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             BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND
 2
                  TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
     In the Matter of the Joint
     Application of
 4
     PUGET HOLDINGS LLC and
                                   )DOCKET U-072375
 5
     PUGET SOUND ENERGY, INC.,
                                    )Volume VII
                                    )Pages 692-940
     For an order Authorizing
     Proposed Transaction
 7
 8
          A hearing in the above matter was held on
9
     August 26, 2008, at 9:30 a.m., at 1300 South
10
     Evergreen Park Drive Southwest, Room 206, Olympia,
11
     Washington, before ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE DENNIS
12
    MOSS and CHAIRWOMAN MARK SIDRAN, and COMMISSIONER
13
    PHILIP JONES, and COMMISSIONER PATRICK OSHIE.
14
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1	PROCEEDINGS
2	Tuesday, August 26, 2008 at 9:05 a.m.
3	
4	JUDGE MOSS: Good morning, everyone.
5	For anyone who is new, my name is Dennis Moss. I'm
6	an Administrative Law Judge at the Utilities and
7	Transportation Commission and I will be conducting
8	our proceedings today. With me on the bench are
9	the Commissioners of the Utilities and
10	Transportation Commission, Chairman Mark Sidran,
11	Commissioner Pat Oshie, and Commissioner Phillip
12	Jones.
13	We have a new court reporter with us
14	today, and to make her life easier, I am going to
15	ask counsel if you will be speaking today at some
16	point, if you will identify yourselves by name and
17	affiliation. We are just not strictly taking
18	appearances, but it will help the court reporter.
19	MS. CARSON: Sheree Strom Carson,
20	representing joint applicant.
21	MR. VAN NOSTRAND: James Van Nostrand
22	representing joint applicants.
23	MR. JOHNSON: David Johnson,
24	representing the Northwest Energy Coalition.
25	MR. SANGER: Iraion Sanger, I-R-A-I-O-N,

- 1 S-A-N-G-E-R, representing the Industrial Customers
- 2 of Northwest Utilities.
- 3 MR. FFITCH: Simon Ffitch with the
- 4 Attorney General's Office, Public Counsel.
- 5 MR. CEDARBAUM: Robert Cedarbaum,
- 6 representing Commission Staff.
- 7 JUDGE MOSS: If we have any conversation
- 8 over the telephone with counsel or with any witness
- 9 who might be called upon in that fashion, I will
- 10 ask at that time that they identify themselves
- 11 since vision is not really an issue there. So we
- 12 won't take any further appearances, as it were.
- We have Mr. Leslie, who has been
- 14 previously sworn. Of course, he remains under
- oath, and we will be stipulating his exhibits in
- 16 this morning, his cross exhibits, or will there be
- 17 objections?
- 18 MR. VAN NOSTRAND: We have objection
- 19 with respect to one, Exhibit 64 HC.
- JUDGE MOSS: 64 HC.
- 21 MR. FFITCH: Can you provide an
- 22 additional identifier on that? Data request
- 23 number --
- MR. VAN NOSTRAND: It's a document
- 25 produced by public counsel, so it is not a data

- 1 request response, which is part of our issue. It's
- 2 called Projected Electric Rate Increase Charts,
- 3 which is produced by public counsel.
- 4 JUDGE MOSS: All right. State your
- 5 objection.
- 6 MR. VAN NOSTRAND: Your Honor,
- 7 objection. We have -- this is not a document that
- 8 was produced by a joint applicant. It is a
- 9 document that takes selected data from a company --
- 10 a joint applicant study, and characterizes it as
- 11 projected rate increases. That characterization
- 12 is, we believe, is misleading and Mr. Leslie can
- 13 describe how those numbers taken from the company's
- 14 workpapers would be -- it's a mischaracterization
- 15 to describe them as projected electric rate
- 16 increases. But the fact of the matter is, we did
- 17 not produce this chart. It's a numbers from a
- 18 company study, but misleadingly labeled.
- 19 JUDGE MOSS: Mr. Ffitch.
- 20 MR. FFITCH: I think, Your Honor, the
- 21 key is we have taken the information from the
- 22 company's numbers. It is produced by us, that is
- 23 correct. The exhibit consists of two components.
- 24 The first is a chart produced by public counsel
- 25 using data from the company, and they have

- 1 acknowledged that it uses certain data.
- 2 The other pages to the exhibit are
- 3 simply a printout of a portion of the financial
- 4 model that is otherwise a cross exhibit in the
- 5 record that I don't believe the company is
- 6 objecting to. And we can establish that further
- 7 with either Mr. Leslie or Mr. Kupchak. I believe
- 8 that the joint applicants can simply make their
- 9 clarifications on redirect with their witness as to
- 10 any problems they have with the way we've displayed
- 11 the data.
- JUDGE MOSS: Or they may have something
- 13 to say about it in response to your own questions,
- 14 such as they can't respond to the questions because
- 15 it mischaracterizes the data, which is what I am
- 16 hearing is going to happen.
- 17 What I'm going to do at this time is
- 18 wait until I hear what you plan to do with this
- 19 exhibit. So I am going to treat it as one to which
- 20 an objection has been entered, and when you get to
- 21 it in the questions, we will see about it at that
- 22 time, whether we exclude it or whether we take it
- 23 in for whatever weight it should be afforded, given
- 24 the witness's testimony concerning its usefulness,
- 25 if you will.

1	So that's how we will handle it for now.
2	Otherwise, the exhibits are stipulated?
3	MR. VAN NOSTRAND: Yes, Your Honor.
4	JUDGE MOSS: So with the exception of to
5	Exhibit 64HC, which is marked as objected or
6	contested, the exhibits for Mr. Leslie, both in
7	direct and cross examination, will be admitted as
8	briefly identified and marked in our exhibit list,
9	which will become part of our transcript in this
10	proceeding.
11	(EXHIBIT ADMITTED.)
12	JUDGE MOSS: Is there anything
13	preliminary before we proceed to Mr. Leslie's
14	examination?
15	Apparently not, so, Mr. Ffitch, you may
16	proceed.
17	MR. FFITCH: Thank you, Your Honor.
18	Good morning, Commissioners, and good morning,
19	Mr. Leslie.
20	THE WITNESS: Good morning, Mr. Ffitch.
21	
22	CROSS EXAMINATION
23	BY MR. FFITCH:
24	Q I am going to start out asking you a

number of questions that don't get into

- 1 confidential exhibits, and relate generally to your
- 2 position with Macquarie and to the Macquarie
- 3 organization. First of all, as you state in your
- direct testimony, you were employed by Macquarie
- 5 Holdings, USA, Incorporated, as an executive
- 6 director of the Macquarie Group of Companies; is
- 7 that right?
- 8 A That's right.
- 9 Q And I have provided a copy of
- 10 Exhibit 256, and there's a large chart version of it
- 11 behind you. And the bench and other parties have
- 12 been provided with a small copy of this. Could you
- 13 identify on this exhibit where Macquarie Holdings,
- 14 USA is located?
- 15 A (Complies.)
- 16 Q And also just looking at that exhibit
- 17 briefly to orient us, we can see that at the bottom
- 18 of the corporate structure we have the status quo
- 19 company, Puget Energy, Inc., and it's wholly
- 20 subsidiary Puget Sound Energy, correct?
- 21 A Correct.
- 22 Q And those are the companies that are the
- 23 subject of this acquisition request, correct?
- 24 A Correct.
- 25 Q Now, you note further in your testimony

- 1 that the Macquarie Group is comprised of two separate
- 2 subgroups, a banking group, which includes Macquarie
- 3 Bank Limited, and a nonbanking group called Macquarie
- 4 Capital, which undertakes investment activities; is
- 5 that correct?
- 6 A That's right.
- 7 O And are those entities shown on this
- 8 particular chart?
- 9 A Conceptually, they are in the sense that
- 10 the Macquarie Capital Group, which is the investment
- 11 side, is this long chain of companies in the middle
- 12 of the chart. The banking side of the group is not
- 13 displayed. They do come together at the top, so
- 14 Macquarie Group Limited is the holding company, and
- is listed on the Australian stock exchange, and is
- 16 the point at which the two groups converge.
- The left-hand side of this chart where
- there are three boxes describe Macquarie
- 19 Infrastructure Partners, and Macquarie
- 20 Infrastructure Canada, and Macquarie Infrastructure
- 21 Partners International, all part of a fund which is
- 22 generally referred to as Macquarie Infrastructure
- 23 Partners. And they are the vehicle that is managed
- 24 by Macquarie Capital Group on behalf of its
- 25 investors. So there is a crossover between these

- 1 two columns in the sense that the manager of those
- 2 funds is an entity called Macquarie
- 3 Infrastructures Partners, Inc., and that is also a
- 4 wholly owned subsidiary of Macquarie Group Limited.
- 5 Q Okay. If we stay on the left-hand side
- 6 of the chart here, it appears that Macquarie
- 7 Infrastructure Partners ALP, Macquarie Infrastructure
- 8 Partners Canada LP, and Macquarie Infrastructure
- 9 Partners International all own MIP Washington
- 10 Holdings GP LLC; is that correct?
- 11 A That's right.
- 12 Q And they also appear to, according to
- 13 the lines on the chart, also all own MIP Washington
- 14 Holdings LP, correct?
- 15 A Correct.
- 16 Q And then we also see that there's a
- 17 sideways arrow there that indicates that MIP
- 18 Washington Holdings GP LLC also owns MIP Washington
- 19 Holdings LP; is that correct?
- 20 A That's correct. MIP Washington Holdings
- 21 LP is a Limited Partnership of the three entities
- 22 above it. The limited partnerships organized
- 23 typically with a general partner, and so to effect
- 24 the implementation of a limited partnership structure
- 25 to simply aggregate the investments of the three

- 1 entities above it, we have created a limited
- 2 partnership between the three where they are both the
- 3 limited partners and the general partner.
- 4 It's merely an aggregating mechanism to
- 5 allow the three entities, which are part of the
- 6 permanent structure of Macquarie Infrastructure
- 7 Partners, the fund -- in fact, there are four
- 8 elements to the fund which are involved in every
- 9 investment in which we make. This is a mechanism
- 10 to aggregate those various entities for the
- 11 purposes of this particular transaction.
- 12 Q Now, you are also the chief executive
- 13 officer of Macquarie Infrastructure Partners,
- 14 correct?
- 15 A I am the chief executive officer of
- 16 Macquarie Infrastructure Partners, Inc., which is not
- 17 displayed on this chart, but which is the manager of
- 18 the three boxes identified there, which I will call
- 19 A Canada International, as shorthand.
- 20 Q And so that organization is not shown on
- 21 this chart?
- 22 A No, that's right.
- 23 Q It's one of the Macquarie Group of
- 24 Managed Funds; is that right?
- 25 A That's right. It may help the

- 1 explanation if I give a broad sense of the
- 2 organization of Macquarie Infrastructure Partners,
- 3 the fund, because it is a pretty standard structure
- 4 despite the apparent complexity of the three or four
- 5 boxes that comprise the fund, if that would be
- 6 helpful for the Commission.
- 7 Q I would like to go through this a little
- 8 bit at a time, and if after we're done with that,
- 9 either on redirect or if it seems appropriate at that
- 10 point, we can go into your overview.
- 11 A Okay.
- 12 Q There is a -- I guess just as a brief
- 13 segue, we have asked about Macquarie Infrastructure
- 14 Partners, Inc., which you are the chief executive
- officer of. So if I can ask you to briefly take
- down the chart that is on the easel now, behind it
- 17 I think we still have the chart that was up
- 18 yesterday, which is an enlargement of the pending
- 19 speech of the multi-party settlement agreement,
- 20 correct?
- 21 A Correct.
- 22 Q There's a box on the far left of the top
- 23 line, and can you read the name of the entity in that
- 24 box?
- 25 A Macquarie Infrastructure Partners.

- 1 Q Is that Macquarie Infrastructure
- 2 Partners, Inc.?
- 3 A That is representative of the
- 4 infrastructure fund called Macquarie Infrastructure
- 5 Partners, which comprises various elements which are
- 6 traditional in private fund structures to accommodate
- 7 the demand of our various investors. We have
- 8 international investors and local investors. So
- 9 within the box on this chart is encompassed the three
- 10 entities listed on the other exhibit as A Canada and
- 11 International, and the manager of the fund we just
- 12 mentioned, Macquarie Infrastructure Partners, Inc.
- 13 And the subsidiary entities that were created for the
- 14 purpose of bringing the various elements have our
- 15 fund together for this particular investment.
- 16 Q So that's actually really a summary sort
- 17 of impressionistic placeholder for a more complicated
- 18 structure; is that right?
- 19 A Yes, that would apply across both of
- 20 these yellow boxes on this chart. It's a
- 21 simplification. But it does aid the understanding in
- 22 the sense that these are the various investors in the
- 23 investor group, and the decision making is divided up
- 24 along those lines organizationally. The detail of
- 25 the underlying structures is a matter of ordinary

- 1 corporate structuring for transactions of this nature
- 2 and creating a special purpose entity to hold the
- 3 given investment, and so forth.
- 4 So I think this best explains, really,
- 5 the underlying nature of the investment and the
- 6 relationship between the investors. I accept that
- 7 the detail underneath is a little more complex,
- 8 but --
- 9 Q And the detail -- I am sorry, were you
- 10 finished?
- 11 A I was going to say it is very typical in
- 12 these solid investments.
- 13 Q Now, the detail underneath is accurately
- 14 portrayed by Exhibit 256, which is the other chart we
- 15 were looking at; is that right?
- 16 A (Witness nods head.)
- 17 Q You can put it up again, if you like.
- 18 A (Complies.) Yes, I believe it is. I
- 19 can speak only for the Macquarie side, but to the
- 20 best of my knowledge, the whole chart is accurate.
- 21 Q All right. Macquarie Infrastructure
- 22 Partners, Inc. currently has 11 infrastructure trusts
- in the US and Canada; is that right?
- 24 A I am not sure I follow the question.
- Q I am referring to a statement on page 6

- 1 of the joint application. If you want to take a look
- 2 at that, and I can reask the question.
- 3 A (Looking at documents.)
- 4 Q You are the CEO of Macquarie
- 5 Infrastructure Partners, correct?
- 6 A Macquarie Infrastructure Partners, Inc.,
- 7 to be technically precise. The reason for that
- 8 distinction is that the coming together of our
- 9 investors in the fund per se doesn't give rise to the
- 10 need for a CEO, as such. The investors delegate to
- 11 Macquarie Infrastructure Partners, Inc., the
- 12 management of the fund, and that is the manager of
- 13 the fund. So that's where the CEO sits. So could
- 14 you remind me of the lines that you were --
- 15 Q I am afraid I don't have a line
- 16 reference, but the question is Macquarie
- 17 Infrastructure Partners, does Macquarie
- 18 Infrastructure Partners currently have 11
- 19 infrastructure trusts in the US and Canada?
- 20 A Looking at line 19 on page 6 of the
- 21 application, the statement is Macquarie
- 22 Infrastructure Partners has 11 infrastructure
- 23 investments. So having, I think you said 11
- 24 infrastructure trusts, which was the confusing
- 25 part for me.

