9 420:1 436:5 437:2 449:11 469:23,25 473:6 477:4,9,11 489:8 491:5 492:12,15 reviewed 265:4 297:21 307:3 310:12,18,20 311:12 345:20 400:8 420:5 450:10 reviewing 294:8 307:12 342:1 345:24 491:2 reviews 295:16,25 364:10 472:9 475:24,25 revised 457:8,9 revisit 375:22	496:23 Reynolds 254:7 Reynolds' 254:15 255:5 Richard 440:21 right 247:13 251:18 251:20 252:2,6,9 255:3,7 256:9,24 257:12 259:10,19 260:21,25 261:11 261:18 263:3 264:9 265:10 268:10 269:5,13 270:2,13 272:16 274:22 277:20,23 283:13 287:2,4,5 287:9 288:20 289:17 292:4,15 292:17 296:13 297:10 298:5 301:13,21 303:20 305:19 309:25 310:4 311:1 313:3 313:6,10,25 314:13,15 315:13 321:19 324:15 325:9 326:4 327:8 327:21 329:1,15 331:5,20 332:24 333:20 334:10,23 335:2,10 340:19 340:19 355:18 358:14 359:21 360:15,19 361:21 361:25 362:3 363:8 371:10 374:6 376:4,13,17 378:23 379:11 380:15,18,23 381:2,11,13 385:10,20 391:16 403:21 406:3 410:6,16 412:25 414:7,8,13,14 426:12 430:14
---	--	---	--	--

<p>437:12 439:21,25 440:19 445:10,21 454:19 458:18,21 459:9 461:17 463:8 464:9 465:11 466:21,25 467:9 469:18 470:24 476:12 477:13 485:10 486:25 487:8 488:18 489:23 491:15,18 492:19 493:18,23 494:14 497:19,21 499:6 rights 262:10 riming 421:14 risk 330:19 382:6 480:19,20 487:12 risks 486:18 487:7 Rita 243:12 249:21 272:7 359:4 rita.m.liotta.civ... 243:15 RJR 257:7 261:19 261:20 RJR-1CT 337:20 426:20 RJR-30T 427:18 RJR-31 264:21 265:4 268:14 410:20 411:2 RJR-33 475:11 RL 385:4 RL-1 369:21,25 RL-1T 293:21,25 298:19 302:1 305:23 308:12 310:16 311:14 364:2 489:6 RL-3 489:12 RL-35T 385:5 RL-4 297:3 300:3 307:4 364:25 365:21 387:14,16 489:17</p>	<p>RL-5 390:21 391:9 roadmap 252:10 254:3 Roberson 242:8 246:10,13,15,17 248:19 254:4,24 255:1 271:5,7 365:6 366:14,19 366:23 367:20 369:5 371:4 372:13 374:18 375:17 380:14,25 385:12,14,19 445:8 450:23,24 454:20 461:18,19 461:20 463:7 476:18,21,22 492:3,13,24 Robert 276:10 279:20 440:8 Roberts 246:11 248:20 261:19 337:19 413:9,10 413:14,14 414:7 414:12 415:5,12 416:17 417:13 418:25 423:13 425:23 426:7,10 427:1,4,13 428:5 428:8,13 429:4,12 432:22 433:14,15 433:16 434:24 435:6,7 474:4 488:2 498:9 Roberts's 261:25 426:19 robust 327:14 354:5 ROE 448:13 479:18 480:17,19 480:22,23,25 481:24,25 482:2,5 ROEs 481:3 role 418:6,8,25 419:5 446:13</p>	<p>486:5,20 roll 313:15 457:4 rolling 351:19 Ron 246:11 337:19 413:14 433:15 435:7 Ronald 413:9 room 243:14 440:4 roughly 343:5 405:16 444:16 round 494:15 RPR 241:25 500:20 rule 252:17 253:2 255:18 262:3 350:2,12,13 ruled 262:2 rulemaking 349:22 350:9 374:16 375:2 382:21 402:4 rules 248:5 263:12 264:24 287:14 349:23 ruling 304:18 412:10 rulings 266:2 run 269:2 391:20 391:25 392:16 393:13 394:1 running 297:15 runs 391:22 434:8 RXS-1T 420:3 RXS-24 265:2 RXS-26 265:2 RXS-30T 420:7 Ryan 316:21,21 467:20</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">S</p> <hr/> <p>S 242:1 243:1 244:1 245:1 293:13,13 298:16,16 301:23 301:23 305:20,20 308:9,9 310:9,9 311:8,8 363:23,23 381:15,15 386:13</p>	<p>386:13 415:10,10 S&P 481:15 safe 446:16 447:19 safeguards 446:20 safely 475:16 safety 383:13 385:17 403:5 416:14 435:20 475:6,16,19,23 476:1 483:6 486:17 487:6 490:15 Sahu 420:2 440:14 441:20 485:2 487:22 Sahu's 420:5 sake 371:14 381:5 Saleba 440:15 441:20 487:23 sales 470:5,10 salmon 474:18,20 Salt 244:5 San 243:9,14 satellite 427:7 satisfied 401:15 satisfies 326:20 satisfy 423:6 save 412:2 436:13 saved 379:16 saw 354:14 saying 259:8 294:10 296:9 371:16 388:13 440:15 442:9 497:17 says 315:9 318:15 322:21 349:3 392:22 424:8 486:11 SB 490:10 scale 344:10 scales 344:7 scarson@perkin... 242:17 scenarios 394:8</p>	<p>schedule 279:7 402:25 431:1 459:16 460:21 494:1 scheduling 405:20 School 415:15,21 Science 415:16 scope 258:20 266:1 309:2 365:8 366:15 369:11 374:10,19 375:18 403:8,16 405:22 405:24 468:25 494:19 495:14 scoped 329:16 scorecard 323:19 323:19,23 324:1,2 324:5,10,25 325:16,18 Scott 256:7 screen 285:15 seal 500:15 season 428:21 Seattle 242:22 244:10,15,18 245:6 249:24 250:2 272:10,13 275:5 291:9 370:4 370:9 397:18 398:2 second 244:18 320:7 359:18 388:4 392:23 403:13 422:22 423:9 424:17 451:15,19 452:7 455:19 473:8 486:16 second-to-the-last 318:5 section 293:24 333:3 sections 352:19 secure 351:17,19 securing 351:20</p>
--	--	---	---	---

