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1 BEFORE THE WASHINGTON

2 UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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4 In the Matter of the )

Investigation of Avista Corp. )

5 d/b/a Avista Utilities, Puget ) Docket No. UE-190882

Sound Energy, and Pacific Power )

6 & Light Co. Regarding Prudency )

of Outage and Replacement Power )

7 Costs )

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EVIDENTIARY HEARING - VOLUME I

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ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE ANDREW J. O'CONNELL

11

12 (PORTIONS OF THIS TRANSCRIPT ARE DESIGNATED CONFIDENTIAL

AND ARE SEALED UNDER SEPARATE COVER.)

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14 9:50 A.M.

15 February 14, 2020

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17 Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission

1300 South Evergreen Park Drive Southwest

18 Lacey, Washington 98503

19

20

REPORTED BY: ANITA W. SELF, RPR, CCR #3032

21

Buell Realtime Reporting, LLC.

22 1325 Fourth Avenue, Suite 1840

Seattle, Washington 98101

23 206.287.9066 | Seattle

360.534.9066 | Olympia

24 800.846.6989 | National

25 www.buellrealtime.com

0002

1 A P P E A R A N C E S

2

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE:

3

ANDREW J. O'CONNELL

4 Washington Utilities and

Transportation Commission

5 621 Woodland Square Loop SE

P.O. Box 47250

6 Olympia, Washington 98504

360.664.1285

7 andrew.j.oconnell@utc.wa.gov

8

FOR WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND

9 TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION:

10 JOE DALLAS

DANIEL TELMOURI

11 Assistant Attorney General

P.O. Box 40128

12 Olympia, Washington 98504

360.664.1192

13 360.664.1189

joe.dallas@utc.wa.gov

14 daniel.telmouri@utc.wa.gov

15

FOR PUBLIC COUNSEL:

16

LISA W. GAFKEN

17 Assistant Attorney General

800 5th Avenue, Suite 2000, TB-14

18 Seattle, Washington 98104

206.464.6595

19 lisa.gafken@atg.wa.gov

20

FOR AVISTA UTILITIES:

21

DAVID J. MEYER

22 In-House Counsel

P.O. Box 3727

23 Spokane, Washington 99220

509.495.4316

24 patty.hanson@avistacorp.com

25 Continued...

0003

1 A P P E A R A N C E S

2

FOR PUGET SOUND ENERGY:

3

DONNA L. BARNETT

4 Perkins Coie LLP

10885 NE Fourth Street, Suite 700

5 Bellevue, Washington 98004

425.635.1419

6 dbarnett@perkinscoie.com

7

FOR PACIFIC POWER:

8

KATHERINE A. MCDOWELL

9 McDowell Rackner Gibson PC

419 SW 11th Avenue, Suite 400

10 Portland, Oregon 97205

503.595.3924

11 katherine@mrg-law.com

12

FOR PACIFICORP:

13

AJAY K. KUMAR

14 State Regulatory Attorney

825 N.E. Multnomah Street, Suite 1800

15 Portland, Oregon 97232

503.813.5161

16 ajay.kumar@pacificorp.com

17 \* \* \* \* \*

18

19

20

21

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16 (All pre-filed exhibits were

17 admitted prior to the hearing.)

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1 OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON; FEBRUARY 14, 2020

2 9:50 A.M.

3

4 P R O C E E D I N G S

5

6 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Let's be on the record.

7 Good morning. Today is Friday,

8 February 14, 2020. The time is approximately

9 9:50 a.m.

10 My name is Andrew O'Connell. I'm an

11 administrative law judge with Washington Utilities and

12 Transportation Commission, and I'll be presiding in

13 this matter along with the commissioners who will join

14 me in a moment.

15 As I mentioned before we came on the

16 record, Chair Danner is unavailable for this hearing

17 either in person or telephonically. He is sick. And

18 he will be perhaps at times attempting to listen in to

19 the hearing to pay attention as much as he can, but he

20 will review the transcript of this hearing, and we are

21 also making an audio recording just for him to be able

22 to review so that he can be fully aware of the

23 proceeding today.