- 1 We presently have 12 since this
- 2 testimony was filed. We have made one other
- acquisition, but we currently have 12 investments
- 4 in the utility, toll road, ports and communication
- 5 sectors in North America.
- 6 Q Thank you for the clarification. And
- 7 that is Macquarie Infrastructure Partners, Inc.?
- 8 A No, that's the fund known as Macquarie
- 9 Infrastructure Partners.
- 10 Q All right. Now, you are also currently
- 11 a manager of Puget Holdings, correct?
- 12 A Correct.
- 13 Q And we can see Puget Holdings on both
- 14 charts at the first entity directly under the
- 15 investment consortium, right?
- 16 A Yes.
- 17 Q And in the original application, it is
- 18 stated that upon the acquisition of Puget, if it were
- 19 approved, you will be chairman of the board of Puget
- 20 Holdings, correct?
- 21 A In the original application, yes, but
- 22 that has changed.
- 23 Q So you are now not going to be the
- 24 chairman of the board?
- 25 A That's correct, but I will continue to

- 1 be a member of the board.
- 2 Q Now, I notice throughout various
- 3 documents there's the use of the term for Puget
- 4 Holdings of a board of managers. Is that effectively
- 5 the same as a board of directors?
- 6 A It is. It's a term of art related to
- 7 LLC structures, so LLCs have board of managers in the
- 8 same way as "Inc." companies have boards of
- 9 directors. It's functionally the equivalent.
- 10 Q Is Puget Holdings the only
- 11 infrastructure board of managers that you are
- 12 currently a member of?
- 13 A No.
- 14 Q How many other entities are you
- 15 currently a member of that are infrastructure
- 16 investments?
- 17 A Infrastructure holdings companies in the
- 18 type of Puget Holdings?
- 19 Q Yes.
- 20 A Of the 12 investments in which Macquarie
- 21 Infrastructure Partners fund is an investor, I sit on
- 22 the board of ten of those.
- 23 Q Are you the chairman of any of those
- 24 other boards?
- 25 A I generally am the chairman of the board

- 1 in most cases, not in all cases.
- 2 Q If the acquisition of Puget proceeds,
- 3 the testimony states that you will be chairman of the
- 4 board of Puget Sound Energy originally, but that also
- 5 is no longer the case, correct?
- 6 A That's correct.
- 7 Q And given the fact that you ordinarily
- 8 serve as chairman of the board for these investment
- 9 acquisitions, what is the reason for the change in
- 10 the plan?
- 11 A There was obviously considerable
- 12 discussion from the time that we announced this
- 13 transaction to the present concerning participation
- 14 by local individuals, and so forth, on the board. In
- 15 response to that, we have introduced a number of
- 16 local directors, in the persons of Steve Reynolds,
- 17 CEO, Herb Simon, and Bill Ayer, and Mr. Ayer will be
- 18 the chairman of our various boards throughout the
- 19 structure.
- 20 That was very much in response to the
- 21 concerns expressed by local community, and the
- interveners in the case. It's something that we
- 23 regard as important for the transaction, and
- 24 something that we are willing to do in this case to
- 25 be responsive to the needs of the local community.

- 1 Q Now, I would like to ask you to please
- 2 turn to Exhibit 42, I believe, is the number. Yes,
- 3 Exhibit 42. It's a response to public counsel data
- 4 request 3011.
- 5 A Yes, I have that.
- 6 Q And that is yet another chart. Can you
- 7 just sort of tell us generally what that is?
- 8 A The chart on page 3?
- 9 Q Correct.
- 10 A This is a functional representation of
- 11 the Macquarie Group. As you mentioned before,
- 12 Mr. Ffitch, we are broadly divided into two parts, a
- 13 banking group and a nonbanking group. And this chart
- 14 at least attempts to depict the division between
- 15 those two groups. And the consolidation at the top
- of the group of a variety of services, including risk
- 17 management, financial operations, and so forth.
- 18 So this does not purport to include all
- of the individual companies within the group where
- there are hundreds, I believe, on the global scale,
- 21 and Macquarie is a very large international
- 22 organization. And we have numerous different
- 23 subsidiaries for the organization of our business,
- 24 as evident from the earlier charts that we were
- 25 looking at.

- 1 So this is merely a functional division,
- and one which was affected last year to give the
- 3 group increased flexibility as it grows.
- 4 Q Let's see if we can get a sense of how
- 5 you and Puget fit into the Macquarie Organization.
- 6 Looking at this chart, starting from the top down,
- 7 you indicated earlier that you were one of the
- 8 executive directors of the Macquarie Group of
- 9 companies. Would that be at the top of the chart?
- 10 A That's strictly a term of convenience, I
- 11 think, in that I am employed by Macquarie Holdings,
- 12 if you want to go back to that earlier chart. And in
- 13 presenting myself to the world, I am obviously an
- 14 employee of Macquarie, as far as the world is
- 15 concerned. The group affords me the privileges of an
- 16 executive director, which in our parlance would line
- 17 up with Wall Street senior managing directors, so
- 18 executive director is the highest designation within
- 19 the organization. So I present myself in that
- 20 manner. And have a broad affiliation with the group.
- 21 However, my day-to-day role is as CEO of
- 22 Macquarie Infrastructure Partners, and my fiduciary
- responsibilities lie principally with the fund and
- 24 with the investors in that fund. And they are all
- 25 separate and apart from Macquarie, except to the

- 1 extent that Macquarie has a small investment in the
- 2 fund itself.
- 3 Q So does that mean that technically, no,
- 4 you are not an executive director of Macquarie Group
- 5 Limited?
- 6 A Seems surprising that I wouldn't know
- 7 the answer to this question, but it's the idea of
- 8 being an executive director of Macquarie Group
- 9 Limited -- yes, I am an executive director of
- 10 Macquarie Group Limited as broadly defined.
- 11 Q In the way that you have just qualified
- 12 that?
- 13 A Yes. I think in terms of being an agent
- 14 of the parent company abroad in the world, that's a
- 15 correct characterization.
- 16 Q Looking at Exhibit 42, you also reside
- 17 in the Macquarie Capital part of the nonbanking
- 18 group; isn't that correct?
- 19 A That's correct.
- 20 Q And that's on the right-hand side under
- 21 the heading Nonbanking Group?
- 22 A Yes.
- 23 Q What is your position with Macquarie
- 24 Capital?
- 25 A I am also an executive director with

- 1 Macquarie Capital. I think the designation has a
- 2 general purpose throughout the group. So as I
- 3 mentioned before, legally I am employed by Macquarie
- 4 Holdings USA, Inc., which is the holding vehicle for
- 5 the Macquarie Capital activities in the United
- 6 States.
- 7 Q Now, Exhibit 43 turns out to be the same
- 8 as Exhibit 256, or the same as the chart that is
- 9 right behind you, the same as the handout that we
- 10 have passed out this morning, which is a kind of a
- 11 subset of part of Macquarie Organization, right?
- 12 A Yes.
- 13 Q Can you tell us, looking at that exhibit
- 14 which is -- it's either 43 or 256 as the mood takes
- 15 us, and that's the one up on the easel. Can you tell
- 16 us which are those corporate entities you have a
- 17 position with?
- 18 A As we mentioned before, I am a director
- 19 of the various entities in the transaction-specific
- 20 companies, so the Puget Holdings LLC, Puget Sound
- 21 Energy, Puget Energy, and so forth.
- 22 Q Like to take them one at a time. Start
- 23 at the bottom, will you have a board position with
- 24 Puget Sound Energy?
- 25 A Yes.

0716

- 1 Q Will you have an officer position with
- 2 them?
- 3 A No.
- 4 Q With Puget Energy will you have a board
- 5 position?
- 6 A Yes.
- 7 Q Will you have an officer position with
- 8 any of these entities?
- 9 A No.
- 10 Q Well, I will stop asking that as we go
- 11 through.
- 12 A It's the same all the way up to Puget
- 13 Holdings.
- 14 Q And you will have a position with Puget
- 15 Intermediate Holdings, Incorporated?
- 16 A Yes.
- 17 Q We know actually, now, do we not, that
- 18 there's another entity in the chart here, Equico, and
- 19 that falls in between Puget Energy and Puget
- 20 Intermediate Holdings, correct?
- 21 A Yes.
- Q Will you have a position with Equico?
- 23 A Yes.
- Q And you will have a position with Puget
- 25 Holdings?

- 1 A Yes, throughout the structure.
- 2 Q Now, if we could go up the next level to
- 3 the Macquarie Entities, I assume you do not have
- 4 board positions on the right-hand side with the
- 5 Canadian investors?
- 6 A That's right.
- 7 Q Let's go to the tall column of the
- 8 Macquarie Entities there. Do you have board
- 9 positions with any of those, and with -- if so, with
- 10 which ones?
- 11 A No, I do not have board positions with
- 12 any of these entities.
- 13 Q And I am including in that question the
- 14 term manager as you have described it --
- 15 A Yes, I understand. No. No. Not across
- 16 any of those entities.
- 17 Q And then moving to the left, Macquarie
- 18 FFS Infrastructure Trust, do you have a board
- 19 position with them?
- 20 A No.
- 21 Q And moving to the far left, we have a
- 22 grouping of Macquarie Infrastructure Partners
- 23 organizations or entities. Do you have board
- 24 positions with any of those entities?
- 25 A Yes, all of them.

- 1 Q All of them. And then you have
- 2 indicated that Macquarie Infrastructure Partners,
- 3 Inc., is not shown on here, but you also have a
- 4 position with MIP, Inc., correct?
- 5 A Yes, I am on the board of MIP, Inc.
- 6 Q And you are the chief executive officer
- 7 of MIP, Inc.?
- 8 A Correct.
- 9 Q Isn't it fair to say, Mr. Leslie, that
- 10 Macquarie is the party that arranged this
- 11 transaction?
- 12 A Yes.
- 13 Q And you started meeting with Puget in
- 14 2005; is that right?
- 15 A Mr. James met with Puget, I think, it
- 16 was as early as 2005. But in terms of standard
- 17 discussions on this transaction, it was more likely
- 18 2006, late 2006, early 2007.
- 19 Q And you solicited the equity investors
- 20 and the data investors for the transaction?
- 21 A I personally didn't do that. The
- 22 Macquarie Group did, through the auspices of our
- 23 financial advisory arm representatives, of which are
- 24 Rob Kupchak and Allen James. So the financial
- 25 advisors of the consortium was instrumental in

- 1 drawing the consortium together. The various
- 2 consortium members are known to me in my present
- 3 capacity as CEO of MIP. But we, as MIP, are akin to
- 4 a Canadian brethren, and we are each investors, and
- 5 the financial advisory group drew us all together to
- 6 form this investment consortium.
- 7 Q And let's just go through the
- 8 percentages of ownership. As a general matter, the
- 9 Canadian investors own approximately 49 percent of
- 10 Puget if the transaction is approved, and the
- 11 Macquarie entities, the three Macquarie entities
- 12 would hold 51.4 percent of the investment; is that
- 13 right?
- 14 A That's right. Although the shareholders
- 15 agreement between us specifies averting threshold for
- 16 majority decisions of 55 percent. So Macquarie
- 17 alone, even if the three elements of the Macquarie
- 18 part of the equation vote together, we can't all make
- 19 a majority decision despite our 51 percent interest.
- 20 So we don't control this investment in the ordinary
- 21 sense, as one might expect from a 51 percent share
- 22 holding.
- 23 Q And the second largest Macquarie
- ownership position is 15.9 percent; is that right?
- 25 That comes down from the Macquarie Capital Group in

- 1 the center column.
- 2 A Yes.
- 3 Q According to the joint application, this
- 4 Macquarie Group invests in an underwriting capacity.
- 5 Do you mean by that that they buy whatever portion of
- 6 the investment is not sold to other investors?
- 7 A The underwriting capacity, yeah, it does
- 8 anticipate that -- or rather it speaks to the fact
- 9 that Macquarie sort of fills the gap to the extent
- 10 that we haven't assembled a broad enough investor
- 11 group to meet the requirements of the transaction,
- 12 yes.
- 13 Q And you also note in the joint
- 14 application that Macquarie Capital Group intends to
- 15 sell its interest in Puget Holdings prior to the
- 16 close, or immediately after the transaction, correct?
- 17 A Yes.
- 18 Q Does that represent the 15.9 percent of
- 19 the share that we're talking about?
- 20 A Yes --
- 21 Q I am sorry. I spoke over you.
- 22 A Yes, it does.
- 23 Q Then to whom will that interest be sold?
- 24 A The expectation at this point is that
- 25 this interest will be sold to the Macquarie

- 1 Infrastructure Partners family of funds, which now
- 2 includes Macquarie Infrastructure Partners, what we
- 3 call Macquarie Infrastructure Partners I, which is
- 4 the Fund Group on this page, and Macquarie
- 5 Infrastructure Partners II, which is the successor
- 6 fund of a very similar nature to the first fund,
- 7 which is presently being raised.
- 8 So by way of background, the transaction
- 9 came together with these various parties. The
- 10 Macquarie Group, in the form of MIP I, if I can
- 11 call it that, MIP 1 and Macquarie Capital came
- together to bring the Macquarie part of the
- equation to the 51 percent we have heard.
- 14 It's our expectation that as additional
- funds are raised in MIP II that Macquarie Capital's
- piece will be transferred into MIP II. So all of
- 17 those elements will remain under the broad control
- of Macquarie generically, and Macquarie
- 19 Infrastructure Partners, Inc., specifically, MIP,
- Inc., is the same MIP, Inc., is the manager of MIP
- 21 I and MIP II.
- Q And you are the CEO of MIP 1?
- 23 A I am the CEO of MIP, Inc., and that will
- 24 be the manager of MIP I and MIP, II.
- 25 Q And for the court reporter, when you say