<p>security 447:13 sediment 474:11 see 256:4 259:25 261:4 267:2,11 269:19,20 270:2,9 277:18 280:24 285:14 288:5 292:18 313:16,22 314:11 319:13 320:15,16 326:5 326:19 333:3 357:16 360:3 361:11 365:7 369:8 386:6 392:22 441:16 486:25 489:12 seeing 258:22 279:17 345:1 seek 321:23 seeking 478:6 seen 367:5 389:17 399:14 457:24 segment 447:3 selection 355:21 self-authenticating 263:16 sells 421:1 Senate 433:6 454:14 send 298:23 sending 315:18 senior 251:7 273:23 276:18 290:24 291:13 451:12 sense 255:21 353:24 409:4 sensible 244:21 251:11 367:22 sent 299:1 300:5 sentence 296:11 422:4 separate 317:10,15 317:22 321:25 336:17 339:14 470:18</p>	<p>separately 438:1 443:3 September 265:16 268:19 343:7 369:3 400:4,9 420:6 488:1 serious 371:1,24 411:21 486:18 serve 431:15 435:14 455:22 493:4,9 served 429:3 serves 284:23 447:1 470:16 service 276:1 279:7 279:10 289:12 406:11 436:10 446:17 447:20 455:17 456:20 457:7,13,22 services 276:18 290:24 466:14 483:3 serving 338:14 456:2 set 256:21 267:15 274:18 293:4 315:9,14 322:22 323:14 325:5,11 421:4 460:12 476:7 479:24 482:20 500:14 sets 479:19 483:13 settlement 241:9 246:1,14 247:6,20 247:20,21 258:12 258:14,15 259:18 266:7,8 267:6,10 275:14 278:18 279:3,5,9,14 280:9,19 281:6,12 281:17,23 282:3,6 282:11,13 283:3,9 284:13,16,17,24 285:4,18 293:1</p>	<p>302:25 315:6,15 316:10 317:4,15 317:17,23 318:1,4 318:7,11 319:7,12 319:17,17 320:1 322:1,6 323:7,13 324:4,4,22 325:6 326:9 327:13,18 328:14 331:23 332:20 334:1 335:8,18,24 336:18 337:4,6,13 337:16,18,25 338:20,23 339:12 339:23 340:23,25 341:13,23 343:11 343:18 344:5,12 344:23 345:18,23 346:6,14 347:2 349:2 350:1,5,8 352:11,15,19,23 352:24,25 356:18 357:10,13,14,17 359:7 372:7,14,21 372:25 373:14,16 375:9,21 382:12 383:3,11 400:18 402:9,9,14,16 406:10,21 407:2 408:21 413:1 429:14,16 431:24 432:4,6,7,10,10 432:13 435:25 436:6 438:3,5 439:1,9 443:4,4,5 443:7,19 444:6,16 445:2,5,11 446:20 447:15,24 448:6 448:17,22 450:19 450:22 451:1,5 452:15 453:3,15 453:21,24 454:13 454:14,22 455:7 455:11,19,23 456:5,8,19 457:15</p>	<p>457:23 458:14,20 458:23 459:2,11 459:12,18,23 460:2,12,22,24,25 461:10,15 462:11 462:19,20 463:17 463:19,20 464:4,4 465:5,14,23 466:5 466:10,19,23 467:1,3,11 468:7 468:22 469:3,17 470:4,12,22 471:1 471:4,10,10 472:1 472:5,14,16,17 473:13 476:9,16 476:23 478:10,11 478:12,16,20,23 479:1,4,18,24 480:16 481:17,22 482:1 483:11,16 485:6 490:1,8,21 491:12 492:7 494:17,19,23,24 495:1,3 496:4,7 496:14,16 497:3,5 497:13 500:11 settlements 247:17 265:15 281:10 441:10,15 442:11 442:14,15 443:2 443:16,22 445:24 471:6,13 472:11 472:13 476:14 477:15,17 478:1 491:17 494:8,11 495:17 settling 280:1 281:9 284:17,21,25 286:3 316:9 323:1 328:3 332:4 333:14 335:19 338:3 343:16 344:25 345:9,22 347:2,21 349:8 350:17 406:14</p>	<p>429:12,18 431:23 435:23,25 436:3,7 441:8,12 442:10 442:20 449:6 454:21 463:17 480:1,17 487:9 490:8 seven 264:21 297:8 297:11,13,20 300:13,16 307:7 307:10 316:1,4 365:1,4 366:10,13 367:18,21 387:19 389:16 394:2 412:14 489:9,14 489:18 seven-day 315:24 412:12 Seventh 245:17 severe 427:16 share 397:8,17 428:18 431:18 446:23 sharing 309:5 shaving 419:11,20 424:5 427:12 429:3,6 493:5 Shay 440:7 shed 405:5,6,7 shelf 328:9 Sheree 242:14 248:13 270:23,25 shift 319:3 shifted 318:15,23 Shorelines 475:10 short 253:15 313:8 314:17 332:2 336:3 341:25 342:23 343:12 430:24 445:17 465:9 484:6 shortcomings 371:1,24 shortcut 414:20 shorter 316:2</p>
--	--	---	---	---

<p>shortly 247:24 385:3 497:25 show 319:10 320:10,18 372:4 390:24 404:11 447:6 471:24 showed 370:25 371:23 showing 449:8 451:11 shown 268:12 449:23 shows 371:2,25 388:22 455:15 474:1,9 475:11 Shute 243:8 249:14 271:25 shutting 388:2 shy 340:14 side 258:25 371:22 429:9 433:24 435:9 449:3 450:13 sides 405:20 Sierra 250:22 251:2 273:11,16 290:8,10 sign 259:17 354:8 signals 344:12 456:25 signatories 285:6 signed 258:7 293:16 351:2 372:8 373:1 466:4 476:22 signers 402:9,10 significant 419:21 419:24 420:18 428:23 434:25 447:21 473:5,7 significantly 448:12,21 457:21 481:11 silent 335:25 similar 248:5 307:3</p>	<p>321:1 372:20 383:10 464:15 480:9 Similarly 480:17 481:8 Simon 249:16 272:3 simple 478:8 simplicity 316:7 simply 256:20 275:12 302:21 326:16 375:2 single 482:20 sir 310:17 427:4 sit 294:16 428:16 site 370:24 421:24 434:11 sits 254:9 sitting 258:25 situation 496:13 six 331:16 346:1 388:2 395:18 404:15 405:16 450:16 six-month 343:5 size 428:24 sizes 435:21 sjm@dvclaw.com 243:6 skill 285:23 500:12 skip 360:21 slide 387:23 slides 489:12 slight 269:7 448:14 slightly 294:21 356:4 364:11 slow 344:1 small 457:5,22 smaller 429:2 Smith 290:9,9 314:2,3 359:14,19 418:17 Snohomish 397:18 socialized 431:19 societal 383:14</p>	<p>403:6 socioeconomic 434:13 SOCs/NOX 433:19 software 368:21 452:9 solar 344:11 464:14 solely 337:4,6 solicit 354:22 451:22 solid 434:16 463:3 solution 269:3 463:18,21 464:25 465:5 somebody 297:15 298:23 somewhat 334:8 Sommer 243:3 249:9 271:20 445:5 