24 We're here today for an evidentiary

25 hearing in Docket UE-190882, which is the Commission's

0007

1 investigation into the prudency of decision-making

2 leading up to a 2018 outage at Colstrip, and the

3 prudency of replacement power costs associated with

4 that outage. This limited issue was removed from

5 Dockets UE-190222, UE-190324 and UE-190458 for

6 resolution here.

7 There's a sign-in sheet at the

8 Commission's reception just outside for this hearing

9 specifically. If you're a visitor and haven't already

10 been identified in the docket as being affiliated with

11 one of the parties, we'd ask that you please go ahead

12 and sign in.

13 Okay. Let's take short appearances

14 starting with the utilities, Avista, Pacific Power and

15 PSE, and then we'll hear from Staff and Public

16 Counsel.

17 MR. MEYER: Thank you, your Honor. David

18 Meyer for Avista.

19 MS. BARNETT: Donna Barnett with Perkins

20 Coie for Puget Sound Energy.

21 MS. MCDOWELL: Katherine McDowell here on

22 behalf of Pacific Power.

23 MR. KUMAR: Ajay Kumar on behalf of

24 Pacific Power.

25 MS. GAFKEN: Lisa Gafken, Assistant

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1 Attorney General, here on behalf of Public Counsel.

2 And also here with me today are Public Counsel

3 witness, Avi Allison, and regulatory analyst, Sarah

4 Laycock.

5 MR. TELMOURI: Daniel Telmouri, Assistant

6 Attorney General, on behalf of Commission Staff.

7 MR. DALLAS: Joe Dallas, Assistant

8 Attorney General, on behalf of Commission Staff.

9 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay. Thank you.

10 AWEC, the Alliance of Western Energy

11 Consumers, is a party to this proceeding. They have

12 not filed any testimony or exhibits. They have had no

13 cross-examination questions, and they requested to be

14 excused from this hearing. The Commission granted

15 that request, and we'll proceed today without them.

16 Next I want to address exhibits. The

17 Commission received on February 7, 2020, revised

18 testimony exhibits from Pacific Power regarding

19 Exhibits CLT-1CCTr through CLT-10CCr.

20 The parties -- prior to coming on the

21 record, the parties have all indicated that they

22 stipulate to the admission of all pre-filed exhibits

23 and testimony, including cross-examination exhibits,

24 and the revised exhibits submitted by Pacific Power.

25 For the record, if there's any party that

0009

1 objects and I was incorrect, please voice that

2 objection now. Hearing none, let's -- let's move on.

3 I will provide a copy of the exhibit list

4 at the end of the hearing to the court reporter so

5 that the exhibit list can be made part of the record.

6 Pacific Power's indicated that they have

7 identified portions of testimony and exhibits that can

8 be discussed non-confidentially. I want to get to

9 that in just one moment.

10 First, I want to address the Colstrip Air

11 Quality Permit from the Montana Department of

12 Environmental Quality. PSE witness Roberts includes

13 an excerpt from the permit, Appendix I, as Exhibit

14 RJR-6, and Avista witness Dempsey provides in rebuttal

15 testimony Exhibit TCD-4T, page 17, footnote 19, a web

16 address for the entire permit. That web address is

17 not marked as confidential or company confidential.

18 I've shared it with the parties before the hearing, as

19 well as the Commission's intent to take official

20 notice of that full permit.

21 But before I do, are there questions or

22 objections about the Commission taking official notice

23 of the permit?

24 MR. MEYER: Your Honor, not an objection.

25 We have hard copies, just two hard copies of that

0010

1 permit if people are interested.

2 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay. Thank you.

3 And I appreciate the hard copies. For

4 myself, I have my computer available, and that's how I

5 intend to view most documents that we're going to

6 discuss today. The -- the commissioners have their

7 hard copies.

8 To the extent that any of the parties have

9 a computer available, I guess they'd be able to access

10 that web address in testimony. So -- okay. Hearing

11 nothing, the Commission takes official notice of that

12 permit.