- 1 MIP, it's M-I-P?
- 2 A Yes, Macquarie Infrastructure Partners.
- 3 Q And the smallest piece of the Macquarie
- 4 investment is the Macquarie-FSS Infrastructure Trust,
- 5 which will own 3.7 percent of the investment,
- 6 correct?
- 7 A Correct.
- 8 Q At this stage, I would like to turn to
- 9 the topic of corporate governance, and ask you to
- 10 turn to your direct testimony, which is Exhibit 31,
- 11 on page 20.
- 12 A Yes. My notebook isn't indexed. Just a
- 13 second. Page 20?
- 14 Q Page 20. And there is -- I will let you
- 15 find it. Sorry.
- 16 A Yes.
- 17 Q Starting at the bottom of the page, you
- 18 talk about post transaction governance and operations
- 19 of PSE, correct?
- 20 A Yes.
- 21 Q And at line 18 you state, the governance
- 22 and decision-making structure at PSE will essentially
- 23 be unchanged as a result of the proposed transaction,
- 24 except that -- excuse me, with the exception that
- 25 Puget Holdings will replace Puget Energy as the

- 1 ultimate parent company in the PSE ownership
- 2 structure, correct?
- 3 A Yes.
- 4 Q And otherwise the board and committee
- 5 structures remain the same, you go on to say?
- 6 A Yes.
- 7 Q And so just, again, as a reminder, the
- 8 current structure is the two bottom boxes on the
- 9 chart that is right next to you, Puget Holdings is
- 10 the parent of Puget Sound Energy?
- 11 A Yes.
- 12 Q So under the new structure with Puget
- 13 Energy as the ultimate parent -- excuse me, with
- 14 Puget Holdings replacing Puget Energy as the ultimate
- 15 parent, there will be between Puget Holdings and
- 16 Puget Sound Energy, now Puget Intermediate Holdings,
- 17 Equico and PE, correct?
- 18 A Yes.
- 19 Q PE being short for Puget Energy. And if
- 20 we turn to page 21, there you say, starting at line
- 21 3, that Puget Holdings will be governed by a board of
- 22 managers representing the investment consortium
- 23 members, correct?
- 24 A Yes.
- 25 Q And that Puget Sound Energy CEO will be

- 1 a member, and you have indicated that will be
- 2 Mr. Reynolds, or Mr. Reynolds has testified that he
- 3 will be in that position?
- 4 A Yes.
- 5 Q And then at line 6 you state that the
- 6 Puget Sound Energy board of directors is expected to
- 7 be largely the same persons who serve on the Puget
- 8 Holdings board of managers, correct?
- 9 A Correct.
- 10 Q Now, along with your testimony as
- 11 Exhibit 6, which has now been marked as Exhibit 36,
- 12 you have provided a description of the anticipated
- 13 governance structure of the Puget family of
- 14 companies; is that right? Your CJL 6, I believe
- 15 that's been marked as Exhibit 36.
- JUDGE MOSS: That's correct.
- 17 THE WITNESS: Yes, I have that. Let me
- 18 just --
- 19 Q BY MR. FFITCH: I am going to page 1 of
- 20 that.
- 21 A Okay.
- Q I am sorry. Are you there yet?
- 23 A Yes. This is the existing corporate
- 24 governance guidelines.
- Q Well, let's take a look at it when you

- 1 get there.
- 2 A Yeah.
- 3 Q There is a -- the document is entitled
- 4 Memorandum Describing Anticipated Corporate
- 5 Governance, correct?
- 6 A Which page of the exhibit are you
- 7 looking?
- 8 Q Page --
- 9 JUDGE MOSS: Page 1 of 40 --
- 10 Q BY MR. FFITCH: Page 2.
- 11 A Okay. Sorry. I was on page 6. Yeah.
- 12 Q So then if we turn to page 2 of the
- 13 exhibit there's a table there, which describes each
- 14 of the entities that will exist if the transaction is
- 15 approved, right? And some of their characteristics
- 16 or some of the governance provisions are summarized
- 17 there, correct?
- 18 A Yes. This was developed obviously at
- 19 the time of the original filings, so it has been
- 20 superseded, most notably of the inclusion of Equico
- 21 in the structure, so that's missing and there have
- 22 been various developments in terms of independent
- 23 local representation on the various boards since
- 24 then. So this has been a bit of a work in progress,
- 25 but with those caveats.

- 1 Q As I go through my questions, please
- 2 indicate where something has been updated from this
- 3 original exhibit. I do understand it was filed
- 4 awhile back so --
- 5 A Okay.
- 6 Q And if we look at footnote 1 on page 2,
- 7 which is a footnote to the table, it states that it
- 8 is anticipated that members of the Puget Holdings
- 9 board of managers will also serve on the board of
- 10 Puget Intermediate, Puget Energy, and PSE. Is that
- 11 still correct?
- 12 A Footnote 1 to the table?
- 13 Q Yeah.
- 14 A Okay. (Reading document.) That's
- 15 correct.
- 16 Q Would that now also be correct for
- 17 Equico as well?
- 18 A Yes. If I can summarize in anticipation
- 19 of some of your questions, the members of the
- 20 holdings board, the same members all the way down the
- 21 chain from holdings to Puget Sound Energy, and they
- 22 are -- there's one additional director at the
- 23 utility, and there is one additional director at
- 24 Equico. Separate -- a different individual to the
- 25 additional director at Puget Sound Energy.

- 1 Q Okay. Now, looking right below the
- 2 table, there's the heading Puget Sound Energy
- 3 Holdings, and there's a summary of the description of
- 4 the Puget Holdings governance organization, correct?
- 5 A Yes.
- 6 Q And that indicates that the board will
- 7 have 12 members?
- 8 A It says up to 12.
- 9 Q Up to 12, excuse me. And that each
- 10 member of the investment consortium will be entitled
- 11 to appoint one manager for each 10 percent of the
- 12 shares of Puget Holdings it owns?
- 13 A Correct. And based on the percentage
- 14 ownership, that effectively results in a board of
- 15 that level of nine representatives from the investor
- 16 group, together with the two local directors, making
- 17 a board of 11, sorry.
- 18 Q And of the nine, the nine members are
- 19 the members appointed by the investment consortium,
- 20 correct?
- 21 A Correct.
- 22 Q And would I be correct in my math if I
- 23 concluded that five members would be appointed by the
- 24 Macquarie side of the investment consortium, and four
- 25 by the Canadian investors?

- 1 A The breakdown that we're anticipating is
- 2 three to the Macquarie Infrastructure Partners
- 3 investment group, two to the Macquarie Capital Group,
- 4 two to CPP, one to Alberta, and one to BC IMC?
- 6 was essentially correct, the Macquarie investors will
- 7 have a total of five, and the Canadian investors a
- 8 total of four?
- 9 A Correct.
- 10 Q And the fractional board member is left
- 11 on the side lines?
- 12 A Exactly. Although, I would again make
- 13 the point that the voting mechanism at that level is
- 14 proportional to shareholding, so the five Macquarie
- 15 representatives are able to vote the 51 percent
- 16 approximately that Mr. Ffitch mentioned before. And
- 17 that is not sufficient for a majority approval at
- 18 that level, which requires 55 percent.
- 19 So despite -- if it were a one-man
- one-vote environment, it would be a different
- 21 arrangement. But given it's proportional voting of
- shares, we do not control -- we, being the
- 23 Macquarie Group collectively, do not control that
- 24 board.
- 25 Q Now, you mentioned additional board

- 1 members in addition to those nine. Can you go back
- 2 to that and identify first -- I believe you said at
- 3 the Puget Sound Energy level and also at the Puget
- 4 Holdings level; is that correct?
- 5 A Yes.
- 6 Q So let's start with the Puget Sound
- 7 Energy level, and there's an additional director at
- 8 that level. Is that the additional local director
- 9 that you are committing to include?
- 10 A Yes.
- 11 Q And is that the independent director
- 12 that you are committing to include?
- 13 A Yes. And specifically to achieve the
- 14 objectives of the ring fencing proposals, that
- 15 director will have the so-called golden share in the
- 16 ring fencing arrangements.
- 17 Q And at least right now, according to the
- 18 testimony, that is indicated to be Mr. Simon?
- 19 A That's correct.
- Q And let's go to Puget Holdings level,
- 21 and you have indicated -- well, earlier testimony
- 22 indicates that there will be a total of two regional
- 23 residents at that level, correct?
- 24 A Correct.
- Q And we have heard, have we not, that

- 1 Mr. Reynolds will be included at that level as the
- 2 CEO of PSE, and he would also constitute one of the
- 3 regional directors, correct?
- 4 A Correct.
- 5 Q So second would be, am I correct, the
- 6 second would be "Mr. Ayer"?
- 7 A "Mr. Ayer."
- 8 Q Mr. Ayer, is that correct, he would be
- 9 the second?
- 10 A Yes. And Mr. Ayer would be the chairman
- 11 at both levels.
- 12 Q And that would be a total of 11 members
- 13 at the Puget Holdings level?
- 14 A Correct.
- 15 Q And perhaps you have answered that, but
- 16 I will come back in a different way. There's no
- 17 commitment in the settlement agreement that requires
- 18 any regional directors at the Puget Intermediate
- 19 Holdings level, or the Equico level; is that right?
- 20 A I don't believe there are any
- 21 commitments specifically on those points. If I look
- 22 at counsel for a minute, I believe there are.
- 23 Practically speaking, those entities,
- 24 Puget Intermediate Holdings, would likely delegate
- its board up to the holdings level.

- 1 Q Did you say delegate its board?
- 2 A Delegate up, if you like. Or --
- 3 Q So can you explain what that means?
- 4 A Well, it's a structural element of the
- 5 transaction, and so it doesn't do much day-to-day,
- 6 and so it doesn't need to have a board. So the
- 7 parent of that company in Puget Holdings is likely to
- 8 take that role.
- 9 Q So it will be essentially a paper board,
- 10 in effect?
- 11 A It's the same board basically, yeah.
- 12 The same individuals at holdings will constitute the
- 13 intermediate holdings board.
- 14 Q Let's turn the page to page 3 of your
- 15 exhibit, and this is continuing to describe Puget
- 16 Holdings board of managers. And the list of bullet
- 17 points at the top of the page is a statement of the
- 18 functions of the board of Puget Holdings, correct?
- 19 A Correct. Again, this is subject to the
- 20 earlier caveat that this has been a work in progress
- 21 on governance since this testimony was filed.
- 22 Q Well, if you would like to take a minute
- 23 to look at it, I am not trying to trick you here.
- 24 But if there are material changes that you notice
- 25 there, please say so. But just working through some

- 1 of the high points here, the first bullet point
- 2 indicates the board has the authority and the
- 3 function of reviewing and approving and amending the
- 4 business plan, and we have heard testimony about
- 5 that, correct?
- A Yes, this is the holdings board.
- 7 Q Establishes policies and procedures for
- 8 the implementation of the business plan?
- 9 A Yes.
- 10 Q Correct? Reviews and approves material
- 11 transactions, including acquisitions, and the others
- 12 listed there, right?
- 13 A Yes.
- 14 Q And I won't go through the whole list.
- 15 Do you see anything else as you look through there
- 16 that is no longer an accurate statement of those
- 17 board functions?
- 18 A No, I think it's broadly aligned with
- 19 the present state of thinking.
- 20 Q So that board has pretty broad
- 21 decision-making authority for the utility,
- 22 ultimately, does it not?
- 23 A The management of the utility rests with
- 24 the utility. And central to the organization of this
- 25 structure, I guess, is the business plan, which is a

- 1 document which is produced by management and makes
- 2 its way to the holdings board for approval. So we
- 3 have the ability to approve that plan, but little
- 4 input into the development of that plan and its
- 5 execution.
- 6 Q Well, the exhibit indicates that the
- 7 board has the function of reviewing, but also of
- 8 approving and/or amending, correct?
- 9 A Correct.
- 10 Q So the board could change the plan,
- 11 correct?
- 12 A Correct. Although as I mentioned,
- 13 day-to-day management of the business rests with the
- 14 management, and it's -- given the fact that the board
- 15 of holdings represents a group of investors who don't
- 16 have the proximity to the business that management
- 17 has, we wouldn't ordinarily presume to second-guess
- 18 management in terms of what might be right for the
- 19 business.
- 20 Q And then if we look about two-thirds of
- 21 the way down, we see the board has the authority and
- 22 the function of acquiring, issuing, and disposing of
- 23 securities, correct?
- 24 A Correct.
- Q Let's turn the page before we -- excuse

- 1 me, turn the page and look to the discussion of
- 2 committees -- actually, I hate to have people
- 3 flipping, but there's -- on the chart or table that
- 4 we look back, back on page 2, there's kind of a
- 5 summary. Maybe if we can go there first, I
- 6 apologize. There's a summary of the board committees
- 7 at the different levels. Do you have that?
- 8 A Yes, on page 2.
- 9 Q On page 2 on the table, you see that
- 10 the -- there are no committees at the intermediate
- 11 levels, the intermediate corporations, but the
- 12 committees for Puget Holdings and PSE are listed
- 13 there. And we see that Puget Holdings has, it
- 14 appears, two committees that PSE doesn't have, that's
- 15 the asset committee and the business plan and budget
- 16 review committee, correct?
- 17 A Correct.
- 18 Q If we go back to page 4, there's more
- 19 specific discussion of how these committees are made
- 20 up. And if we look at the asset committee, can you
- 21 describe what the makeup of that would be?
- 22 A Yes, asset management committee.
- 23 Q Asset management committee, yes.
- 24 Well, it consists of the CEO of PSE, and
- one representative appointed by the two largest

- 1 members of consortium, correct?
- 2 A Correct.
- JUDGE MOSS: Mr. Ffitch, this is already
- 4 in the record, so if you have a question about it,
- 5 just ask him instead of having to confirm
- 6 everything that is on the page before us, if you
- 7 would. It would speed things along.
- 8 MR. FFITCH: Thank you, Your Honor.
- 9 Q BY MR. FFITCH: So I guess my question
- is, who would that be, in practice?
- 11 A In practice, the asset management
- 12 committee would comprise the CEO in its present
- 13 contemplation, the CFO, also the two largest
- 14 investors being Macquarie and CPP.
- 15 Q So it's a three-member committee; is
- 16 that right?
- 17 A It's presently contemplated to be a
- 18 four-man committee. That's part of the progression
- 19 since this document was filed.
- 20 O So who would the members be on the four
- 21 -- who would the additional member be?
- 22 A The CFO --
- 23 Q So --
- 24 A -- of PSE.
- JUDGE MOSS: I am going to caution those