467:7 468:20 soon 256:23 260:22 428:17 sorry 251:1,16 258:5 267:7 269:23 270:20 274:16 278:4 288:4 292:4 298:10,10,14 310:13 322:16 340:8,11 354:16 354:19 356:25 360:12 366:8 371:13 372:2 374:23 375:5 377:22 384:22 385:6 409:10 421:15 424:17 425:15 428:9 467:4,20 468:2 481:11,20 487:3 sort 306:16 320:12 344:19 348:11 352:11,13 353:7 355:11 357:5</p>	<p>412:22 432:19 434:18,21 sought 469:20 sound 241:7 242:13 247:10,11,14 254:25 255:20,22 271:1 275:23 280:3 289:15 292:7 294:11,18 303:15 362:21 436:18 444:13 486:13 sounds 388:9 408:9 445:12 455:2 source 433:23 486:14 South 244:4 Southwest 243:4 245:11 space 269:15 speak 248:3 252:8 260:18 268:17 347:18 349:13 357:1 368:24 378:6 384:7 394:3 395:8,9 397:10 444:7,23,23,24 445:2,6,6 450:25 454:21 456:7 459:1,4 462:14 465:13 466:22 467:2,8 468:6 470:25 476:16 488:2,3 497:15 SPEAKER 353:17 366:3 speaking 259:6 270:21 278:4 295:8 328:7 333:17 344:16 357:2 467:10 497:11 specialized 416:5 specific 253:5 307:23 335:4</p>	<p>353:21 394:16 404:8 specifically 254:15 267:6 293:3 319:1 355:5 365:23 397:10 439:2 452:16 455:7 478:14,16 specifications 420:25 421:4 specificity 329:14 355:16 specifics 341:20 specifies 406:11 spelled 253:7 spend 478:24 spending 316:14 318:10 319:3 451:16 spent 285:24 splitting 432:12,13 spoke 269:23 356:7 360:13 460:10 488:3 sponsoring 287:15 sponsors 451:17 spread 479:5 spreading 435:2 SQI 323:5 335:6 SQIs 324:25 325:10 ss 500:5 stab 317:1 436:22 stable 462:6 staff 242:7 248:18 248:20 252:12 253:2 254:5,6 257:13 259:12 266:20 271:4,7 276:6 279:22 283:1 284:2 289:23 347:4,8,10 347:11,23 348:1,3 362:23,25 363:3 364:11 368:16,19 369:2 372:8,8,14</p>
---	---	---	---	--

373:1,2,22 374:11 375:10 379:20 380:14 381:17 382:9,13 383:4 386:24,25 396:12 396:12 401:12,12 402:17 413:21 444:8 445:6,8 446:2 450:21 459:5,19 461:10 461:21 462:10 463:1 476:22 477:3,5,9 499:11 staff's 259:20 260:4 260:6 276:3 289:20 413:19 461:23 476:24 481:18 staff-led 347:3 453:3,6 Staffs' 380:6 stages 422:18 stakeholders 328:22 348:8 358:1 464:20 standard 268:23 350:6,7 424:8 433:8,8 446:8 473:21,22 476:6 483:1 484:10,11 485:4 490:11 standards 349:20 349:24 350:6 450:5 476:2 483:9 standpoint 324:6 343:23 344:22 432:23 436:23 stands 327:3 Stantec 392:14,16 393:1,5,13,14 start 248:9 252:21 254:11 269:17 315:2,3 323:11 328:5 343:21 357:24 384:20	399:8 406:18,22 410:13 415:12 423:18 430:4 432:21 459:6 479:17 485:15 started 309:16 starting 274:23 316:13 318:12 326:16 375:11 376:22 383:5 384:12 395:1,7 402:18 474:25 starts 385:2 state 291:14 339:24 349:21 350:9 389:4 406:22 446:11 485:21 500:5,9 stated 280:1 373:17 390:23 391:23 394:24 395:5 396:8 404:4 415:21 422:5 statement 281:10 284:15 296:12 345:5 346:1 371:17 374:1,5 382:24 393:8 420:22 442:11 445:20 459:8 465:17 468:17 471:2 490:4 statements 246:13 253:10 262:17 443:1 444:4 445:15,24 450:23 455:3 456:14 458:19 461:19 462:16 465:19 476:14,21 477:14 479:13 485:12 488:24 states 281:6 284:16 339:12 486:17 stations 349:15	status 346:7 statute 325:8,23,23 326:2,14 328:1 343:15,19,24 344:6,9 433:5 463:13 464:6 465:6 471:18 statute's 464:1 stay 260:12 418:9 419:5 staying 432:16 486:16 steel 243:17 249:24 250:2 272:10,13 275:5 291:8 413:25 419:17 474:10 Steele 242:14 248:16 step 300:25 320:12 320:12 327:19 418:16 Stephanie 418:16 440:7 steps 320:15 461:11 stick 412:9 stipulate 254:18 255:2 256:17 267:25 268:5 308:23 stipulated 414:25 475:11 stipulating 254:24 470:9 stipulation 265:23 315:6 316:10 321:9 326:10 456:18 459:11,12 468:22 470:8,18 470:22 472:14 476:9 stipulations 432:17 stock 481:13,14 Stone 243:18 250:1 272:12 275:4	stop 362:4 444:10 storage 427:23 428:1 stored 428:1 stormwater 474:12 straightforward 464:13 478:5 strategy 289:15 455:15 457:13 Street 242:15 243:9 243:19 244:4 245:17 strengthen 448:19 stress 450:4 strictly 264:23 strike 255:10 312:8 Strom 242:14 248:13 strong 286:18,19 458:22 strongly 488:6 structure 353:22 478:14 479:18 481:22 482:1,5 structures 474:17 students 415:22 studied 370:2,6 450:6,7 studies 296:23,25 297:11 300:14 307:2,3,8 364:21 365:2 366:11 373:18 387:20 389:3,21 390:16 391:22,25 392:2,4 394:4 404:2 447:6 449:22,22 450:1 475:6 489:10 study 296:20 299:24 304:1 306:22,23 307:15 364:17 368:17,19 369:23 371:9 372:4 387:9 390:17 391:21	392:16 393:13,15 394:1 415:22 450:9 457:9 479:9 489:17 sub 333:3 subdivision 475:23 subject 279:12 280:11,21,25 281:3,4 287:14 306:16 330:9 371:16 372:15 381:21 436:4 446:24 449:10 469:23 472:20 492:11,15,16 subjects 403:15 submissions 411:4 submit 268:20 341:6 346:14 396:19 412:8,14 486:6 494:21 495:16 submitted 265:1 366:23 392:1 396:1,8,17 411:23 415:14 420:2 487:21,22 submitting 411:20 subscribers 463:9 465:8 subsection 463:7 483:4 subsequent 419:10 426:24 449:12 subsides 456:23 subsidization 463:16 465:7 subsidizing 461:12 463:12 substantial 405:2 472:3 substantially 331:23 substantive 367:8 substitute 452:25