13 Let's -- one more thing. Before -- before

14 we get to Pacific Power and the non-confidential

15 portions of the testimony and exhibits, the bench

16 request -- Bench Request No. 1 that the commissioners

17 want to request from the utilities, we -- the

18 commissioners want to have in the record an entire

19 unabridged, or I just -- I want to say full version of

20 the owner and operator contractual agreement for

21 Colstrip.

22 I think that there has been -- there have

23 been excerpts presented in exhibits in the docket, and

24 we would like to have the full version. I'd rather

25 not have three copies submitted, so I'd rather not ask

0011

1 every utility to submit it to the record because we

2 really only need one copy.

3 Is there one company that can volunteer to

4 provide this on behalf of all three?

5 MS. MCDOWELL: Your Honor, I think that

6 Pacific Power can do it. Pacific Power did put in the

7 excerpts from the ownership agreement as an exhibit to

8 Mr. Tack's testimony, Exhibit 2, so we could -- if

9 you'd like, we could always swap out the full

10 ownership agreement for this exhibit as -- or we can

11 just file it as a response to the bench request,

12 whatever you prefer.

13 JUDGE O'CONNELL: It seems to make it

14 easier if we just have you file it as a revised CLT

15 Exhibit 2.

16 MS. MCDOWELL: It would be company

17 confidential, as is this exhibit, but, yes, we could

18 do that if that would be acceptable to the parties.

19 JUDGE O'CONNELL: We expected that it

20 would be company confidential.

21 Is there any objection from the parties

22 as -- two things -- as to Pacific Power providing

23 that, and that they provide it as a revised Exhibit

24 CLT-2CC? And primarily, I'm looking at Staff and

25 Public Counsel.

0012

1 MS. GAFKEN: No objection from Public

2 Counsel.

3 MR. DALLAS: No objection.

4 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Thank you.

5 So let's -- let's do it that way. It

6 seems to be easier. Instead of making it a Bench

7 Request No. 1, for the record, we will just keep it as

8 CLT-2, and we'll ask that you file an updated copy

9 with the full version, with the understanding that it

10 is -- either all of it or a lot of it is going to be

11 company confidential. Understood? Okay.

12 And when is -- when would be reasonable

13 for us to expect that that could be provided? Is --

14 so is today too soon? I realize that we're going to

15 be here for a while, and -- but I'm curious because

16 it's something that we're interested in and we'd like

17 to have to be able to discuss so --

18 MR. KUMAR: I think we would have trouble

19 filing it today --

20 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Right.

21 MR. KUMAR: -- simply because we have to

22 pull the document, and we're -- we're filing -- our

23 filing center is filing a general rate case in Oregon

24 today, so they're a little bit busy. So I think --

25 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Understood.

0013

1 MR. KUMAR: -- we could do probably next

2 week sometime, maybe the first couple days of next

3 week.

4 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Can you use the

5 microphone, please?

6 MR. KUMAR: Oh. We could probably use

7 the -- we could probably do the first couple days of

8 next week as the earliest we could file the exhibit.

9 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay.

10 MS. MCDOWELL: So your Honor, the

11 Commission's closed on Monday --

12 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Yes.

13 MS. MCDOWELL: -- I take it, so we could

14 file Tuesday, if that would be acceptable.

15 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay. Let's do that

16 then. Let's have a due date of Tuesday,

17 February 18th, 2020, for the filing of the updated

18 Exhibit CLT-2CC. Thank you.

19 Okay. The next thing I wanted to talk

20 about was confidentiality. So Mr. Kumar, I'd like to

21 turn to you. You had indicated that there's some

22 portions of testimony and exhibits that Pacific Power

23 believes could be discussed non-confidentially.

24 MR. KUMAR: Yes, your Honor. After we

25 received your -- your email yesterday, we took a look

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1 through the testimony and the exhibits that we had

2 filed, and we have determined that some of the

3 information -- some of the high-level information

4 around the -- the CAM Plan and some of the stuff from

5 the permit is likely -- in order to facilitate the

6 hearing that we could probably make that

7 non-confidential.

8 So we went through, and I've handed out

9 essentially a chart that sort of discusses how we're

10 redesignating it. And if you'd like, I can go through

11 all those line items on the record and we can mark

12 testimony right now. Sorry.

13 JUDGE O'CONNELL: So, yes, in one moment.

14 I do want to remind everyone that we do

15 have a court reporter today. She will be transcribing

16 everything that is said, and so it will be important

17 for us to keep in mind the volume of which we speak as

18 well as the speed with which we speak.