- of you sitting in the back there that it's not
- 2 appropriate for you to signal a confirmation for
- 3 the witness while the witness is testifying. If
- 4 the witness doesn't know, he will say so. So I
- 5 would appreciate it if you would refrain from
- 6 nodding or other acknowledgment of the witness's
- 7 testimony.
- 8 Go ahead, Mr. Ffitch.
- 9 Q BY MR. FFITCH: Could you give us the
- 10 same explanation for the business plan and budget
- 11 review committee
- 12 A That's essentially the asset management
- 13 committee, plus the addition of BC IMC.
- O So that would now be a five-member
- 15 committee?
- 16 A Yes.
- 17 Q And can you just, for my benefit, list
- 18 who those five people would be, or the entities they
- 19 represent. I don't need names, but --
- 20 A CEO of Puget Sound Energy, the CFO of
- 21 Puget Sound Energy, a representative of Macquarie, a
- 22 representative of CPP, and a representative of BC
- 23 IMC.
- Q Turning to a new topic here, you can use
- 25 either one of the charts. The one that is up there

- 1 is fine. I am focusing on the bottom section with
- 2 the Puget entities. If you want to go to the larger
- 3 one, that's fine. Actually, that's a little better.
- 4 Just for the record, the chart now shown
- on the easel is Appendix B to the Settlement
- 6 Agreement. Can you first look at Puget Sound
- 7 Energy at the bottom of the table, and state what
- 8 is the source of income for that entity.
- 9 A The source of income is the provision of
- 10 utility service in the service territory,
- 11 specifically electric and gas.
- 12 Q So that entity is able to generate cash
- 13 by that means, correct.
- 14 A Correct.
- 15 Q And post-acquisition, will PSE be able
- 16 to issue debt?
- 17 A Yes, it will.
- 18 Q Now, let's go up to the next level,
- 19 Puget Energy. Now, that has no separate operations
- or separate employees post-acquisition, correct?
- 21 A It will have officers and directors as
- 22 will be necessary to operate as an organization, but
- 23 it has no separate work force in the general sense.
- Q And you have stated in Exhibit 6 it
- 25 shall have no separate operations or employees. Is

- 1 that accurate?
- 2 A Yes.
- 3 Q And is Puget Energy able to generate
- 4 cash in any manner?
- 5 A Its principal source of cash is the
- 6 dividends from its wholly owned subsidiary, Puget
- 7 Sound Energy.
- 8 Q And post-acquisition, is Puget Energy
- 9 able to issue debt?
- 10 A Yes.
- 11 Q Let's move up to Equico, will Equico
- 12 have any separate operations or employees?
- 13 A No.
- 14 Q And is Equico able to generate cash or
- 15 revenue in any manner?
- 16 A By way of dividends from Puget Energy,
- 17 Inc.
- 18 Q And post-acquisition, will Equico be
- 19 able to issue debt?
- 20 A No.
- Q Let's move up to Puget Intermediate
- 22 Holdings. Puget Intermediate Holdings will have no
- 23 separate operations or employees, correct?
- 24 A Correct.
- 25 Q And what is the source of cash or

- 1 revenues for Puget Intermediate Holdings?
- 2 A Dividends from Equico.
- 3 Q And those dividends, in turn, come from
- 4 Puget Energy, and in turn come from Puget Sound
- 5 Energy?
- 6 A Correct.
- 7 Q And post-acquisition, is Puget
- 8 Intermediate Holdings able to issue debt?
- 9 A Yes, it is, although it's not our
- 10 intention to do so.
- 11 Q And then moving to the top, Puget
- 12 Holdings, Incorporated, does Puget Holdings -- or
- 13 will Puget Holdings have any separate operations or
- 14 employees?
- 15 A No.
- 16 Q And what is the source of cash or
- 17 revenue for Puget Holdings?
- 18 A The same flow of dividends we have
- 19 talked about for the other entities.
- 20 Q And post-acquisition, will Puget
- 21 Holdings be able to issue debt?
- 22 A Yes, but it's not our intention to do
- 23 so.
- MR. FFITCH: Can I have a moment, Your
- 25 Honor. I think I may be finished with the

- 1 nonconfidential material.
- JUDGE MOSS: All right.
- MR. FFITCH: Your Honor, that concludes
- 4 the questions that I had on these nonconfidential
- 5 exhibits. And at the beginning of this point I did
- 6 want to ask the witness a series of questions at
- 7 some length about various confidential exhibits,
- 8 the investor documents to be put in the record.
- 9 JUDGE MOSS: So to be clear, you are
- 10 requesting that we close the hearing room at this
- 11 time?
- 12 MR. FFITCH: I believe that's the only
- way we can effectively have an intelligent
- examination of the documents and the witness.
- 15 JUDGE MOSS: Let me ask you, you heard
- 16 yesterday the plan that I was hoping to implement
- in terms of allowing people to go into 207 and
- 18 keeping the bridgeline on, so both could monitor
- 19 the proceeding, with the exception of those points
- in time when you are, in fact, either asking
- 21 questions that include highly confidential
- 22 information explicitly, or elicit the disclosure of
- 23 highly confidential information into the record.
- You know your questions, I don't. Let me ask you
- if that's going to be workable.

Τ	MR. FFITCH: Your Honor, the way that I
2	have what I have concluded from looking at the
3	questions there is really more or less a continuous
4	series of questions about private placement
5	memoranda that all cover a document that has been
6	marked Highly Confidential, and we're going through
7	several documents like that. So it appears to me
8	to be a continuous period of questioning on highly
9	confidential matters.
10	Now, unless there's some waiver as we go
11	along as to particular items, I am afraid that
12	we're in a situation that in order to do that
13	examination, we have to close the hearing room.
14	JUDGE MOSS: Give us a minute.
15	(Discussion off the record.)
16	JUDGE MOSS: Back on the record. We're
17	going to take a short recess until 10:30 to give
18	counsel an opportunity to confer, and perhaps
19	effect some waiver of the previous claims of
20	confidentiality so we can keep the hearing room
21	open to the extent possible. So we're in recess
22	until 10:30.
23	(Brief recess taken.)
24	JUDGE MOSS: Let's come back to order.

The parties have had an opportunity to discuss off

- 1 the record and among themselves whether it would be
- 2 possible for Mr. Ffitch to conduct his planned
- 3 examination from this point forward in a fashion
- 4 that would allow us to have the use of room 207 and
- 5 the bridgeline at points in time, and then cut-off
- 6 that access at points in time.
- 7 Mr. Ffitch, I believe, will agree with
- 8 me that he does not believe he can conduct his
- 9 examination in that way after conferring with the
- 10 other parties. And so, Mr. Ffitch, you are
- 11 requesting that we have a continuous closed
- 12 session, and I believe you said that would clearly
- carry us to the noon hour, and perhaps beyond?
- MR. FFITCH: That's correct, Your
- 15 Honor. And I will state for the record that the
- reason for this is, of course, the designations of
- 17 confidentiality by the joint applicants. These are
- 18 their documents, and we are, pursuant to the terms
- of the protective order, accommodating that
- designation.
- JUDGE MOSS: And that is an important
- 22 point. I am glad you mentioned it. These
- documents have, of course, been designated as
- 24 Confidential consistent with the terms of the
- 25 protective order and the rights of the parties

- 1 under the protective order, and consistent with the
- 2 rights of the parties to assert confidentiality
- 3 under our RCW 80.04.095.
- 4 And at this point, of course, we
- 5 mentioned the other day that you have challenged
- 6 this, that in part through your motion filed late
- 7 last Thursday. But also, of course, that it is not
- 8 practical, as you note in your motion, to resolve
- 9 that during the course of our hearing. So what we
- 10 have at the moment is at least documents that are
- 11 designated as confidential consistent with law and
- 12 our rules and our protective order.
- So with that in mind, what we're going
- 14 to do is close the hearing room to those who have
- 15 not executed the Confidential and Highly
- 16 Confidential affidavits that are part of the
- 17 protective order in this proceeding.
- 18 If you wish, you can remove yourself to
- 19 room 207, Ms. Gail Griffin-Wallace, who I
- 20 identified at the back of the hearing room, she can
- 21 show you where that room is. It doesn't look like
- 22 we will be back in open session until the
- 23 afternoon. So you may wish to take a break and
- come back early afternoon, something like that.
- 25 Mr. Ffitch tells me he may renew this

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1 request when examining Mr. Kupchak. Are there any
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- 2 others?
- 3 MR. FFITCH: Ms. Campbell, Your Honor.
- 4 JUDGE MOSS: So this may be something
- 5 that we have to follow for much of the remainder of
- 6 today. And while that is unfortunate, that is,
- 7 nevertheless, what we must do under the law.
- 8 So with that I will ask those of you who
- 9 have not signed the appropriate documents under the
- 10 protective order, if you will please leave the
- 11 hearing room at this time. Those of you who are
- 12 monitoring the matter on the conference bridgeline,
- I am going to mute the send function, so you will
- 14 not be able to hear us either. And we will turn
- 15 that back on when we go back into nonconfidential
- 16 session.
- One further point, we will be breaking
- 18 for lunch today approximately 12:00 and coming back
- 19 at approximately 1:15. When we come back at 1:15,
- 20 we will have the open mic, if you will, for a
- 21 period at that point in time to see if we can give
- 22 everyone some indication of when we will be back in
- 23 public session, and we will resume to the point
- 24 necessary in public session.
- MR. SANGER: Can you give me the

1	bridgeline number?
2	JUDGE MOSS: No, I can't, because I
3	don't know it off the top of my head but you can
4	check with the records center or
5	Ms. Griffin-Wallace can give it to you.
6	MR. SANGER: Do you have any objection
7	to me participating via phone, except for the
8	highly confidential portions?
9	JUDGE MOSS: That's fine. You are
10	asking to be excused from the hearing room?
11	MR. SANGER: Yes.
12	JUDGE MOSS: Sure, that's fine.
13	All right. I have eliminated the
14	mute-send function, and I have also turned off the
15	speaker system to Room 207. So with that, praying
16	that the technology gods are with us, Mr. Ffitch,
17	you may proceed.
18	(The following testimony is
19	CONFIDENTIAL ATTORNEYS' EYES ONLY.)
20	
21	
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- 1 (End CONFIDENTIAL TESTIMONY -- THE
- 2 FOLLOWING IN OPEN SESSION.)
- JUDGE MOSS: Go ahead, or maybe we
- 4 should let Mr. Ffitch finish up. You had one
- 5 nonconfidential piece of cross left, and why don't
- 6 you finish that, and then if Mr. Van Nostrand has
- 7 any questions, we can take it all at once.
- 8 MR. FFITCH: I lost track of where I
- 9 was going to be in my notes.
- 10 Q BY MR. FFITCH: Please turn to
- 11 Exhibit 68, please.
- 12 A I am sorry. I just closed up my book,
- 13 and it's at the back. It's quite a distance. All
- 14 right. I am there.
- Q And at the top of the page we see a
- 16 reference to Macquarie Infrastructure Company, LLC,
- 17 correct?
- 18 A Correct.
- 19 Q And this was a company that was
- 20 referenced earlier -- I am realizing we're into
- 21 confidential material here. I will stop.
- 22 Are you familiar with this company?
- 23 A Yes.
- Q Do you have any status with the Company
- 25 as a director or officer or any other status?

- 1 A I am a shareholder in the company, but
- 2 otherwise I have no affiliation with them.
- 3 Q And am I correct that this is a publicly
- 4 traded company that invests in infrastructure
- 5 projects globally?
- 6 A It presently is confined pretty much to
- 7 North America.
- 8 Q And this chart shows stock price
- 9 fluctuations from September 2007 to August 15, 2008,
- 10 correct?
- 11 A Correct.
- 12 Q And am I correct to read this as
- 13 indicating that the Company's stock price appears to
- 14 have lost approximately half its value in the last
- 15 year?
- 16 A That's approximately correct, going from
- 17 the \$40 range in September '07 to the low 20s, not
- 18 quite 50 percent, but close to that.
- 19 MR. FFITCH: Those are all the
- 20 questions I have, Your Honor.
- JUDGE MOSS: Thank you.
- 22 Mr. Van Nostrand, you can do your
- 23 redirect.

1	REDIRECT EXAMINATION
2	
3	BY MR. VAN NOSTRAND:
4	Q Mr. Leslie, do you recall the questions
5	from Mr. Ffitch as far as corporate governance in
6	your exhibit 36, that describe the corporate
7	governance structure?
8	A Yes
9	Q I believe you mentioned there have been
10	some changes in the corporate governance structure
11	since this exhibit was prepared?
12	A That's correct.
13	Q And could you describe the nature of
14	those changes in the corporate governance structure
15	that in connection with the or the terms of the
16	settlement agreement?
17	A We have added the independent the
18	local directors to the holdings board, as we have
19	discussed during this proceeding. And the
20	consortium, as is detailed in response to our Bench
21	Request 8, has agreed that the affirmative vote of at
22	least one of those independent directors will be
23	required to effect a simple majority resolution at
24	the holding company.