---	--	---	--	---

success 327:7	438:10,11 441:14	291:16 292:10,14	425:10 426:1,15	talk 335:5 478:21
successful 351:20	442:13 443:15	360:9 363:8,10	426:22 427:2,11	talked 498:7
successfully 480:5	445:15 450:21	413:6 414:9	431:24 432:6,15	talking 319:22
successor 284:4	454:22 456:8	swearing 413:9	434:8,15 436:24	323:15,21 330:23
sufficient 254:18	458:19 459:1	Switch 431:21	445:5 456:9	337:21 389:4
254:25 262:18	465:13 466:4	switching 484:18	458:23 466:25	412:6 443:2 478:7
268:20,24 315:24	467:10 468:6	swore 363:5	468:6,22,23 469:3	478:24 487:6
342:12 345:24	476:14 477:14	sworn 263:17	469:8 470:10,12	495:9,10
346:2 449:9	478:12,23 479:12	278:18	470:17,21 472:16	tank 427:15,17
suggest 303:18	494:10,22,23,25	system 282:18	472:19,24 473:11	428:11,13,16,24
399:7 412:13	499:11	283:7,25 337:15	473:19,24 474:1,3	target 326:25
436:13	supported 349:5,8	337:17,19 379:17	474:8,23 475:14	331:11,16 333:8
suggested 356:9	349:16 469:3	394:25 395:6,24	475:17,20,25	333:11,12 458:13
suggestion 381:4	supporting 315:15	396:16,21,25	476:1,9,16 477:19	targeted 456:1
suitable 423:15	438:11,13 464:4	397:5,14 398:1,9	478:11 482:7,10	targets 323:16
424:23	supports 465:4,22	398:13 404:5	483:8,10,14 485:6	324:2 326:12,15
Suite 242:16,22	478:10 479:3	423:16,20,20	485:17,24 486:8	331:22
243:4,14 244:4,9	481:24	424:4,12,20,24	488:1,5 490:1,7	tariff 430:15
244:14,18,24	supposed 480:19	425:20 428:4	490:20 491:11	459:16 462:8
245:6,11,17	sure 269:22 294:17	430:8,10,17 431:9	493:2 494:9,24	task 463:4
summarize 293:15	326:8 327:22	431:18 450:5	Tacoma's 433:22	tax 339:5 351:6
summary 445:16	331:9 336:11,19	452:1 453:12	take 284:1 298:24	Taylor 291:20,24
454:12 476:3	337:20 340:5,10	464:8 472:25	313:7,8 317:1	291:25 292:1,4,5
summer 333:15	350:6 353:20	493:3	320:4 340:3	tcp@dvclaw.com
394:18,20,22,24	359:2 369:5 371:4	systemic 484:22	343:16 347:22	245:13
395:6,14,23	377:23 378:1	systems 427:5	351:3,18 353:16	team 276:19 290:25
396:15,24 397:4	384:7,8 408:10	476:2	358:3 362:1	400:10
397:13,25 404:19	425:13 435:16		367:10 370:8,14	tech 356:12
404:20 405:1	444:24 445:7	T	375:25 376:2,14	technical 275:3
448:9	447:12 461:11	T 293:13 298:16	379:6 382:13	296:25
summers 395:18	471:3 485:13	301:23 305:20	384:13 389:25	technically 433:7
404:14,15,17	486:2 495:8	308:9 310:9 311:8	408:22 409:6,17	technique 357:21
450:16	surface 415:24	363:23 381:15	428:19 430:2	techniques 357:23
supplemental	416:9	385:13,13 386:13	436:22 441:25	415:23
438:20 497:24	surprise 264:18	403:24,24 415:10	442:2 461:11	technologies
499:1	surrounding	431:1 500:2,2	478:13 480:20	415:25
supplementing	419:14 473:24	table 438:3,8,11	483:21 492:13	technology 355:13
264:13	474:3	tables 464:24	499:13	355:15,19 356:12
supply 348:24,25	Susan 289:6 316:25	Tacoma 247:21	taken 241:24	448:1
349:5 413:15	337:22 341:10	261:24 315:8	313:12 352:3	tell 417:20
418:6 419:1	413:13 437:19	317:21 321:22	362:8 365:22	temperatures
420:24 423:11	438:2	408:21 409:18	382:12 410:9	421:18 422:8
support 266:8	swath 447:1	410:13 413:1	442:5	428:24
327:18 348:6	swear 275:17	416:22 417:3,7,19	takes 471:13	ten 411:7,25 441:10
373:15 430:6	277:21,24 289:1	418:2 423:1,13	472:12	442:19 443:4,10
		424:3,22 425:3,5		

<p>443:20,22 444:16 444:20 494:25 ten-minute 361:15 488:21 tend 259:9 401:5 tender 275:12 tends 431:10 tenets 454:1 TEP 317:13 490:7 491:8 term 296:5 451:9,9 451:19 452:19,20 453:14 terms 264:15 336:21 346:15 368:9,9 412:20 428:12 443:1 451:1,4,5 453:24 454:1,5,16 477:1 478:15 479:2,2,5 479:5,8,9,10,14 479:15,18 497:21 territory 457:14,23 test 320:7 401:15 427:4 482:17 tester 477:2 testified 300:19 304:4 365:9,10 372:18 404:13 420:18 421:10 426:21 427:18,19 450:2 464:3 474:4 testifies 297:10 300:13 307:7 365:1,10 366:10 367:21,23,25 testify 311:23 365:9 366:25 367:24 373:15 testifying 248:5 368:16 388:17 testimony 252:18 252:21 254:6,15 254:19,22,25 255:5 256:7,9,19</p>	<p>261:21,22,25 262:9,22 263:1,17 263:23 264:4,5,9 264:13,21 265:11 265:13 266:5,9,18 267:5 268:1,11 274:13 275:19 277:24 284:12 287:11,18,20,22 289:1 293:20 294:5 295:6 297:22 298:19,22 298:24 299:11,18 301:5,7,25 302:10 302:13 304:12 305:5,23 306:3 307:12,16,20 308:11,17,22,24 309:3,8,10,14,19 310:12,13,15,18 310:22 311:11,12 311:13,19 312:14 312:18,22 323:18 328:15,17 329:3 333:22 335:3 341:9 342:23 353:6,9 354:12 