19 And also, I know that we haven't had a

20 problem to this point, but to remind everyone to

21 please not speak over each other, because that can be

22 very difficult for the court reporter to transcribe

23 what everyone is saying when it goes back and forth

24 so --

25 MR. KUMAR: May I proceed, your Honor?

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1 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Let me -- let me pull up

2 my exhibits so that I can follow along. Okay. Please

3 go ahead.

4 MR. KUMAR: I think the first exhibit we'd

5 like to adjust is MGW-3CCT. This is the rebuttal

6 testimony of Michael Wilding, and if you turn to

7 page 10 --

8 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay.

9 MR. KUMAR: -- this is -- this -- there

10 were, I believe, two sentences that were marked

11 confidential in Mr. Wilding's rebuttal testimony.

12 These were marked confidential to be consistent with

13 Staff's testimony. It seems likely to us that they

14 are probably not confidential, and so we have

15 designated them as probably not confidential with --

16 with -- without objection from the other parties.

17 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Let's take a moment to

18 let Avista and PSE look at it.

19 MR. KUMAR: And specifically, these are on

20 page 10, line 8, and lines 14 through 15.

21 JUDGE O'CONNELL: I see that these lines

22 in particular address a suggestion made by Staff in

23 its testimony. And I don't recall from the other two

24 companies whether they included any -- whether they

25 addressed that idea in their testimony. So I would be

0016

1 curious whether that topic is something that the other

2 parties could agree can be discussed

3 non-confidentially.

4 MR. MEYER: No problem.

5 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay.

6 MS. BARNETT: Puget has no objection.

7 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay.

8 And I'm assuming Public Counsel and Staff

9 would have no objection with being able to discuss

10 that non-confidentially.

11 MS. GAFKEN: Public has no -- no

12 objection.

13 MR. DALLAS: Yeah. And Staff's position

14 is that -- that the companies are free to waive their

15 confidentiality. So if they're all in agreement,

16 Staff has no objection.

17 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay.

18 So this is in line with one of the things

19 I wanted to bring up before we went into the hearing

20 is, several topics seemed to be things that we ought

21 to be able to discuss non-confidentially. I think

22 this is one of them, which is -- now I think I can

23 mention that Staff has suggested a spring outage, a

24 planned spring outage. And so if we can discuss that

25 non-confidentially as far as questions from the

0017

1 parties and from the bench, I would -- I would like to

2 have as much of that conversation open as we can.

3 So is my understanding correct that we can

4 talk about that idea non-confidentially?

5 MR. KUMAR: My understanding is -- is yes.

6 I do want to caveat that a little bit, that sometimes

7 some of those specific details may be company

8 confidential. Some of the specific details and

9 reasoning behind some of that could be company

10 confidential.

11 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Of course. So I

12 think -- and I'm going to speak from what I know about

13 the questions that the bench have planned. Many of

14 our questions are going to be coming from the point of

15 asking a question that doesn't disclose any

16 confidential or company confidential information, but

17 if an answer would delve into confidential information

18 in the opinion of the witness, we -- we'd like the

19 witness to tell us if they're about to get into

20 something that's confidential or company confidential.

21 Our questions that we've planned, we don't

22 believe are confidential. We do not -- we think they

23 can be answered non-confidentially, but if a witness

24 is going to get into confidential information, we

25 would appreciate if the witness would identify that

0018

1 for us, and then we can bring it back up when we're in

2 confidential session. Okay?

3 MS. GAFKEN: Your Honor, Public Counsel

4 also had some questions with respect to this topic,

5 and my assumption was that our questioning would also

6 be non-confidential. That's how I'd planned it. And

7 so I guess I would ask for the -- the same caveat just

8 to be placed on witness answers to our cross as well.

9 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Yes. I think if, in

10 your question, you're not disclosing confidential

11 information, I think you can ask the question, and the

12 witness will let us know if their -- if their answer

13 would require them to go into confidential

14 information.

15 Mr. Kumar? Oh, I'm sorry. It looked like

16 you had something that you needed to say.

17 MR. KUMAR: I don't have anything to say

18 there.