Q So when Mr. Ffitch was asking you the

1	questions on Exhibit 36, in particular on page three,
2	the discussion of reviewing, approving or amending
3	the PSE business plan, that is the change in the
4	corporate governance that you are describing?
5	A There's no change effectively as far as
6	reviewing the business plan goes. Today the board of
7	Puget Energy reviews and approves the business plan
8	of the utility, and we have the same structure in our
9	proposal. And as I mentioned, the affirmative vote
10	of one of the local directors will be required to
11	effect those kinds of decisions. So it's pretty much
12	the same as it is today.
13	MR. VAN NOSTRAND: Thank you. No
14	further questions.
15	JUDGE MOSS: Thank you. We will turn,
16	then, to the bench, and why don't we shake things
17	up and start with Commissioner Jones this time, and
18	work our way my direction.
19	
20	EXAMINATION
21	
22	BY COMMISSIONER JONES:
23	Q Mr. Leslie, I am going to turn to some
24	more general questions and get away from the
25	numbers, so I would appreciate you answering them a

- 1 little more broadly and succinctly if possible.
- 2 If Macquarie believes, and if you have
- 3 advised the other three members of the investor
- 4 consortium, that PSE is an attractive investment,
- 5 why don't you and the other members of the investor
- 6 consortium simply buy stock in public markets and
- 7 supplement your existing \$300 million investment
- 8 through the private placement?
- 9 A The mandate that we have as Macquarie
- 10 Infrastructure Partners in many ways would not permit
- 11 that. We are, given the mandate by our investors, to
- 12 make private investments not listed investments, that
- 13 indeed many of our investors are capable of making on
- 14 their own behalf.
- 15 And I believe in terms of our partners
- they also have listed equity investment programs,
- 17 but the investment allocation that they dedicate to
- 18 this investment comes from their private investment
- 19 pool, and so it would not be customary for them to
- 20 make public market investments out of that pool,
- 21 even though they are doing so temporarily, or at
- least we hope temporarily, to the extent this
- 23 transaction is consummated.
- Q So in summary, it primarily revolves
- 25 around the mandate in the MIP and other

- 1 infrastructure asset funds, and the investment
- 2 objective, and the terms of those funds that dictate
- 3 that kind of direction?
- 4 A I think amongst the three Canadians,
- 5 they have a spectrum of asset allocations, which
- 6 includes bonds, equities, alternatives. This would
- 7 fall in part of their alternatives allocation. As
- 8 far as we're concerned, we are an infrastructure
- 9 manager, Macquarie MIP, or Macquarie Infrastructure
- 10 Partners, is an infrastructure manager.
- 11 Our investors, in turn, have similar
- 12 investment allocation structures to the Canadian
- partners here. So they also have stocks, bonds,
- 14 and alternatives. So they are taking investments
- from their alternative allocation, giving it to us
- 16 to invest on their behalf.
- 17 Q Can you explain to me what the
- 18 alternative class is? This primarily relates to the
- 19 three Canadian pension funds. But what is the
- 20 investment objective and the expected returns for an
- 21 alternative investment class, as opposed to
- 22 traditional bond investments that match up
- 23 liabilities and obligations over a 20- or 30-year
- 24 period?
- 25 A Right. The alternative investment class

- 1 is very broad. And it presents a risk return
- 2 spectrum to investors in a sort of continuum, so you
- 3 can have a low risk, low return alternative
- 4 investment, and you can have a high risk, high
- 5 return. Elements of the category would include real
- 6 estate, I think the term alternative generically
- 7 connotes alternative to stocks and bonds.
- 8 So there is a very broad universe, so
- 9 real estate infrastructure, hedge funds, private
- 10 equity, by which I mean leverage buy-out firms,
- 11 venture capital, all of that would be encompassed,
- 12 timber investments, commodities, would be
- 13 encompassed as alternatives.
- 14 Q Could you refer to Bench 417, that's the
- 15 Economist article. I think you were made aware of it
- 16 last week sometime?
- 17 A Yes.
- 18 Q I suspect you are a reader of the
- 19 Economist, aren't you?
- 20 A I am when I get occasion.
- 21 Q So you are familiar with this article?
- 22 A Yes, I read it when it was published.
- 23 Q It was April 2008, so it's current.
- 24 What I would like to do is read -- I would like to
- 25 get a general response to this article, and then to a

- 1 couple of provisions in there. So let me read
- 2 portions of the final paragraph of this exhibit.
- 3 Quote, Long term concerns over Macquarie's model are
- 4 bound to persist for as long as the world is worried
- 5 about financing, accounting disclosure, and complex
- 6 financial structures. Mr. Moss's -- and that's not
- 7 Judge Moss.
- 8 JUDGE MOSS: Nor any relative of mine, I
- 9 am sorry to say.
- 10 Q BY COMMISSIONER JONES: Mr. Moss's
- departure raises fears about the future. The price
- of five-year credit default swaps have risen much
- 13 higher than the one-year ones, but the investors
- 14 have little choice but to trust the millionaires on
- 15 the factory floor. They are tied in any way.
- So what is your response to that
- specific quote, and then to the article in general?
- 18 A I think, linking the first part of your
- 19 question to your last question, investors in the
- 20 alternative assets base generally look to or
- 21 appreciate the lower level of volatility in the
- 22 valuations that are inherent in alternative asset
- 23 classes. And so the concept of being tied in any
- 24 way, and that sort of longer term lockup sense is
- 25 inherent in the alternative asset class, generally

- 1 speaking.
- 2 So the investors knowingly commit their
- 3 investments for long periods of time. That allows
- 4 the manager to be patient, I think as we heard
- 5 yesterday from Mr. Petit (phonetic). We're not
- 6 quarter to quarter earnings focused, we have a
- 7 longer term focus. We're able to take decisions
- 8 concerning capital expenditure, for example, which
- 9 may not yield returns for a long period, which
- 10 public companies may find challenging in terms of
- 11 the shorter term attitude of the shareholders.
- 12 So that's a response I guess to the
- 13 being locked into the investments. As I say, the
- investors do it knowingly and consciously, and they
- do seek the lower volitility as part of the
- 16 alternative asset class.
- 17 My response to the article more broadly
- is in one sense that it's one of the more balanced
- 19 articles about Macquarie that has happened.
- 20 Particularly in recent times, we have unfortunately
- 21 been victim to some rather nasty press, as people
- 22 have potentially seen. So if you will bear with
- me, it does bear an explanation of the Macquarie
- 24 model and what that means. Because the Macquarie
- 25 model as a concept has unfortunately been a little

- 1 bit divorced from the way we run our business, and
- 2 it's come to be used in relation to our peers and
- 3 rival funds more than is probably applicable to us.
- 4 As we originally envisioned our business
- 5 model, it was the marriage of the long-term capital
- 6 with long-term assets. In this case, as we have
- 7 seen with MIP, we have assembled a group of
- 8 investors, over 80 percent of which are pension
- 9 funds who have long-dated liabilities in the form
- of paying pensions to their members. They are
- 11 drawn to the very long-term predictable nature of
- 12 the infrastructure asset class, and Macquarie plays
- a role in marrying those investors to the
- investments.
- 15 An example might be a small pension
- 16 funds in the Midwest will struggle to locate a
- 17 large construction project in British Columbia, one
- where we are presently involved, or potentially
- 19 involved as proponents. So our organization finds
- 20 the deals, and we assemble the capital to invest in
- 21 the deals.
- One of the criticisms in the Macquarie
- 23 model which doesn't reflect the reality of
- 24 Macquarie's organization is that we buy assets
- using Macquarie Bank's balance sheet, and we flip

- 1 them to our funds for a profit. That's the
- 2 consistent theme in the criticism.
- 3 The facts speak a very different story.
- It's true that we do have the balance sheet
- 5 available to us to make opportunistic investments
- 6 when they present themselves. This is a case in
- 7 point where the Macquarie Group didn't have quite
- 8 enough funds to complete the investment, so
- 9 Macquarie Capital has stepped in to take that
- 10 piece. So it's very helpful to have access to the
- 11 balance sheet.
- 12 But of the 116 assets which our funds
- presently own, 100 of them were purchased directly
- 14 by the funds. The other 16 were purchased by the
- 15 funds following an underwriting or warehousing of
- that asset by the balance sheet. And the only
- 17 reason we access the balance sheet is because we
- 18 didn't have a fund available at the time to execute
- 19 on the opportunity.
- 20 So I think we have been rather poorly
- 21 maligned, to be perfectly frank, in that respect.
- One of our investors, one of whom is the subject of
- 23 a lot of speculation at the moment, did do a lot of
- 24 buying on the balance sheet and flip it into the
- 25 fund kind of approach, which was characterized as a

- 1 Macquarie model, inappropriately so, and they have
- 2 fallen on difficult times.
- 3 Our systems, our risk control, are far
- 4 more robust. We're a much, much larger
- 5 organization than our peers. We are the largest
- 6 and most experienced infrastructure investor in the
- 7 world, and we attract rivals and they seek to
- 8 criticize us. So that's fair game.
- 9 Q Sure. Thank you for that. The
- 10 Economist article also talks about, they say
- 11 typically the unlisted funds are ten-year closed
- 12 investments. Investors can sell, but through a
- 13 tortuous process of a private sale.
- 14 Does that generally describe your
- 15 unlisted funds.
- 16 A I am not sure of the exact term of all
- 17 of them. It's a convenient characterization for our
- 18 purposes today. Investors are basically locked into
- 19 the investments for their term, and it's difficult
- 20 for them to sell their limited partnership interests.
- 21 There are secondary markets. We will endeavor to
- 22 make a market for them if they really need to get
- 23 out, but the understanding between the investors and
- 24 the firm is they will opt-in.
- Q Do you think that using capital to meet

- 1 expected dividends is a sustainable practice? That
- 2 appears to be part of the Macquarie model, correct?
- 3 A Not correct. Not correct. That's
- 4 another element, I think, of the mischaracterization
- 5 of the model.
- 6 Q Did you respond to that in Exhibit 31?
- 7 I think Exhibit 39 -- or Exhibit 41, is your response
- 8 to various criticisms of your funds. Is that in the
- 9 record? Have you responded in the record to that?
- 10 A If counsel can remind me --
- 11 JUDGE MOSS: CJL 11 as originally
- 12 numbered.
- 13 THE WITNESS: I have Exhibit 41.
- 14 O BY COMMISSIONER JONES: I don't think
- 15 you have. You went through Mr. Chanos (phonetic)
- 16 article in Fortune, various elements of the risk
- 17 metrics approach?
- 18 A These are responses typically by the
- 19 parent organization in defense of some of the claims
- 20 that have been made. And Jim Chanos, for those of
- 21 you not familiar with him, is a short seller. He
- 22 operates a short-sale hedge fund, so his interest is
- 23 in stock prices declining. And one might expect him
- 24 to be making comments of a type that would decline or
- 25 reduce someone's stock price.

- 1 So he did make a number of provocative
- 2 and incorrect statements about the Macquarie model.
- 3 Distributions are not paid out of borrowings.
- 4 That's not correct.
- Now, again, our competitors and rivals
- in this case may have assumed that's what we're
- doing incorrectly, and gone forward and done it and
- 8 paid the price. But we certainly don't believe
- 9 it's a sustainable practice at all. And dividends
- 10 are paid out of operating cash flow, and
- 11 periodically out of refinances to the extent those
- 12 are prudent.
- 13 Q And that is detailed in Appendix C to
- 14 this exhibit, which I will read. Okay.
- JUDGE MOSS: You are referring to
- 16 Exhibit 41?
- 17 COMMISSIONER JONES: Yes, Exhibit 41.
- 18 It's a little confusing, and it's Appendix C to
- 19 that exhibit.
- 20 O BY COMMISSIONER JONES: Let's move onto
- 21 page three of your rebuttal testimony, please. This
- 22 is about the breakdown.
- JUDGE MOSS: And the rebuttal testimony
- is Exhibit 38?
- 25 COMMISSIONER JONES: Yes, Judge.

- 1 THE WITNESS: Page 19 of the testimony.
- 2 Q BY COMMISSIONER JONES: Are you there
- 3 yet?
- 4 A Yes.
- 5 O There's a table at the top, correct?
- 6 A Right.
- 7 Q I guess I am going to make a Bench
- 8 Request here, in that I ask you to provide a new
- 9 column that lists after At Financial Close, I would
- 10 like to for you to include a column that includes all
- 11 the term facilities that aren't closed, that aren't
- 12 fully drawn down and closed. Because I think this is
- 13 a source of confusion.
- 14 And so if you prefer to respond for the
- 15 record, that's fine, but I can ask you a couple of
- questions that are confusing to me now if that's
- okay.
- 18 A I can give it a go.
- 19 Q The consolidated debt is listed at 4.177
- 20 billion, 4.1 billion, but that is just for the PSE
- 21 and PE dat at financial close, correct?
- 22 A And that will be reduced by the 200
- 23 million additional equity.
- Q Correct. Well, I'm not referring to
- 25 that point specifically. But what is the amount --

- 1 can you list for me of the term facilities that have
- 2 been agreed to, what is not closing at transaction?
- 3 For example, the term loan the 1.225 billion term
- 4 loan of PE is not closing, is not being drawn down at
- 5 transaction, correct?
- 6 A I am sorry. The 1.225 billion term loan
- 7 is being drawn down.
- 8 Q It is?
- 9 A I believe so. There is some confusion.
- 10 I think a Bench Request may be the way to go.
- 11 Q Then let me pose this, Mr. Leslie, what
- 12 about -- I am mixing up HOLDCO and PE. What about
- 13 the PE CAPX facility of 1 billion?
- 14 A That's undrawn at close.
- 15 Q That's undrawn. So that should be added
- 16 to the incremental debt increase -- I guess what I am
- 17 asking to you do is if all of the debt facilities are
- 18 ultimately drawn down, what would be the incremental?
- 19 That's what I am driving at.
- 20 A Bearing in mind I believe the billion
- 21 dollar CAPX facilities in HOLDCO and the CAPX
- 22 facilities below that are designed to be spent only
- 23 on CAPX, so they are tight constraints in our ability
- 24 to use those facilities.
- Q But at the PSE level, are the figures

- 1 here reflective of the energy hedging facility?
- 2 A I don't believe that's included here.
- 3 O 350 million --
- 4 A A bench request is probably the best way
- 5 to spell it out.
- 6 Q Could you do that, please?
- 7 JUDGE MOSS: Does counsel have in mind
- 8 what Commissioner Jones is asking for, the Bench
- 9 Request 23?
- MS. CARSON: Yes.
- 11 JUDGE MOSS: Then I won't issue a
- 12 written request, and others can always respond to a
- 13 bench request.
- 14 (BENCH REQUEST NO. 23.)
- 15 Q BY COMMISSIONER JONES: Mr. Leslie, what
- would be a useful financial metrics to this
- 17 Commission to monitor to assess the health or
- instability of your Macquarie model in the future?
- 19 What should we be looking at? And the reason I say
- 20 that is I think you would agree with me that
- 21 financial markets have been quite volatile over the
- 22 past year?
- 23 A Yes.
- Q Okay.
- 25 A Well, I can speak really only to what we