356:9 357:2,5,21 358:5,15 363:10 364:1,7,10,23 365:7,8 366:15,20 366:24,25 368:6 368:10,23 369:11 369:16 372:20 373:7,11,12,14,24 374:10,19 375:18 376:21,23 377:21 377:25 384:11 387:1 388:9 389:24 392:7 395:3,10 396:13 402:2,6,12 404:9 408:19 410:24,25 411:1,8,11,13,16 412:1,4,7,11,16</p>	<p>412:23,24 414:9 415:14 420:1,6,17 421:10,21 422:5 422:10 426:20,25 427:18 440:1 450:4,9 464:4,10 468:23 471:19,21 472:4,4,5,5,14 476:7 480:22 481:19 483:15,15 483:16 484:1 485:4 487:21,22 489:6,14,21 490:14,22,25 491:6 tests 401:10 Texas 420:12 textbook 262:1 thank 248:17,23 249:5,11,23 250:4 250:5,10,11,15,20 251:3,9,14,15,15 251:18 252:2 255:14,24,25 256:6,24 257:10 258:16 259:3 260:10,24 261:11 263:3,25 264:19 265:9 266:21 267:13 269:5 270:8 271:3,9,16 272:4,9 273:2,6 273:10,18,20,24 274:3,10 275:1,2 275:7,8,9 276:2,7 276:11,15,20,24 277:7,8,19 278:3 279:23 280:13 284:7,8 285:17 286:1,9 287:2,4,8 287:9,10,22 288:7 288:17,18,19 289:17,24 290:3,7 290:11,15,21 291:1,5,10,15</p>	<p>292:8,8,17 293:23 298:1,2,4,5,14 299:3,7 301:11,16 302:5,6,7,14 304:9 305:3,10,11 305:14 307:19 308:2,3,14 309:4 309:24,25 310:3,8 311:3,4,16 312:2 313:3,10,21,25 316:3,8,21 326:4 326:6 327:8,10,21 329:1 331:5 332:24 333:1,13 333:20 335:2 337:24 338:18 339:20 340:19,21 343:8 344:24 345:3,11 346:18 347:25 348:10 350:15 352:7,16 356:2 358:6,8,14 359:10,11,13,23 360:2,19 362:22 363:1,4,15,21 364:4,12 368:12 369:17 371:19 374:20 375:8 376:18 380:20 381:14 382:20 383:2 385:9,19 386:9,12,23 393:16 394:23 398:18 401:22 402:3 403:20 407:8 408:3,7,12 408:18 409:1 410:5 413:18,22 414:4,6,13 415:3 416:17 417:24 418:5 419:19 420:9 422:3 426:7 427:9 435:22 436:20 437:8,12 439:12,18,19,21</p>	<p>439:23 440:1 441:18,23 443:24 445:21,22,22 450:20 454:18,19 455:4 456:5,6,15 458:17,18 461:16 461:17 462:13 465:10,11,20 466:20,21 470:23 470:24 476:11,12 477:12,13 478:3 485:9,10,13 487:5 488:15,17,18 489:20,22,23 490:2 491:14,15 492:25 493:16,20 493:22 495:19 496:10 497:19,20 498:6 499:6,16 thanks 314:4 337:8 349:12 355:9 433:15 437:11 theoretically 444:18 thing 321:4 337:23 346:12 404:24 447:12 451:15 452:7 458:10 things 300:20 320:16,20 328:10 337:21 344:10 352:12 369:10 412:21 433:17,20 451:9,21 453:16 453:20 466:13 477:3 479:12 think 254:12 260:19 269:4 277:4 281:19 283:1 284:3 285:11 286:19 288:9 306:5,6 307:14 319:5 321:3,6,12 322:5 325:8 326:10,16</p>
--	--	---	--	--

327:1 330:10,13 330:21 332:1,7 333:4,11 334:15 334:23 336:9 342:12,22 343:5 347:9,17 348:7 350:10 351:8 352:13 354:11 356:6,7,16 359:8 359:20,21 361:25 362:3,4 364:9 365:14 367:2,3 372:3 373:7,15,21 374:9 375:22 378:25 379:17 382:25 383:17 386:24 387:1 389:1 391:3 401:8 404:14 405:16 408:22 414:20 418:16 425:23 428:22 430:7 432:13,18 433:7 433:17 434:5 436:16 437:18 443:12 462:2 471:5,13 473:17 492:1 494:7 498:19,23,23 thinking 432:3 thinks 367:9,17 412:1 third 244:9 317:18 452:19 third-party 449:22 Thirty-seven 366:3 366:5 Thomas 243:19 245:4 246:18 251:25 274:9 277:17,17,19 408:25 409:1,10 409:13 410:14,18 411:19 441:16,18 441:23 467:15,20	467:20 485:13 486:22 487:3,5 488:19 thought 257:2 258:17 351:11 thoughtful 465:3 thousand 354:13 498:10 thousands 450:6 three 247:17 265:14 331:15,17 334:21 370:1,5,7 386:18 398:6 403:11 404:25 407:21 414:22,24 428:14,23 441:10 441:14 442:1,3,11 442:12,13 443:14 443:16 455:9 477:15 489:3,16 491:17 494:8 495:9,17 threshold 293:17 293:18 295:13,18 295:21,23 296:3 299:15 302:16,20 302:25 303:6,10 306:9,12 372:9 373:3,10,23 374:3 374:17 381:18,19 381:20 382:3,10 382:14,22 383:12 400:20,24 402:5 402:10 403:4 449:6 threw 419:16 ties 258:23 293:6 time 247:5 253:7,9 253:16 254:13 256:11,14 257:3,5 257:8 259:8 263:11 267:12 268:21 269:1,3 275:18 285:9,24 286:22 291:17	292:11,15 313:7 314:16 319:4 326:12 329:13,19 336:5 341:25 342:9,12,24 343:6 346:2,15 351:18 352:22 362:11 370:17 379:8 383:21 384:3,21 391:20 394:18,21 409:7,17 410:12 412:9,12 414:15 415:1,1 417:14 426:23 427:3 428:6,15,21 432:25 433:2,2,9 436:15,16 437:9 438:18 441:7,21 442:8 444:15 447:6 454:25 455:25 460:20 462:22,23 472:8 473:6 477:10 478:24 479:6 482:16 483:18 485:9 487:4 492:17 493:15 time-bearing 353:2 timeline 255:17 434:18 timely 446:14 448:9 times 401:6 428:14 447:4 timing 342:19,21 352:10 title 297:7 today 247:4,6,16 249:16 251:7 252:22 253:12,14 253:22 254:2,16 255:6 257:12,20 261:18 263:9 268:20 272:1,2 277:25 281:21	288:10 315:22 358:18 363:11 413:8 414:10 441:6 447:19 449:18 471:7 473:23 478:17 486:6 488:12 489:21 493:14 499:12 today's 252:10 tomorrow 253:22 498:2 tools 387:11 top 326:3 331:2,2 498:7 topic 266:11,13 346:19 348:20,22 350:17,21 