19 JUDGE O'CONNELL: I apologize. Okay.

20 Let's -- Mr. Kumar, let me turn it back

21 over to you to move -- move along down the list that

22 you've provided.

23 MR. KUMAR: Thank you, your Honor.

24 I'd like to turn to CLT-1CCTr, and if we

25 could turn to page 6. And if you look at sort of

0019

1 line 5 through line 8, so the first four bullet

2 points, I believe, on that page that have been marked

3 as company confidential, those are not confidential,

4 but the -- the remaining two remain confident- --

5 company confidential. So it's tricky, but I hope

6 everyone got that.

7 JUDGE O'CONNELL: So I'm finding this very

8 helpful, Mr. Kumar, because this is -- was going to be

9 what I thought was going to be a very long discussion,

10 and you're making it much easier because those four,

11 in particular, I was going to discuss how they are in

12 the publicly available permit as alternate indicators

13 or performance indicators. And the fact that you're

14 now making clear that those are non-confidential helps

15 me bring up the topic of the idea of these alternate

16 indicators, in particular, these four.

17 Can we have that discussion about

18 alternate indicators non-confidentially as it applies

19 to what is in the permit and what the operator and the

20 owners are aware of doing?

21 MR. KUMAR: So I think, your Honor, as you

22 find in going through this list, a lot of what we are

23 marking as non-confidential is sort of those alternate

24 indicators that are in the CAMS Plan and the data

25 behind that. However, there are exhibits that include

0020

1 Mr. Chuck -- Mr. Tack's analysis of those indicators,

2 and we still consider that company confidential. And

3 there's -- and so I think that's -- that's sort of the

4 general logic behind a lot of these edits.

5 Is that helpful?

6 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Yes. And I assume we'll

7 get to those other exhibits in a moment and you can

8 explain what remains company confidential.

9 MR. KUMAR: Yes.

10 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay.

11 So thank you. Sorry for interrupting, and

12 please go ahead.

13 MR. KUMAR: Happy to be of service,

14 your Honor.

15 I think the -- the next item is on page 8,

16 line 4, and so starting at line 4 and ending in

17 line 10, in that sentence ending "Conditions," that

18 would be non-confidential, and then beginning again on

19 line 11, starting with "the" at the end of that line,

20 and going until page 9, line 2, would also be

21 non-confidential.

22 So the only company confidential piece

23 that's remaining is, there's a portion -- a sentence

24 on lines 10 and 11 of page 8.

25 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay.

0021

1 MR. KUMAR: And that's it for Mr. Tack's

2 supplemental direct testimony. If we could move to

3 one of -- a few of his exhibits.

4 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Sure.

5 MR. KUMAR: CLT-4CC.

6 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay.

7 MR. KUMAR: This exhibit is

8 non-confidential.

9 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay. I would like to

10 touch base about the information in this exhibit and

11 related information. I had indicated in the email I

12 sent to the parties that I wanted to discuss Roberts

13 Exhibit RJR-3, and I feel like these two exhibits are

14 related, because this exhibit that Pacific Power is

15 saying is no longer company confidential, it has the

16 results of the official PM MATS testing for Colstrip

17 units going back a couple years. This looks like

18 2017.

19 Exhibit RJR-3 discloses the PM MATS tests

20 for Colstrip Units 3 and 4 from 2016 through December

21 of 2018, and I want to confirm with the companies that

22 the official test results from that time period, that

23 entire time period, that is non-confidential, and the

24 tests results could be discussed non-confidentially.

25 MR. KUMAR: That's our understanding.

0022

1 MS. BARNETT: Yeah, same for PSE.

2 MR. MEYER: Same understanding for Avista.

3 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay. Thank you.

4 So in particular, then, that means we'll

5 be able to discuss Quarter 1 2018 official test

6 results for Units 3 and 4, and the Quarter 2 official

7 test results for Units 3 and 4 non-confidentially.

8 Okay. I'm seeing head nodding and

9 confirmation.

10 MR. KUMAR: Your Honor, I'd also just like

11 to -- I know you emphasized it in your response, but,

12 again, the official test results.

13 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Correct. That's my

14 understanding, and I -- I do understand that there may

15 be other things that remain company confidential,

16 which I think that we may get into during the company

17 confidential session.