- look to, and it's very much the cash flow coverages
- 2 that are generated by the business. It's the
- 3 strength in those coverages, which is an indicator of
- 4 the health of the business, in our view. As I have
- 5 said a couple of times today, sort of the leverage
- 6 metrics.
- 7 If you have high leverage, and even
- 8 though at the utility level we aren't confined to
- 9 44 percent, if directly you have high leverage with
- 10 very high cash flow coverage, the former may not be
- 11 indicative of stress. So generically speaking cash
- 12 flow coverage ratio is --
- 13 Q So we should be looking at the annual
- 14 reports of Macquarie Group overall, and look at those
- 15 cash flow metrics, and return on equity and things.
- 16 For example, the Economist article cites credit
- 17 default swap premiums as being a useful measure of at
- 18 least financial distress, and this is at the investor
- 19 level, not at the PSE ring fence regulatory level.
- 20 But my question is broader in terms of the parent
- 21 company. How do we best assess financial distress?
- 22 A I understand where you are going. I
- 23 would make a point that the intended investor is
- 24 Macquarie Infrastructure Partners, which is a fund
- 25 that stands aside and apart from the Macquarie Group

- 1 more broadly. So regardless of the fortunes of the
- 2 Macquarie Group, MIP stands alone. It has no
- 3 borrowings at the fund level. Its investments are
- 4 all nonrecourse and don't cross between each other,
- 5 so they are not cross collateralized in terms of the
- 6 debt facilities. So that stands separate and apart
- 7 from the Macquarie Group.
- 8 So I am not sure, except for the extent
- 9 Macquarie has a long term -- Macquarie Group has a
- 10 long-term investment, which is not its intention as
- 11 we have heard, then going up to the Macquarie Group
- 12 I am not sure will give you the right picture in
- 13 terms of the investor, which is Macquarie
- 14 Infrastructure Partners.
- 15 Q So you don't think the financial
- 16 stability of the Macquarie Group, the ultimate
- 17 parent, is important for us?
- 18 A I can see why it may interest you in
- 19 light of the press. I can assure you we are well
- 20 capitalized, very profitable, and very liquid, and
- 21 have made those kinds of statements. And we are by
- 22 nature, a conservative organization, despite what the
- 23 press may say. So our financial health is not in
- 24 question at the moment.
- The rating agencies rate us, and our

- 1 investors are supportive of our model. I think we
- 2 have -- we are a financial institution. Financial
- 3 institutions have been battered by the current
- 4 crisis. And if you were to track the Macquarie
- 5 Group's stock price, or Macquarie Infrastructure
- 6 Company's stock price, you will find they typically
- 7 track the sector as a whole, rather than any
- 8 particular distress in particular.
- 9 Q So you don't think we should be looking
- 10 at other financial instruments and other types of
- 11 activities of Macquarie Group because --
- 12 A In the long term the investor here --
- 13 the Macquarie Group, will not be the investor.
- 14 Q Don't you think Lehmann Brothers and
- 15 Merrill Lynch, and some of your other investment
- 16 banks may have been telling the same sort of story
- 17 before the mortgage bank securities became a big
- 18 issue? I mean, I just posed that as a general
- 19 question to you?
- 20 A I guess, again, defending our own iron
- 21 in the sense, we have no exposure to the mortgage
- 22 crisis NESIBS. Again, the governance at Macquarie,
- 23 the risk management is extremely tight, and we didn't
- 24 have any exposure. Which I think is testimony,
- 25 really, to the caliber of the group.

Τ	we have been maligned poorly in the
2	press, and we try our best to defend that. But we
3	have no exposure to that. I am not sure what other
4	threat is out there in the world that might take us
5	by surprise, but we're not aware of any. We plan
б	on a daily basis for extreme volitility in terms of
7	how we manage or capital. We assume a kind of
8	catastrophic event every day, and that's how we
9	manage our balance sheet.
10	COMMISSIONER JONES: Thank you.
11	JUDGE MOSS: Commissioner Oshie.
12	COMMISSIONER OSHIE: Thank you, Judge
13	Moss.
14	
15	EXAMINATION
16	
17	BY COMMISSIONER OSHIE:
18	Q I just want to focus on one area
19	Mr. Leslie, and we will continue to refer to
20	Exhibit 38 your rebuttal testimony on page 9. Top of
21	the page, lines 3 through 5.
22	A (Complies.)
23	A Yes.
24	Q A couple of things. You also
25	perhaps, let's start with how do you define quality.

- 1 You make a point of it in your testimony that the
- 2 investors, which I assume that you represent here,
- 3 are eager to invest more equity in quality
- 4 infrastructure assets. So why don't you, if you
- 5 would, define quality from the context of your
- 6 testimony?
- 7 A Okay. If I might refer back to my
- 8 comments to Commissioner Jones about the
- 9 infrastructure asset class, within that class there
- 10 are various emerging subcategories, for want of a
- 11 better description, similar to the categories that
- 12 are present in the real estate industry. So there's
- 13 core real estate, core plus, value added. I won't
- 14 bore you with the details, but there's various
- 15 elements.
- 16 Macquarie is very much a core
- infrastructure manager, which is focused on the
- 18 lower risk end of that spectrum. And so quality in
- 19 our way of thinking lines up with low risk
- 20 ultimately. That is determined with a reference to
- 21 potential volatility of earnings in a simplistic
- 22 sense, predictability about an asset. As I
- 23 mentioned before, the predictability of the given
- regime, be it a regulatory regime as we have here,
- or other mechanisms, the strength of the

- 1 counterparties with whom we're involved, we do seek
- 2 quality assets. And I can point to a number of
- 3 them on the books of some of our sister funds,
- 4 Sidney Airport, for example, which is the gateway
- 5 to Australia; Thames Water in London, which is the
- 6 board utility that serves the city of London, and
- 7 numerous others. Quality is obviously sort
- 8 of somewhat subjective matter at the end of the
- 9 day.
- 10 Q I would agree.
- 11 A But we know when we see it. We do
- 12 extensive diligence on these assets, as I often tell
- 13 investors, if you do your homework with the
- 14 infrastructure. It can be abused, but it's forgiving
- 15 provided you don't overpay for it. But if you pay
- 16 too high a price, because of the caps that are
- 17 inherent in a lot of these businesses -- so here we
- 18 have ultimately caps on rates, but in return for that
- 19 we have hopefully some protection on the downside, so
- 20 we're operating in a sort of confined regime.
- 21 If we get that wrong, we can't recover
- 22 if we don't get paid. So part of our quality
- assessment process goes to making sure we're paying
- the right price for things, and understanding in
- 25 detail every aspect.

- 1 I think you have seen the detail in our
- 2 financial models, and I am sure we drove the Puget
- 3 management team crazy with questions through this
- 4 process, but we do go to some length to interrogate
- 5 everything before we move forward. For example,
- 6 toll roads we invest in, a speculative toll road to
- 7 a new area of development is not something we would
- 8 do. An existing toll road, which is a congestion
- 9 reliever to an existing bottleneck where we have
- 10 some confidence about the amount of use on that
- 11 road, we would consider it to be a more quality
- 12 asset. So I think it's the predictability at the
- 13 end of the day that is central to a lot of the
- 14 quality assessment.
- 15 Q Well, let me tie that in to a response
- 16 that you made to Mr. Ffitch, because I believe it was
- 17 the central point of your comment and your answer,
- 18 but it certainly was apart of it in which you -- I
- 19 believe you tide your investment group's interest and
- 20 continuing to invest equity in this company, as long
- 21 as there was an -- and I will maybe paraphrase, some
- 22 sort of favorable regulatory treatment going forward.
- 23 Did I misunderstand your comment?
- 24 A Yes, I think you did. I think what I
- 25 said, and if I didn't say this I will correct it now,

- 1 but it was the predictability, as I was just talking
- 2 about, in the context of quality and the consistency
- 3 of the regulatory environment, whether it be
- 4 consistently good, consistently bad or consistently
- 5 fair, that's important.
- I think our assessment of Washington, as
- 7 I mention in my opening remarks yesterday, it's a
- 8 place we want to do business. Why, we believe it
- 9 is a fair regime, and one which has established
- 10 consistent precedent that gives us comfort, that
- 11 the regulatory principles are being applied
- 12 consistently over time, and we might take some
- 13 comfort in five years from now similar principles
- 14 will prevail, and that allows us to make some
- 15 judgments about our forecast.
- But we're not suggesting for a moment
- 17 that our investment case relies on generosity at
- 18 all. I think all we're asking for is
- 19 predictability.
- 20 Q Do you think your group of investors is
- 21 more sensitive to regulatory certainty than the
- 22 investors that currently have their money in Puget
- 23 Sound Energy?
- 24 A I don't think so. I think if --
- Q Would you say they are less sensitive,

1	based on their long-term interests in this
2	investment?
3	A It's difficult to speculate as to the
4	broad community of investors at present. I guess we
5	saw the volatility of the share price, for example,
6	when public counsel filed objections to the case, and
7	the reaction the share market had to that. So they
8	are obviously concerned with kind of regulatory
9	outcomes, and are immediately sensitive to it.
10	I think we can take a longer term view
11	so we're probably less sensitive in the sense that
12	we are we probably have a more thorough
13	understanding of the regulatory process and can
14	make judgments over a much longer time period, as
15	opposed to what is next quarter's dividends going
16	to be.
17	COMMISSIONER OSHIE: Thank you,
18	Mr. Leslie. No more questions.
19	JUDGE MOSS: Chairman Sidran.
20	
21	EXAMINATION
22	
23	BY CHAIRMAN SIDRAN:
24	Q Mr. Leslie, if I recall your testimony,
25	and I may be wrong, but I believe Macquarie investors

- 1 collectively will have something on the order of
- 2 51.4 percent of Puget Holdings?
- 3 A Yes.
- 4 Q And then you went on to note that
- 5 control of critical decisions at that level of Puget
- 6 Holdings requires 55 percent of the shares to be
- 7 voted in favor of certain super majority provisions,
- 8 correct?
- 9 A That's not quite correct. The
- 10 55 percent relates to majority decisions, so simple
- 11 majority. And that group covers everything except
- 12 super majority. So the majority is the default,
- 13 except if something is slated as super majority.
- 14 Q So would it be fair to say that
- 15 55 percent as the simple majority is effectively
- 16 control of Puget Holdings, except for these super
- 17 majority requirements?
- 18 A That's correct.
- 19 Q So if Macquarie's share were to move in
- 20 the future from 51.4 percent to 55 percent plus,
- 21 would that constitute a change in control?
- 22 A That's -- I have to qualify my answer by
- 23 reference to the agreement amongst the shareholders.
- 24 There are rights of first refusal and other
- 25 mechanisms designed to allow the entire shareholder

- 1 group to participate in any reallocation of the
- 2 equity amongst the members. And so I would expect,
- 3 practically speaking, that to the extent we
- 4 maneuvered ourselves, as you are suggesting, to get
- 5 above 55 percent, the remaining shareholders wouldn't
- 6 consent. They would want to recalibrate that
- 7 threshhold to keep the current balance between the
- 8 various investors.
- 9 All of these parties are sophisticated.
- 10 They have negotiated a position through this
- 11 transaction to satisfy themselves in terms of their
- own governance requirements, and I don't think
- that's something we could do just simply to get
- around the rules, so to speak. The whole mechanism
- 15 would change and recalibrate itself.
- 16 Q Let me try asking the question a
- 17 different way. Let's suppose some point in the
- 18 future one of your other partners in the investor's
- 19 consortium, one of the Canadian partners, wants to
- 20 sell their share.
- 21 A Right.
- 22 Q And again, I am not all of that familiar
- 23 with the details of your agreement -- I don't have
- 24 then in mind. I did read the agreement. But I guess
- 25 what I am asking is if those partners, one of those

- 1 partners were interested in selling some part of
- 2 their share of Puget Holdings, and Macquarie was
- 3 interested in buying additional shares, is it
- 4 possible that Macquarie could acquire 55 percent or
- 5 greater?
- 6 A It is possible. The mechanism would
- 7 first require that those shares be offered to all the
- 8 reigning shareholders pro rata. So there would be a
- 9 redistribution of that interest. But to the extent
- 10 they didn't take it up, and that they, for reasons
- 11 which I can't imagine they would, but if they did
- 12 then surrender the rights they presently have, then,
- 13 yes, technically you could get to that.
- 14 But I think practically speaking, given
- the dynamics between the consortium and the
- sophistication of the investors, I don't think they
- 17 would let us do that.
- 18 Q But if that did happen, it would
- 19 constitute a change of control?
- 20 A I think that be would a matter for
- 21 advice from counsel in terms of what constitutes a
- 22 change of control in Washington. I am aware there is
- 23 some -- potentially some ambiguity. Hopefully you
- 24 are more familiar with it than I am. But if it did,
- 25 we would certainly file for your approval.

- 1 Q That's actually what I wanted to hear.
- 2 So we need not trouble ourselves with details. You
- 3 answered the question. What I was driving at was as
- 4 we discussed yesterday with the panel, the conditions
- 5 in 26 B, which talk about change of control, and in
- 6 28 C, which talk about compliance with statute
- 7 relating to transfers of property and the
- 8 applicability to Puget Holdings, in my view raises
- 9 this very point, which is if Macquarie were to move
- 10 to a position of control in some sense, which would
- 11 be a change as you describe it since they are
- 12 currently in this existing agreement not in control,
- 13 as you put it?
- 14 A Yes. Yes.
- 15 Q Then that would be a matter, as I
- 16 understand it, that would require permission from the
- 17 Commission, correct?
- 18 A If there was a change of control, it
- 19 does require your permission.
- 20 Q That's a lawyerly answer, but I will
- 21 take it, thank you. And if it did, in some sense,
- 22 constitute the change of control, that would also, as
- 23 I understand it, trigger the prepayment -- mandatory
- 24 prepayment requirements under the holding facilities
- 25 agreement?

- 1 A I think there's an exclusion for
- 2 transfers amongst affiliates. There is a carve out
- 3 basically. If there were a change of control
- 4 involving a third party, then potentially there is an
- 5 acceleration. But, again, Mr. Kupchak may be the
- 6 best witness on the debt facilities.
- 7 Q Then I would like to -- yesterday, if
- 8 you will recall, we were talking about this
- 9 provision, again back in 26 B 2, and it used the word
- 10 material part. And I asked the panel what does
- 11 material mean. Do you recall that?
- 12 A I do. I do. And I recall some
- 13 hesitation on our side.
- 14 Q Yes, a prolonged silence. So I am going
- 15 to try to fill that silence by asking you this
- 16 question. Would you agree that being a member of the
- 17 board of directors of any of these entities, in
- 18 particular Puget Holdings, is an important position
- 19 with respect to the ultimate control of the company?
- 20 A I know where you are going with this.
- 21 Q Thank you.
- 22 A But it's undeniable that being on the
- 23 board of directors is an important position.
- Q So it would seem. And if I recall your
- 25 testimony, 10 percent ownership entitles a position

- 1 to the board?
- 2 A That's correct.
- 3 Q So would there be anything amiss in our
- 4 concluding that for purposes of this provision,
- 5 material part of Puget Sound Energy is 10 percent?
- 6 A I have been in discussions with counsel
- 7 on this point, and I am aware, I think, that this
- 8 particular definition in this jurisdiction is
- 9 presently unresolved. You certainly know more about
- 10 it than I do.
- 11 But part of our pause yesterday was the
- 12 hesitation about we're not sure what constitutes
- material in this jurisdiction. So all I can admit
- 14 is that I am not certain what constitutes material
- 15 here. In building a record about what material is,
- 16 you know, it's difficult for me to say. I am not
- 17 sure it's my role to make that determination.
- 18 O No, actually it's our role. And I am
- 19 just trying to sound you out on the proposition that
- 20 if the 10 percent ownership stake entitles you to a
- 21 seat on the board, and if a seat on the board is an
- 22 important authority with respect to the future of the
- 23 company, then I am asking if you see anything wrong
- 24 with the logic in concluding that 10 percent
- ownership is a material part of the company?