374:10 385:12 495:21 topics 322:14 323:6 346:21 389:6 443:21 446:5 total 340:12 441:15 444:15 totally 277:6 468:14 TOTE 420:25 421:1,6 423:4,12 425:3,7,8 488:13 TOTE's 420:19 426:2 touch 498:8 touched 386:3 Tower 243:19 toxics 416:16 toxins 433:13 TPAs 283:7 TPL 377:5,20,25 TPLs 404:1 track 326:18 tracker 303:2,6 317:10,15,22 337:12 338:2,20 339:1,14,15 436:25 437:22	438:6,24,25 439:10 469:11 470:2,19 472:20 473:15 476:25 477:3 482:11 492:4,16,18 trackers 316:18 Tradition 370:5,11 traditional 469:12 Trails 244:23 transcript 264:7 287:17,20 371:18 500:10 transformation 446:6,18 transformer 388:7 transition 457:7 transmission 295:4 296:18,22,25 297:2 299:22 303:24 304:7 306:20,25 338:4 339:19 364:15 373:18 376:24 377:2,9,14,17 378:4,7 384:6 387:8,12 392:1 394:6 395:11,12 395:25 396:9,11 396:18 397:8,17 397:19 404:2 449:2,2,4,16,19 449:21 450:15 transmission-rel... 338:1 transparency 469:24 transparent 469:15 transportation 241:2,4 247:9 317:13 429:9 transported 427:7 treating 422:16 treatment 247:12 468:24 469:7
---	--	--	---	---

<p>470:7,15 tribe 245:3 251:21 251:24 257:5 261:18 265:1 274:5,8 277:1,18 410:23,24 411:5,6 411:9,11,24 412:13,13,14 414:16 415:2,5 442:16 474:22 475:1,5,9 477:22 484:15 485:11 487:14,22 488:10 491:10 Tribe's 257:16 268:14 277:15 410:19 412:19,23 440:14 484:22 485:2 486:4 490:14,17 trouble 367:3 troubled 412:20 true 262:12 294:13 377:6 383:10 394:12,15,23 395:5 407:18 420:22 425:2 482:16 500:12 true-up 306:16 437:3 trues-up 492:18 truth 277:25,25 278:1 363:11,11 363:12 414:10,10 414:11 try 296:8 336:10 391:14 445:16 493:6 trying 293:17 295:17,19 296:2 322:16 353:24 367:17 398:20 467:16 turn 248:3,4 258:9 265:10 268:3</p>	<p>275:17 287:23 288:25 291:22 293:20 297:18 298:6,18 300:2 301:25 305:22 307:4 308:11 310:15 311:13 322:16 340:6 358:16 362:18 363:25 364:24 376:21 381:12 384:11 408:19 413:5 440:2,5 441:3 458:21,23 466:25 477:16,24 479:15 482:7 485:11 486:3 493:24 498:1 turnaround 315:24 336:3 turned 314:22 424:22 turning 316:11 357:19 369:14,21 405:7 turns 493:13 TVR 355:23 Twenty 366:6 two 253:12 259:7 266:20 295:16,25 299:19 317:14 353:13 370:4 374:8 386:17 392:20 399:19 407:11,18 422:18 428:14,14,23,23 429:8 443:7 451:9 451:20 462:3 466:3 472:11 488:13 two-minute 489:1 two-month 472:2 two-phased 403:10 two-year 286:20 333:11</p>	<p>Tyler 245:10 250:14 273:4 type 300:20 302:20 374:25 385:16 types 295:16,25 300:20 344:17 typically 410:22 482:20</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">U</p> <hr/> <p>U-210590 326:24 327:15 U.S 419:23,23 UE-200980 466:2 UE-220066 241:3 UG-151663 470:9 UG-210918 241:4 247:7 UG-220066 247:7 UG-220067 241:4 247:7 ultimately 303:3 460:23 471:12,21 482:12 unable 417:7 425:17 426:1,4 uncalled 262:25 uncertainty 332:9 382:6 uncommon 347:11 undeniable 484:14 undergirds 481:20 481:20 undergraduate 415:20 underground 415:23 underlying 367:7 376:8 underscore 470:16 understand 263:8 283:13 293:18 295:17,19 296:2 315:18 356:16 358:17 364:18 367:17 368:7</p>	<p>377:16 378:1 385:5 388:12 390:11 399:22 410:20 416:4 453:4 475:8 495:8 understanding 277:11 279:13 302:24 303:5,5 319:2 326:13 329:24 344:4 345:16,18 352:14 353:22 357:19 373:6 381:19 390:3 400:23 405:24 407:16 424:1 444:2,12,14 444:22 445:4 492:9,23 493:8 understands 486:19 undertake 347:22 unfair 463:14 unique 383:11 unit 242:21 328:12 Units 338:6 339:4 universe 443:9 unreasonable 295:10 306:5 unrebutted 489:15 unrelated 277:6,11 untreated 421:11 474:13 up-front 330:6,8 upcoming 462:9 update 341:1,5 462:7 updated 274:21 329:18 341:5 updates 279:5 446:15 448:10 462:7 upgrade 387:12 449:17 upgrades 430:11 431:17,19</p>	<p>upgrading 430:17 449:4 urge 456:17 urges 456:4 476:23 491:8 use 261:24 323:23 324:7 327:6,16 328:8 343:12 353:24 373:25 385:16 392:4,9 398:7,10 403:16 420:20 423:16 424:5 427:22 449:24 453:18 457:22 useful 338:5,12 373:25 374:4 382:23 387:4 401:13,19 406:19 427:3 469:13 470:2,16 477:8 493:3,12 users' 424:12 uses 282:13 338:10 450:7 452:9 UT 262:4 Utah 244:5 UTC 312:17 364:8 369:2 380:6 396:12 403:16 486:19,19 utilities 241:2,3 247:9 348:7 349:9 446:12 481:4,14 utility 323:24 324:18 344:7 349:6 397:16 446:9 451:4 455:17 456:20 457:5,7 481:16 482:15 utilize 394:6 428:15 utilizing 394:18</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">V</p> <hr/> <p>vacuum 297:15</p>
---	--	--	--	--