18 Is there anything from Staff or Public

19 Counsel regarding the topic of the official PM MATS

20 test results that we just discussed?

21 MS. GAFKEN: Nothing from Public Counsel.

22 MR. DALLAS: So Staff would like to note

23 that in Company Confidential Exhibit CLT-7, the first

24 two rows contain the test results for the two official

25 Quarter 1 stack tests that occurred on February 7th

0023

1 and February 14th.

2 Along with this, there were other pieces

3 of information, including the opacity recorded at that

4 time, and I was curious to see what the companies'

5 thoughts were on the designation of that information.

6 JUDGE O'CONNELL: So to clarify, the --

7 along with -- obviously, the companies have already

8 said that the official PM MATS test results are

9 non-confidential. Staff's question, if I am

10 understanding it correctly, is in CLT-7, if the

11 corresponding alternate indicator test results at the

12 time of the official PM MATS test results, if those

13 are also non-confidential.

14 MR. DALLAS: Yeah, that's correct. I

15 think Staff's question is, if -- if those two first

16 rows in Exhibit CLT-7 would be designated as

17 non-confidential or company confidential.

18 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Mr. Kumar?

19 MR. KUMAR: I'm looking at sort of CLT-7

20 and --

21 (Brief discussion off the record.)

22 MR. KUMAR: Yeah. I think that, you know,

23 the vast majority of this exhibit is company

24 confidential. And we are looking -- there are a

25 number of indicators and data in those first two rows

0024

1 that may not be available in the permit, and, as a

2 result, we would like that to remain company

3 confidential.

4 JUDGE O'CONNELL: At the time, I think

5 that makes sense for now.

6 Mr. Dallas?

7 MR. DALLAS: Yeah. That makes sense to

8 me. I just wanted to know the company's position.

9 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Right. And you wanted

10 to know the limit?

11 MR. DALLAS: I wanted to know the limit,

12 and Staff has no objection --

13 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay.

14 MR. DALLAS: -- to keeping that company

15 confidential.

16 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Thank you.

17 Mr. Kumar, I think we're on until CLT-8CCr

18 now.

19 MR. KUMAR: Yes. And this exhibit, we

20 would also -- CLT-8CCr, we can make non-confidential.

21 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay. Thank you.

22 And that seems to be consistent with what

23 you have indicated from CLT-1CCTr, so thank you.

24 Let's go ahead and move on to CLT-14.

25 MR. KUMAR: Thank you, your Honor.

0025

1 I think the first -- the first indication

2 is page 5, and the discussion running from page 5

3 beginning on line 17 and running to page 7, line 7,

4 we'd like to make that non-confidential.

5 JUDGE O'CONNELL: The entirety of line 7,

6 or ending after the word "Operation," period? And

7 perhaps it doesn't matter, but I want to make sure.

8 MR. KUMAR: The -- the word that I have

9 ending on page 7, line 7 is Exhibit CLT-15CC.

10 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Oh, I'm sorry. You said

11 page 7. You did. Okay. I apologize. Thank you.

12 Okay.

13 So what I see here is a continuation of

14 what we previously discussed, that the idea of these

15 alternate indicators and that topic can be discussed

16 non-confidentially?

17 MR. KUMAR: Yes.

18 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay. Please -- please

19 continue.

20 MR. KUMAR: The next section is page 8,

21 lines 11 through 16.

22 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay.

23 MR. KUMAR: And that's consistent with the

24 redesignation of, I believe, CLT-8CCr.

25 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay. Thank you.

0026

1 MR. KUMAR: The next section I have is

2 page 11.

3 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Before you go to

4 page 11, I just want to confirm, because I -- I think

5 I understand why this remains that way, but the topic

6 starting to be discussed on page 8 -- I'm sorry --

7 page 9, that topic will remain company confidential,

8 and that's my understanding.

9 MR. KUMAR: Yes, your Honor.

10 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay. All right.

11 Please continue.

12 MR. KUMAR: Page 11, lines 5 and 6.

13 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Yes. Thank you. That's

14 consistent with what we had discussed before.