- 1 A I would like to make one suggestion here
- 2 related to what I just mentioned on the bank groups,
- 3 and what they think in terms of this carve out for
- 4 affiliates. I would like to suggest, given the
- 5 dynamics of the Macquarie Group, that if we were to
- 6 rearrange amongst affiliates, as is in contemplation
- 7 here potentially, that that potentially doesn't
- 8 change anything in a practical sense.
- 9 Macquarie is a single consciousness at
- 10 the management level, and we cannot abide, for
- 11 example, differences in opinions between two funds
- that may be invested in the same deal. It's not
- logically possible for a single organization to
- 14 hold two states of mind. So we are --
- 15 Q The Commission does it all the time.
- 16 A So with the caveat that moving around
- 17 between affiliates may be reason to disagree with
- 18 you, then I would say generally speaking 10 percent
- on the director to a third party, for example, that's
- 20 maybe not unreasonable in the terms of the universe
- 21 of materiality in the world today.
- 22 Q Thank you. The last question, which I
- 23 confess in fairness, probably should be addressed to
- 24 your Alberta partner, but since you are the
- 25 representative of the investment consortium, and I

- 1 might add, I assume, a citizen of the Common Wealth,
- 2 you may be able to answer this question in lieu of
- 3 the Canadians.
- 4 In Exhibit 43, which is the organization
- 5 chart, corporate structure, Exhibit 43 is the more
- 6 robust version. I note that on the far right it
- 7 refers to the entities that are the Alberta
- 8 Government Pension Fund, and higher up the ultimate
- 9 authority above those pension funds, it says Her
- 10 Magesty the Queen in Right of Alberta.
- 11 And bearing in mind the commitment I
- 12 believe I heard yesterday from the consortium, that
- should we have questions for any of the principals
- 14 who are beyond our borders -- and I know you can't
- 15 speak for Alberta, but assuming due deference for
- 16 Her schedule, would the Queen of the United Kingdom
- be available to answer questions with respect to
- 18 the Alberta Pension Fund Investment?
- 19 A Again, it's difficult for me to speak on
- 20 behalf of my colleagues, but I would be very
- 21 surprised if Her Magesty would be available to you.
- 22 We can maybe inquire.
- Q Well, we won't make it a bench request.
- 24 We will take your answer as it stands.
- 25 A Thank you.

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1 JUDGE MOSS: Anything further for
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- 2 Mr. Leslie?
- 3 MR. FFITCH: Your Honor, just a
- 4 clarification matter on the bench request. There
- 5 was a reference yesterday, and there is a reference
- 6 in the record to an inquiry in the future as part
- of the debt financing, and I wanted to confirm that
- 8 that would be included in the response to the bench
- 9 request that Commissioner Jones had asked for.
- 10 JUDGE MOSS: I will have to turn to
- 11 counsel or the witness. I am getting
- 12 acknowledgment that that is the case.
- 13 THE WITNESS: We kind of declared and
- waived the confidentiality yesterday, so I don't
- 15 see why not.
- MS. CARSON: Yes.
- JUDGE MOSS: So it will be part of it,
- 18 Mr. Ffitch.
- 19 Anything further Mr. Van Nostrand?
- MR. VAN NOSTRAND: No.
- JUDGE MOSS: Mr. Leslie, we appreciate
- 22 you being here and testifying again. You may step
- down and perhaps someone can assist you with those
- 24 weighty --
- We're going to forge ahead. So,

- 1 Mr. Schmidt, if you would come forward please.
- 2 (Discussion off the record.)
- JUDGE MOSS: Mr. Ffitch, one unfinished
- 4 piece of business before we turn to Mr. Schmidt, I
- 5 asked you at one point whether you were going to
- 6 withdraw Exhibit 64 or whether you want me to rule
- 7 on the objection pending to it.
- 8 MR. FFITCH: If I could choose a third
- 9 option, we would like to discuss it with
- 10 Mr. Kupchak to see if we can get a sufficient
- 11 clarification to get it in the record, and we would
- 12 also like to review it overnight to see if we can
- 13 make a final decision on it.
- 14 JUDGE MOSS: I will give you an
- 15 alternative third option, which is to discuss it
- 16 with counsel and work something out, because as it
- 17 stands, if I would have to rule on it, I would not
- 18 allow it into the record, so be forewarned.
- 19 MR. FFITCH: Thank you, Your Honor.
- JUDGE MOSS: You can take that up with
- 21 counsel. Now with respect to Mr. Schmidt, this is
- your witness, Mr. Cedarbaum. So I will turn to you
- and ask whether we are stipulating to the admission
- of the various exhibits that have been identified,
- or whether we will have some dispute.

1	MR. CEDARBAUM: It's my understanding
2	that we're stipulating to both the prefiled and
3	cross exhibits.
4	JUDGE MOSS: In the absence of
5	Mr. Trotter, your understanding will carry the day.
6	And if I can find it in the exhibit list, which I
7	can't seem to do at the moment we will admit the
8	exhibits previously identified for Mr. Schmidt that
9	actually begins at 191 T with his response
10	testimony, and carries through, with an intentional
11	break in the numbering, Exhibit 239, including some
12	exhibits identified by public counsel for purposes
13	of cross-examination. So without objection, those
14	will be admitted as marked.
15	(EXHIBIT ADMITTED.)
16	JUDGE MOSS: And unless there's
17	something preliminary were you present to be
18	sworn?
19	THE WITNESS: No, I was not.
20	
21	RONALD SCHMIDT, PhD,
22	produced as a witness in behalf of the Staff,
23	having been first duly sworn, was examined and
24	testified as follows:
25	THE WITNESS: I do.

1	JUDGE MOSS: Thank you. Please be
2	seated. And with that, and there being nothing
3	preliminary, Mr. Ffitch, you may proceed.
4	
5	CROSS EXAMINATION
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7	BY MR. FFITCH:
8	Q Thank you, Your Honor. Good afternoon.
9	I believe it's "Dr. Schmidt"; is that correct?
10	A Yes, it is.
11	Q And you were a witness for Staff in this
12	proceeding and filed testimony on June 18th of this
13	year; is that right?
14	A That's correct.
15	Q And you have a doctorate and a master's
16	degree in economics, and in a past life were a senior
17	economist with the Federal Reserve System?
18	A All of that is true.
19	Q And that was for 12 years, as I
20	understand it?
21	A That is correct.
22	Q And you also, during your career, have
23	developed expertise and understanding in energy
24	markets as well, am I correct?

A That's correct.

- 1 Q And at the present time, as your
- 2 testimony indicates, you are a consulting economist
- 3 with Finance Scholars?
- 4 A Technically I am a principal.
- 5 Q And you were retained by Staff to -- let
- 6 me back up and get you to your testimony. Your
- 7 prefiled testimony has been marked as Exhibit 191.
- 8 Do you have that?
- 9 A I do.
- 10 Q And you were retained by Staff to offer
- 11 your professional opinion on certain financial risk
- 12 with respect to the proposed acquisition?
- 13 A That's correct.
- 14 Q And if we could go to page 3 of your
- 15 testimony at line -- starting at line 5, you state, I
- 16 identify trends in global capital markets and energy
- 17 markets and discuss how these trends affect the
- 18 utility sector, correct?
- 19 A That's correct.
- Q And you go on to say that Staff witness,
- 21 Mr. Horton, focuses his testimony on the actual
- 22 structure of the transaction.
- 23 A That's correct.
- Q And you didn't testify about that aspect
- of the proposed acquisition, did you?

- 1 A No. Mr. Horton has a great deal of
- 2 background and experience in actual deals.
- 3 O And I am aware that the Commission
- 4 Staff, subsequent to your testimony, has entered into
- 5 a settlement in the case. My questions today are
- 6 really going to focus on your testimony within the
- 7 scope of your testimony. I am not trying to put you
- 8 on the spot or in an awkward position with regard to
- 9 the Staff settlement of the case. I just want to
- 10 focus on the statements in your testimony.
- 11 So let me go first to page 4, next page,
- 12 line 4, I guess, starting at line 3 really is where
- 13 your answer starts. And there you say, the
- investor consortium plans to raise debt and equity
- from the global capital markets, and the critical
- difference is the consortium will be raising equity
- in the private equity market and raising debt in
- 18 global capital based on the reputation and
- 19 portfolio of interests.
- 20 The question is, is that still a true
- 21 statement?
- 22 A I am not really familiar with all of the
- 23 changes that have been made in the settlement. So I
- 24 don't know. I think that's something that Mr. Horton
- 25 would be able to testify to.

- 1 Q Let's continue on into the next question
- 2 and answer. And there you summarize, really, the
- 3 primary risks you believe can negatively impact PSE
- 4 compared to the status quo. That's the general topic
- 5 of your testimony.
- 6 And if we look at line 14, really at
- 7 line 16, and you are discussing your first factor
- 8 there you state, there is the risk that the current
- 9 appetite of investors for the higher expected
- 10 returns in the private equity investments could
- 11 change very rapidly if a market-driven shock causes
- a major loss of confidence in those investments.
- 13 Increasing requirements to adopt fair market
- 14 accounting on all assets has the potential to
- 15 exacerbate this risk.
- Isn't that still an accurate statement,
- 17 Dr. Schmidt?
- 18 A I think that's true.
- 19 Q Now, let's look at your second factor.
- 20 It continues in the next paragraph, and at line 22
- 21 you say, given the current state of financial
- 22 markets, interest rates are likely to be volatile in
- 23 the foreseeable future, because of factors such as
- 24 the risks of potential inflation and the value of the
- 25 US dollar.

- 1 Is that true statement?
- 2 A I think that's definitely true.
- JUDGE MOSS: Mr. Ffitch, the witness'
- 4 testimony says what it says. We don't need to
- 5 march him through it and confirm the things. If
- 6 you are challenging something he is saying, that
- 7 would be your purpose in cross examination; not to
- 8 confirm his testimony, which has been admitted by
- 9 stipulation, and, therefore, stands for what it
- 10 says.
- 11 So to save time, I will ask if you have
- 12 questions, if you want to challenge portions of his
- 13 testimony, that's fine, but to walk through and
- read sections and have him say that's still true,
- 15 we don't need to do that. We take it as true.
- MR. FFITCH: With respect, Your Honor,
- first, this isn't going to continue a whole lot
- 18 longer --
- 19 JUDGE MOSS: If you get my drift, it's
- 20 not going to continue at all, Mr. Ffitch. We don't
- 21 need to do this. The testimony stands for what it
- 22 says. And we don't need to march the witness
- 23 through and ask him if it says what it says. We
- 24 have it. It's been offered and accepted into the
- 25 record, and we have accepted it for the truth of

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1 what it says if it's not challenged on
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- 2 cross-examination by an adverse witness.
- 3 You understand what I am getting at, is
- 4 you are drifting into something that is in the
- 5 category of friendly cross-examination. You are
- 6 having the witness reiterate points that I believe
- 7 are points that you would use to establish your own
- 8 affirmative case. Am I mistaken about that?
- 9 MR. FFITCH: Your Honor, with respect,
- 10 if I could indicate that I am asking the witness by
- 11 way of cross-examination whether in the intervening
- 12 time since the testimony was filed, and I am going
- 13 to connect this up with other cross-examination
- 14 exhibits, there have been any changes which have
- 15 caused him to change the testimony that he's
- 16 provided here.
- 17 And I think that's a relevant factor,
- 18 Your Honor. I think that we're not simply getting
- 19 him to state that this is what is on the page, but
- 20 I am asking the witness to essentially say that
- 21 given the events in the national and international
- 22 economic markets that he's testified to, I need to
- 23 be able to ask him whether those things have
- 24 changed since he filed his testimony.
- 25 JUDGE MOSS: Then put that question to

- 1 him, and see if there's any changes to his
- testimony, whether there's any material change in
- 3 the testimony as filed as a result of the exhibits
- 4 that you have provided to him, and that, I presume,
- 5 Mr. Schmidt, you have reviewed?
- THE WITNESS: Yes.
- 7 JUDGE MOSS: Thank you. Let's take that
- 8 approach, Mr. Ffitch, and see if we can shorten
- 9 this up.
- 10 Q BY MR. FFITCH: Well, if we stay on page
- 11 5, Dr. Schmidt --
- 12 MR. FFITCH: Thank you, Your Honor. I
- 13 will endeavor to do that.
- 14 O BY MR. FFITCH: You list two additional
- 15 factors that you have identified in your testimony
- as, I guess I will call them risk factors. Is that
- 17 a fair label to put on it?
- 18 A That is fair.
- 19 Q And if you look at those two discussions
- 20 starting at line 3 and going to line 18, has there
- 21 been any -- first, looking at the third factor
- 22 paragraph, has there been any developments in the
- 23 economy, nationally or globally, that would cause you
- 24 to change that testimony today?
- 25 A The only thing I would say is the risks

- 1 in terms of energy markets, and I think we have only
- 2 seen that that continues to show that, yes, they are
- 3 very large. At the time I wrote this the price of
- 4 oil was headed up, now it's headed down, just
- 5 indicates the degree to which the energy markets
- 6 remain extremely volatile.
- 7 Q Thank you. And if we look at the final
- 8 paragraph beginning with the word finally, you are
- 9 discussing the representational issue. Do you have
- 10 any reason to change that testimony today?
- 11 A No.
- 12 Q Now, there have been a number of events
- 13 in the financial market since you filed your direct
- 14 testimony, haven't there, Dr. Schmidt?
- 15 A A lot has happened in markets, yes.
- 16 Q And we have provided for you a number of
- 17 articles from different sources, from the Wall Street
- 18 Journal, International Monetary Fund, and the
- 19 Economist. And have you had a chance to review those
- 20 prior to your testimony today?
- 21 A Yes, I have.
- 22 Q And so one of the events discussed in
- 23 those articles is the difficulties at Fannie Mae and
- 24 Freddie Mac; is that correct?
- 25 A That was one of the articles.