<p>validity 297:21 value 283:6,21,24 284:22 320:15 425:1 452:3 464:7 464:9,11 466:7 Van 243:3 245:10 249:9 vaporization 428:14 vaporized 423:15 424:3 428:3,18 vaporizer 426:23 427:5,20 variable 280:3 281:6,19,20,24,25 282:12,15,15,20 282:20 variant 352:23 variety 369:10 429:4 various 323:6 328:11,14,15 356:10 357:23 433:4 454:9 465:24 480:7 varying 355:8 447:2 455:25 479:6 vast 429:24 vbaldwin@parso... 244:6 vehicle 333:23 348:24,25 349:5 349:15 vehicles 334:2 vein 464:22 venue 286:23 verge 401:5 verify 279:18 281:16 379:24 version 264:21 265:6 versus 247:10 319:12 450:6 vetted 332:21</p>	<p>viable 483:23 vice 289:15 362:21 413:14 416:13 418:6,25 419:1 Vicki 244:3 250:8 272:25 298:25 300:7 video 269:7 468:2 videoconference 241:14 246:1 500:11 view 283:4,12 325:10 329:24 views 411:24 virtual 241:9 248:1 269:15 voices 348:12,17 volume 241:10 431:10 volumetric 431:11 voluntarily 495:14 voluntary 459:15 vs 241:6 vulnerability 394:25 395:7,24 396:16,25 397:5 397:14 398:1 vulnerable 447:14 452:5,18 453:17 454:7 455:8 458:3 490:18</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">W</p> <hr/> <p>W 242:20 wade 412:3 wait 304:17 366:17 366:17,17 374:22 409:6 437:10 467:22,24 486:22 waive 415:1 waives 469:18 walk-throughs 343:3 Wallace 245:5 251:23 252:1 274:8 277:2</p>	<p>Walmart 244:2 250:6,9 272:23 273:1 276:19 290:25 414:1,3,24 459:21 466:4 Walmart's 276:16 290:22 want 251:17 252:7 252:9 254:10 255:13 278:9 283:15 286:11 304:24 326:18,18 331:8 337:20 344:18 346:4 348:4 367:13 376:6 379:24 382:9 406:16 409:6,23 430:4 435:18 446:4 447:8 464:19 468:12 470:11 471:5 479:15,17 485:19 492:5 495:7 499:6 wanted 257:7 260:11 277:7 285:25 304:19 322:18 335:5,11 337:7 347:21 350:6 408:6 409:15,21 411:9 439:15 444:23 486:2 499:13 wants 327:15 444:24 459:4 warrant 427:14 warranted 428:25 Washington 241:1 241:3 242:10,16 242:21,22 243:20 244:10,15,18,24 245:6 247:1,9 291:14 338:5 349:21 350:8 419:12,21 446:11</p>	<p>449:3 450:13 455:18 485:22 500:5,9 Washingtonians 488:10 wasn't 326:8 345:9 354:1 391:4 433:4 434:1 496:1 waste 337:18 water 422:19 434:10,10 474:10 474:13,21 Waterway 474:11 474:14 475:9 waterways 474:7 475:12 Watkins 440:9 way 243:4 245:11 282:7 283:13 294:16 312:4 329:19 330:7 332:12 333:5 334:4 336:11 356:14 357:5 432:14,19 455:11 458:4 461:24 468:10 ways 357:6,8 429:23 452:2,4 we'll 247:23 252:11 252:13 253:13 269:8 288:25 315:23 321:10 336:10 392:22 409:12,19 440:5 442:4 445:14,16 468:16 we're 247:5 252:10 255:16 256:10 293:17 295:17,19 296:2 306:11 314:16 319:22 330:19,23 331:24 332:19 333:7 336:11 337:20</p>	<p>348:7 351:20 361:19 362:12 367:3,7,16,17 370:17,20 381:23 381:24 382:18 383:18 385:1 388:13,15 389:4 391:1,5 395:20 398:20,24,25 412:6 454:25 478:6,7 we've 258:20 300:25 318:2,23 321:22 369:15 386:2 396:10 427:6,6 445:25 473:10 489:3 weather 493:9,13 weatherization 455:20,21,24 website 415:19,21 WECC 327:11 394:5 396:2,7,9 396:19 Wednesday 263:8 week 255:11 268:19,23 269:4 398:16 498:13,17 498:18 weigh 432:23 weight 490:19 weighted 448:21 482:2 Weinberger 243:8 249:14 272:1 weirdly 475:1 went 262:10 283:17 weren't 257:4 352:15 432:5,6 West 243:19 397:5 Western 243:2 249:6 271:21 whatnot 325:20 WHEREOF 500:14</p>
---	--	--	---	--

white 286:18 398:21 399:3,16	370:13 371:5 372:14,15 379:4	Woolridge 440:9 480:21 481:1,18	295:7,9 299:10,12 302:9,11 306:2,4	year-over-year 481:9
wide 369:9 435:21 447:1	385:21 386:3,6,25 388:14,16 392:22	481:20 Woolridge's	308:16,18 311:18 311:20 312:15	years 277:5 394:20
willing 262:19 267:25 268:4	396:12 399:8,17 401:12,12 403:22	481:21 word 320:4	364:6 375:10,12 383:4,6 386:15	394:22 395:14
308:23 370:17 382:13	411:21 413:24 415:5 437:19	words 328:10 449:7 451:6	402:16,19 489:7 Wynn 250:3 272:14	403:11 405:1
wind 448:8 464:14	450:2 479:21 480:21 481:19,23	work 327:2 328:22 333:4 342:18	275:6	423:22 425:21
winter 333:15,16 334:1 394:13	483:13 500:14 witness' 412:11	346:2 369:9 392:11 393:3	<hr/> X <hr/>	435:10 451:2
395:14	witness's 262:8,25	433:22 447:13 454:7 463:18	X 293:13 298:16 301:23 305:20	459:14 481:1,3
wish 261:5 266:15 277:13 282:23	witnessed 386:24	487:20 499:9 worked 416:7	308:9 310:9 311:8 363:23 381:15	years' 341:14
284:9 285:16	witnesses 248:4 252:19,23 253:1	421:25 465:2 workers 433:22	385:13 386:13 403:24 415:10	YOCHANAN
286:3 287:3 345:1	254:6 256:16 257:16 261:3	414:25 465:2 working 351:17	403:24 415:10	243:8
363:18 376:9	266:5,17 270:15 274:12,23 275:10	315:15 319:9,16 320:11,18 321:21	Xenopoulos 243:18	Yochi 249:14
379:3 381:3	275:15,16,18,19 275:20 277:21,22	407:2,5,7,13,14 408:1 437:25	243:18 249:25 250:1,2 272:11,12	271:25 454:23
454:21 456:7	278:19,21 279:18 287:11,12,15,24	438:9,10,11,13,22 439:4 497:23	272:12,15,19 274:24,25 275:2,4	490:3
462:14 465:13	288:2,21,24 289:1 289:3,18,21	499:2 works 447:11	275:5,8 304:2,3 305:13	yzakai@smwlaw...