15 MR. KUMAR: And then again, on page 12,

16 lines 1 through 13, that's also consistent with what

17 we discussed before.

18 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Yes. Thank you.

19 MR. KUMAR: And then the next section is

20 page 13, lines 11 through 14.

21 JUDGE O'CONNELL: And -- now, it's my

22 understanding, is the -- this mentions the RCA. The

23 RCA, then, is that going to be able to be discussed

24 non-confidentially?

25 MR. KUMAR: No, your Honor.

0027

1 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay.

2 MR. KUMAR: We felt this is -- this is a

3 very, very high-level discussion of the RCA.

4 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay.

5 MR. KUMAR: I think actually most of the

6 details and very much most of what's in the RCA still

7 remains company confidential.

8 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay. Thank you. Go

9 ahead.

10 MR. KUMAR: And then again on page 13,

11 lines 18 through 21, and this is, again, consistent

12 with the discussion of the earlier planned outage.

13 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay. Thank you.

14 MR. KUMAR: And then the -- the final

15 sections are on page 17, and that's lines 1 through 6

16 and lines 18 and 19.

17 JUDGE O'CONNELL: And, again, I want to

18 thank you again for going through it like this. It

19 makes it much easier to address these topics than the

20 way I had envisioned I would have had to bring this

21 up.

22 The final report and the MDEQ decision,

23 would --

24 MR. KUMAR: The consent decree?

25 JUDGE O'CONNELL: The consent decree, yes,

0028

1 that is a public document, and I recognize that this

2 information comes from that document, so I want to --

3 I would like to confirm my understanding that that

4 document and the contents of that document can be

5 discussed non-confidentially.

6 MR. KUMAR: The final version --

7 JUDGE O'CONNELL: The final version.

8 MR. KUMAR: -- of that document is public,

9 and I think that there's an implication there as well

10 for -- there's some company confidential around some

11 of that discussion that -- not the final version,

12 but --

13 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Right. Yeah, no, I

14 understand, and I want to be clear that the final

15 consent decree, being a public document that's filed

16 and publicly available from the Montana Department of

17 Environmental Quality.

18 MR. KUMAR: Yes.

19 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay.

20 So that's -- the entire page 17, then, is

21 non-confidential, and -- but the last item on your

22 list?

23 MR. KUMAR: Yes, the last item on my list

24 is CLT-15CC, and it may be helpful to provide some

25 more context around this. This is -- the entire

0029

1 exhibit is non-confidential, and that is because this

2 exhibit is simply the data. It does not contain any

3 company analysis or information.

4 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay.

5 So this touches slightly upon what

6 Ms. McDowell has brought up, and what I'm hearing is

7 that the raw data, as presented here in 15CC, is

8 non-confidential, and the raw data could be -- the

9 results could be discussed non-confidentially. But

10 perhaps some of the expert witness testimony making

11 deductions from it may remain company confidential?

12 MR. KUMAR: That's correct, your Honor.

13 And I want to be specific that it's the raw data that

14 is identified in the official testing, and the raw

15 data that is identified in the PM CAMS Plan, that's

16 what's remaining non-confidential.

17 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay.

18 Is there anything from Staff?

19 MR. DALLAS: Staff understands the

20 distinction.

21 MS. GAFKEN: Actually, Public Counsel has

22 a question.

23 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Sure.

24 Ms. Gafken.

25 MS. GAFKEN: Thank you.

0030

1 The charts that are in CLT-15 are fairly

2 similar to the charts that are in CLT-6, and I'm

3 wondering if there's a distinction there. Currently,

4 CLT-6 is still marked as confidential. I see that

5 there's also text in -- in No. 6, but --

6 MR. KUMAR: And I think that's the

7 distinction I discussed earlier, that CLT-6 contains

8 quite a bit of analysis and discussion of what's in

9 those charts, and that's what we would consider

10 company confidential.

11 MS. GAFKEN: Okay.

12 May I ask one more -- one more question

13 then?

14 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Go ahead.

15 MS. GAFKEN: So if we were to talk about

16 the charts, would the company consider that to be a

17 company confidential discussion or -- or not? Maybe

18 it's hard to know, but --

19 MR. KUMAR: I think you're quite right.

20 It's quite hard to know. I think -- you know, I think

21 we -- I know Katherine and I will be very vigilant

22 about sort of how the discussion goes, and try and

23 make that distinction. But I understand it's a --

24 it's sort of a tough distinction to make.