- 1 Q With the Fed stepping in to assure
- 2 investors that the US government would shore up those
- 3 mortgage institutions, correct?
- 4 A Correct.
- 5 MR. CEDARBAUM: Your Honor, to interrupt
- 6 briefly, if Mr. Ffitch can please identify the
- 7 specific exhibit as he proceeds with his questions,
- 8 I would appreciate it.
- 9 JUDGE MOSS: That would help the record
- 10 much.
- 11 Q BY MR. FFITCH: If you can refer to
- 12 Exhibit 199, for example, that's a Wall Street
- 13 Journal article headed, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac
- 14 Drag Down Stocks. Do you see that?
- 15 A Yes.
- 16 Q Have the stock prices at Fannie Mae and
- 17 Freddie Mac continued to fall?
- 18 A I haven't looked today, but they have
- 19 not been a good investment recently.
- Q So that's a "yes"?
- 21 A That's yes.
- 22 Q And would you say investors may still be
- 23 nervous about investing in those institutions?
- 24 A That's apparently what the markets are
- 25 showing us. There's some question about whether or

- 1 not there will be a recapitalization and potential
- 2 wipe out of the value to the current stockholders.
- 3 Q And what is it is reason for that?
- 4 A For which?
- 5 Q The potential that that scenario could
- 6 develop, that you just described?
- 7 A Well, under some measures of accounting
- 8 they are currently -- they are in a default situation
- 9 in terms of a negative value.
- 10 Q Are they in a default situation because
- 11 the international debt markets are unstable?
- 12 A That may contribute to it. The primary
- 13 factor is the problems with their mortgage holdings
- 14 and the write-down in the values of the mortgage
- 15 holdings.
- 16 Q All right. If you can turn to -- just
- 17 give me a moment here. Exhibit 238.
- 18 A Can you give me the title? I don't have
- 19 the numbers.
- 20 Q Economist article, Fear of Failure and
- 21 this discusses, among other things, the failure of
- 22 the Indy Mac Bank in California?
- 23 A Yes.
- Q You are familiar with that event?
- 25 A I am somewhat.

- 1 Q Is it correct that that is one of the
- 2 largest bank failures since the depression of the
- 3 1930s?
- 4 A It's a large one. I don't know where it
- 5 ranks.
- 6 Q And if we go to Exhibit 237.
- 7 A (Complies.)
- 8 Q This article titled, Merrill Aims to
- 9 Raise Billions More -- I will let you find that.
- 10 A Okay.
- 11 O This discusses the fact that Merrill
- 12 Lynch as had to seek capital from the financial
- 13 markets to shore up its balance sheet as well; is
- 14 that correct?
- 15 A That's what the article says.
- 16 Q Let's go to Exhibit 239. It's the --
- 17 the Wall Street Journal article shaking up the
- 18 Macquarie model. Do you have that?
- 19 A Yes.
- 20 Q Now, you, in your previous testimony,
- 21 filed -- or included a newspaper article about
- 22 Babcock and Brown also, did you not?
- 23 A Yes, that's correct.
- Q This article also talks about Babcock
- 25 and Brown, and Macquarie Group, and the Macquarie

- 1 model generally, does it not?
- 2 A Yes, it does.
- 3 Q And you, in your testimony, talked about
- 4 the representational issues around Macquarie. Have
- 5 you had a chance to review this article?
- 6 A I just got it today.
- 7 Q So you haven't had a chance to review
- 8 it?
- 9 A I have read it, and that's about it.
- 10 Q Do you think that this is consistent
- 11 with your earlier testimony with regard to the
- 12 representational issues presented by the Macquarie
- 13 participation in this transaction?
- 14 A Would you repeat that question?
- 15 Q Are the issues discussed in this article
- 16 consistent with your testimony earlier in your
- 17 prefiled written testimony about the reputational
- 18 issues raised by the Macquarie transaction --
- 19 MR. CEDARBAUM: I object. The witness
- indicated he read this, but didn't study it.
- 21 Whether there's consistency in his testimony can be
- 22 analyzed by looking at the two documents side by
- 23 side.
- JUDGE MOSS: I tend to agree,
- 25 Mr. Cedarbaum.

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1 Mr. Ffitch, these are a whole series of
2 articles out of the Wall Street Journal. This
3 witness is not particularly well qualified to
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- 4 testify to the contents of the various articles.
- 5 They stand on their own merits, and are either
- 6 consistent or not with his prior testimony, and you
- 7 can brief that point.
- 8 The witness is not qualified to get
- 9 behind these articles, and tell you whether it's
- 10 consistent with what he testified or not, because
- 11 he didn't rely on these articles in formulating his
- 12 testimony.
- So far I am having a hard time
- 14 understanding where you are going with this, other
- than the fact that you have these in the record.
- 16 You can brief from them to the extent you think
- 17 they provide us with some testimony of value -- or
- 18 some evidence of value, I should say. But I don't
- 19 see us developing anything particularly useful
- 20 through Dr. Schmidt here. Do you disagree?
- 21 MR. FFITCH: Your Honor, I really, in
- 22 that case, have one other question for Mr. -- for
- 23 Dr. Schmidt, and that is --
- Q BY MR. FFITCH: You did rely in your
- 25 prefiled testimony and cite an article from the Wall

- 1 Street Journal, did you not, Dr. Schmidt?
- 2 A I would have to go back and check to see
- 3 that. I don't have the list here. I presume you
- 4 would know if it's in there.
- 5 Q I guess my question --
- 6 JUDGE MOSS: Which exhibit, Mr. Ffitch?
- 7 Would that be 195?
- 8 MR. FFITCH: I suspect you are right,
- 9 Your Honor. Well, that's --
- 10 JUDGE MOSS: Well, that's one of your
- 11 exhibits. I don't see any exhibits from this
- 12 witness from the Wall Street Journal. He has one
- from the Hedge Fund Gang up on Babcock and Brown,
- June 12, 2008. That's the only article in his
- 15 testimony.
- MR. FFITCH: I believe I am referring to
- a citation in a footnote, Your Honor. I will try
- and find that, unless I am not remembering
- 19 correctly.
- 20 COMMISSIONER JONES: Judge, on page 22
- of his testimony, there's a reference to Wall
- 22 Street Journal and Macquarie and Babcock. That's
- 23 one.
- 24 MR. FFITCH: That was the reference I
- 25 was looking for.

- 1 THE WITNESS: I am sorry. I don't
- 2 believe I have that with me.
- Q BY MR. FFITCH: It's page 23 of your
- 4 rebuttal.
- 5 A I see that, but I am sorry. I don't
- 6 have that document with me.
- 7 Q This is your testimony --
- 8 JUDGE MOSS: He doesn't have the
- 9 article.
- 10 Q BY MR. FFITCH: All right. That's
- 11 fine. I simply wanted to confirm that you have, at
- 12 least in this instance, relied on an article from the
- 13 Wall Street Journal in support of your professional
- 14 testimony.
- 15 A Yes.
- 16 Q And as general matter, as your
- 17 professional capacity as an economist, I assume
- 18 that you are aware of the Wall Street Journal and
- 19 periodically review it as part of your general
- 20 knowledge about economic subjects?
- 21 A I would say that I use it to provide
- 22 information about current events. I don't tend to
- 23 use it much in terms of formulating theories or
- 24 testing hypotheses.
- MR. FFITCH: Excuse me. No further

area of responsibility?

1 questions. Thank you, Dr. Schmidt. 2 JUDGE MOSS: Any redirect, 3 Mr. Cedarbaum? 4 5 REDIRECT EXAMINATION 6 7 BY MR. CEDARBAUM: Just briefly, Dr. Schmidt, Mr. Ffitch 8 9 reviewed with you some of the risk factors in your 10 testimony, and then you also went through some of the 11 articles on the Wall Street Journal and other 12 periodicals, publications, through the cross exhibits 13 that also deal with these risks in capital markets. 14 Do you recall that testimony? 15 Α Yes. 16 Now, you indicated that your colleague, 17 Mr. Horton, is -- was responsible for analyzing those 18 risks in the context of the particular transaction 19 before the Commission; is that right? 20 That's correct. 21 And so whether or not the transaction and the commitments that the joint applicants have 22 23 agreed to in the settlement protect Puget Sound 24 Energy from those risks would be within Mr. Horton's

1	A That would be correct.
2	MR. CEDARBAUM: Thank you. That's all
3	my questions.
4	JUDGE MOSS: Anything from the bench for
5	Mr. Schmidt?
6	COMMISSIONER OSHIE: No questions.
7	COMMISSIONER JONES: No questions.
8	CHAIRMAN SIDRAN: Mr. Cedarbaum asked a
9	question I was going to ask.
10	
11	EXAMINATION
12	
13	BY CHARIMAN SIDRAN:
14	Q Because I am just generally interested,
15	Mr. Horton is the witness that appears in the joint
16	testimony in this support of the settlement, and your
17	name is not on this document. Did you review the
18	terms of this proposed settlement?
19	A Not in any detail.
20	Q Do you have well, that may answer my
21	question. So do you have an opinion based on what
22	you reviewed?
23	A No, I think I would not want to
24	intervene with Mr. Horton's testimony. He is the one
25	who is the expert, and was and has spent a lot of

- 1 time delving into the details of this transaction and
- 2 the proposed settlement.
- 3 CHAIRMAN SIDRAN: Thank you.
- 4 JUDGE MOSS: Thank you. If there's
- 5 nothing further for Dr. Schmidt -- apparently
- 6 there's not, Dr. Schmidt. Thank you for traveling
- 7 here to be with us and testify. You may step down,
- 8 and maybe you will catch your airplane.
- 9 Now, let me see. It's 3:35, so the next
- 10 scheduled witness was Mr. Kupchak, which would
- 11 cause us to go back into confidential session, as I
- 12 understand it.
- 13 Mr. Ffitch, is that correct?
- MR. FFITCH: That's correct, Your
- 15 Honor.
- JUDGE MOSS: How much do you have for
- 17 Mr.? Elgin.
- 18 MR. FFITCH: Approximately half an
- 19 hour, maybe a little more.
- 20 JUDGE MOSS: We will be off the record
- 21 for a second.
- 22 (Discussion off the record.)
- JUDGE MOSS: Let's go back on the
- 24 record. Does your questioning call for a complete
- 25 confidential session with Mr. Kupchak? Do we need

- 1 to close it now?
- 2 MR. FFITCH: Yes, Your Honor.
- JUDGE MOSS: Mr. Ffitch has indicated
- 4 that, as with Mr. Leslie, his cross examination
- 5 delves extensively into Confidential and Highly
- 6 Confidential matter, therefore, it will be
- 7 necessary for me to close the hearing room to those
- 8 who are present and are not signatories to the
- 9 affidavit under the protective order that is in
- 10 place.
- I will also mute the send function on
- 12 the tele-conference bridgeline, and this will carry
- us through the end of the day. So those of you who
- 14 are now having to leave, or who will be cut off
- from listening can rejoin us tomorrow morning at
- 9:00 and we will resume then. Hopefully, we won't
- 17 resume in confidential session, but we will see how
- 18 the day goes.
- 19 Mr. Kupchak, you have been previously
- sworn, and you remain under oath. Do we have
- 21 anything preliminary this witness?
- 22 Apparently not.
- 23 Mr. Ffitch -- we do have one
- 24 preliminary, which is are we stipulating in all of
- 25 the exhibits?

MR. VAN NOSTRAND: Yes. JUDGE MOSS: So all of Mr. Kupchak's exhibits, as previously marked and identified in the exhibit list, are admitted. And, Mr. Ffitch, you may proceed. (EXHIBIT ADMITTED.) (Begin CONFIDENTIAL TESTIMONY --ATTORNEYS'S EYES ONLY.)

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22
                (End CONFIDENTIAL ATTORNEYS' EYES ONLY
23
                 TESTIMONY.)
                 JUDGE MOSS: Mr. Kupchak, we're going to
24
25 release you subject to recall. And counsel can
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- 1 confer after we have concluded our business today,
- 2 but with that, you may step down.
- 3 THE WITNESS: Thank you.
- 4 JUDGE MOSS: Our remaining witnesses are
- 5 Mr. Horton at 9:00 tomorrow morning, Ms. Campbell
- 6 at 10:30, and Mr. Elgin. And, Mr. Elgin,
- 7 apparently there's nothing confidential for him,
- 8 and the same is true for Mr. Horton; is that right?
- 9 MR. FFITCH: That's correct, Your
- 10 Honor. We do have a question that will direct
- Mr. Horton to a confidential exhibit, but it's one
- 12 question. It's something that we have already
- 13 seen. I think we can easily steer away from any
- 14 problems.
- 15 JUDGE MOSS: How much time for him?
- MR. FFITCH: 15 minutes.
- JUDGE MOSS: And for Mr. Elgin?
- MR. FFITCH: 30 to 45 minutes.
- 19 JUDGE MOSS: We will take Mr. Horton,
- 20 and then Mr. Elgin, and then we will take -- that
- 21 will take you us to the 10:30 hour when
- 22 Ms. Campbell is apparently going to appear. And we
- 23 will finish with her, and that will be in
- 24 confidential session, I gather?
- Does the bench have anything further?

1	I'll stay with the parties for a moment and see if
2	they have housekeeping matters. I don't believe I
3	have any housekeeping matters, but I want to give
4	counsel the opportunity to raise anything to my
5	attention that we need to take care of in that way.
6	MR. FFITCH: Your Honor, we have an
7	inquiry of the bench, which is whether Mr. Hill
8	needs to be prepared to respond to questions from
9	the bench tomorrow. He is here and available.
10	It's not a travel matter, but
11	JUDGE MOSS: Apparently not.
12	MR. FFITCH: Thank you, Your Honor.
13	Mr. Hill will be here in the event
14	JUDGE MOSS: Anything else. Very good.
15	We will be in recess until 9:00 tomorrow morning.
16	Have a pleasant evening.
17	ENDING TIME: 5:00 P.M.
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