467:13	292:10,11,19 293:1,6 310:20	498:21 wouldn't 299:18	<hr/> Y <hr/>	243:10
wishes 346:3 350:18 375:23	313:17,22 334:9 358:15 359:17	437:2 492:15 wrap 379:2	yards 419:17 yeah 258:4 260:10	<hr/> Z <hr/>
412:8,14	360:5,22,23 361:10 362:12,14	414:25 465:2 writer 459:16	294:15 295:17 297:6,10 300:9,13	Zakai 243:8 246:13
witness 253:2,6,8 254:5 257:22	362:16,18,23 408:19 413:1,2,4	414:25 465:2 writing 315:23	353:17 354:19 365:22 378:6	246:19 249:13,14
258:1,19,23	413:5,7,11,19 436:14 440:1,5,7	438:21 written 255:18	380:10 387:18 400:6 405:7	271:24,25 454:23
259:13 260:12	440:11,14,17,21 440:23 471:19,21	257:13 260:4 261:21 262:22	417:16 428:7 433:15 443:11	454:24 455:3,4
261:15,17,19,22	wondered 353:13 wonderful 498:22	264:5 439:14 453:6 479:11	444:20 492:13 year 320:7,8	490:2,3,7
262:22 264:4,10	wondering 256:10 337:1 417:17	414:25 465:2 wrong 407:15	305:13	Zoom 248:2 467:16
266:7 275:12,13	419:4 441:19 443:9	421:14 444:3,11 486:24	<hr/> Y <hr/>	<hr/> 0 <hr/>
276:3,8,12,16		WUTC 294:3,6	yards 419:17 yeah 258:4 260:10	03 258:20 293:4
282:23 284:9			294:15 295:17 297:6,10 300:9,13	06 262:6
286:3 288:15			353:17 354:19 365:22 378:6	0656 252:7
290:4,22 291:6,11			380:10 387:18 400:6 405:7	<hr/> 1 <hr/>
291:21 293:9			417:16 428:7 433:15 443:11	1 243:13 340:15
298:7 300:18			444:20 492:13 year 320:7,8	437:2 483:5
301:18 303:15			321:25 336:4 340:13,14 343:7	10 361:12,13 362:1
304:23 305:16			346:8 382:16 383:17 384:2	426:21 441:15
308:5 310:6 311:5			406:20,23 407:11 407:11,16,18,21	443:3,4 494:10
312:1 329:2 331:7			427:21 428:15 437:3,4 477:4	10,000 457:4
332:5 337:19				10:30 253:16
358:18,25 359:24				10:32 313:13
361:12 365:7,17				10:40 313:8,9,13,14
367:3,9 368:4				10:42 314:16
				100 429:19
				1025 243:19
				10885 242:15
				10th 498:13,17
				500:15

<p>11(A)(1)(b) 281:5,5 11:00 253:17 11:51 362:9 1100 471:25 115 449:4 1191 244:18 12:35 362:6 12:36 362:9 12:39 362:11 120 428:20 132nd 244:23 133 244:24 139 279:8 459:16 14 426:21 15 363:18 414:15 427:19 444:17,21 497:3,17 15-page 497:9 150 481:3 1510 245:17 16 351:1 161 243:14 17 279:4 293:21,25 298:20 302:1 305:24 308:12 310:16 311:14 323:5 329:3 364:2 369:21 391:18 489:6 1700 244:18 1750 243:4 245:11 17th 498:13,20 18 391:10 492:7 18(A)(4) 429:15 18(B) 436:3 1800 244:4 484:1 181051 262:4 19 284:12 329:4 427:19 19.29A.090 463:7 19.29A.0905 462:2 1T 389:24</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">2</p> <hr/> <p>2 280:2 281:12,24 447:18,22 489:9</p>	<p>2.5 481:11 2:02 410:10 2:10 408:23,24 2:12 410:8,10 2:13 410:12 2:55 441:4 2:57 442:6 20 284:16 297:4,5,6 297:7 300:3 307:5 364:25 365:23 366:2 387:14,23 444:17 481:5,5 485:16 489:12 2000 242:22 20007 243:20 2008 395:1,7,11 2009 395:13 200980 280:15 201 244:4 2014 419:10 474:25 2016 390:24 391:4 391:10,18 433:2 434:2 473:19 486:7 488:7 2017 388:6 390:16 390:23 391:4,20 404:20 2018 404:19,24 433:2 434:2 473:20 486:7 488:8 2019 382:25 404:25 202-342-0800 243:20 2020 280:6,8,19 281:6,13 405:1,4 420:6 460:1,9,10 460:11,16 462:23 463:15 2021 369:3 452:24 453:22 2022 241:24 246:3 247:1 262:6 351:1 420:2,10,15,17 421:9 471:17</p>	<p>476:5 480:25 481:14 500:11,15 2023 318:15,21,22 331:10,14 333:8 333:11 341:2,7,17 341:18,24 436:9 436:25 437:2 438:6 449:1,10 469:21 473:3 2023/2024 340:13 2024 318:15,17,24 320:8 331:16,18 331:25 333:8 340:14 341:16 449:1,10 2025 338:21,25 339:4,6,9,9 206-343-7340 244:10 206-447-7000 245:7 206-464-6595 242:23 206.623.7580 244:15 206.909.8728 244:19 2121 241:25 500:20 22 262:6 23(j) 337:16 230 449:5 230/115 388:7 24 340:18 240 427:20 241 241:11 250 419:16 25th 262:6 26th 265:16 400:4 420:17 421:9 27 297:5 366:2 369:25 279 246:5 27th 400:9 28 277:5 28th 268:19 420:2</p>	<p>488:1 29 277:5,5 329:3 331:11 2900 244:14 293 246:5 298 246:6</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">3</p> <hr/> <p>3 241:24 246:3 247:1 331:12,19 338:6 339:4 499:1 500:11 3:01 442:6 3:02 442:8 30 412:16 414:16 415:8 471:20 494:7,8,9,21,23 496:7,9,14,17 30-page 495:2 496:3,24 497:5 300 419:17 301 246:6 305 246:7 308 246:7 30s 480:12 30X 385:25 31 257:7 261:19,20 338:25 310 246:8 311 246:8 31st 253:25 488:23 494:1 35 253:12 427:19 3500 245:6 35T 376:22 384:12 384:16 385:1 36 245:17 326:10 360-664-1186 242:10 363 246:9 37 297:4 300:3 307:5 364:25 365:23 366:6 387:14 471:19 489:12 38 339:23</p>	<p>381 246:9 385 246:10 386 246:10 39.346 281:7 396 243:9 3rd 247:5</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">4</p> <hr/> <p>4 338:7 339:4 4:20 499:18 40 331:24 333:7 40-year 481:8 40128 242:9 403 246:11 411:21 412:20 40s 480:13 41 352:23,24 415 246:11 415-552-7272 243:10 415-743-4718 243:15 425-635-1400 242:17 426 246:12 445 246:12 45-minute 361:18 362:6 450 243:4 245:11 246:13 45202 245:17 455 246:13 456 246:14 459 246:14 461 246:15 462 246:15 465 246:16 468 246:16 47.8 280:2 471 246:17 476 246:17 478 246:18 48.5 448:15 479:25 480:3,11 485 246:18 488 246:19</p>
---	--	---	---	--

<p>49 323:7 448:15 479:20 490 246:19</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">5</p> <p>5 315:8,9 331:10,11 397:22 463:7 481:11 50-foot 474:19 500 241:11 354:12 481:15 51 347:2 513.421.2255 245:18 5295 433:6 454:15 490:10 57 349:3</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">6</p> <p>6 429:7 438:3 6.3 340:13 427:22 428:1 60 326:10 361:11 363:16 61 353:7 610 244:9 62 357:4 6619 244:23 69 426:20</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">7</p> <p>7 316:11 319:22 321:7 322:21 7-day 498:1 70 495:11,16 700 242:16 71 323:3 335:7 78 423:14</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">8</p> <p>8 316:11 318:6 319:23 429:8 8.8 479:25 480:23 80 421:7 425:9,12 425:18,20 426:2 452:24</p>	<p>80.28.410 343:15 80.28.425 322:20 327:23 483:4 80.28.425(2) 339:25 800 242:22 801 262:3 801-536-6918 244:5 810 244:9 84111 244:5 86 447:7 87 431:1 8F 243:14 8th 243:19</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">9</p> <p>9 247:5 376:22 384:12,16,17 385:2 406:10 9.0 481:9 9.25 481:24 9.4 448:13 479:19 480:18,22 9:00 247:2 253:23 901 245:5 925 244:14 94102 243:9 94130 243:14 971-710-1150 245:12 971-710-1154 243:5 97201 243:5 245:12 98004 242:16 98033 244:24 98101 244:18 98104 242:22 244:10,15 98164 245:6 98504 242:10 9th 420:6 9X 260:3</p>			
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