25 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay.

0031

1 That brings us to a good transition into

2 what I wanted to say about confidentiality. We are

3 very aware of and concerned about the balance between

4 wanting to have a transparent, open process for this

5 hearing and all proceedings at the Commission, while

6 balancing that with another concern that we take very

7 seriously, which is ensuring that confidential

8 information that should not be publicly disclosed is

9 appropriately protected in our proceedings.

10 So because there's this balancing of those

11 interests, that's why we have decided that having a

12 part of this hearing that is completely

13 non-confidential, and having as much discussion as we

14 can in that part of the hearing, and then

15 transitioning into a confidential part of the hearing

16 only for those things that needs to be kept

17 confidential, that that is an appropriate way to

18 balance these interests that we take seriously.

19 So I want to discuss witness testimony and

20 how we'd like to go through the different steps of our

21 hearing today.

22 First, we're going to have a

23 non-confidential portion during which we will have

24 cross-examination of all non-confidential questions,

25 cross-examination of non-confidential questions that

0032

1 any of the parties may have. We'll take the witnesses

2 in the order proposed by the parties. We'll first

3 have cross-examination for each witness, and then

4 redirect.

5 At the conclusion of all non-confidential

6 cross-examination of the company witnesses, we -- the

7 Commission wants to impanel the three particular

8 witnesses, one from each company, to bring them all

9 together after they've had a chance for

10 cross-examination and redirect to answer some bench

11 questions that we believe are most -- are easy -- easy

12 to address when we can pose them to the company

13 witnesses as a group, and, of course, we will direct

14 the questions to each witness and allow each witness

15 to respond. But instead of asking the same question

16 of each witness in a broken-up way, we'd like to ask

17 them of the witnesses as a panel.

18 And then we want to do the same thing and

19 follow the same procedure for the Staff witness and

20 Public Counsel witness. We want to allow for

21 cross-examination of non-confidential questions of

22 each witness and redirect of each witness, and then

23 the Commission wants to have those two witnesses

24 impanelled to answer questions that we believe are

25 most easily addressed to them, and it makes it a more

0033

1 administratively efficient to ask them as a panel.

2 And we will ask -- we will direct the questions to

3 them individually in the same way that we are going to

4 ask the questions of the company witnesses

5 individually, but we just want them there together so

6 we don't have to have a shuffling back and forth.

7 So at that point, after those

8 non-confidential bench questions, we're going to take

9 a short break to clear the hearing room and turn off

10 the conference bridge line. As I mentioned, we have a

11 confidential conference bridge line that will be

12 available to the Chair in the event that he's able to

13 participate later and feels well enough, and that

14 information is only available to the commissioners and

15 administrative staff of the Commission, the

16 commissioners' administrative staff. Let me make that

17 clear.

18 Only persons who have signed the

19 appropriate company confidential nondisclosure

20 agreements will be allowed back in the hearing room

21 for the remaining company confidential portion of the

22 hearing. My understanding is that we will not be

23 discussing information that's been marked as

24 confidential, meaning information marked confidential

25 by one company that the other companies aren't able to

0034

1 see. But we are only going to be addressing company

2 confidential information, or confidential information

3 that all the companies may be aware of.

4 And Mr. Kumar and Ms. McDowell, I'm

5 looking at you because you have cross-examination, and

6 you had indicated that you were not going to be

7 touching upon any confidential information, and I

8 would like to confirm that.

9 MS. MCDOWELL: We can confirm that,

10 your Honor.

11 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay. Thank you.

12 And I haven't heard from any other party

13 in their communications with me that they intend to

14 ask confidential questions.

15 Is that correct, Public Counsel and Staff.

16 MS. GAFKEN: That's correct for Public

17 Counsel. We do have some cross that touches on

18 company confidential, but not confidential.

19 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Mr. Dallas?

20 MR. DALLAS: And same with Staff. Staff's

21 cross-examination and closing statement will touch on

22 company confidential information, but will not touch

23 on confidential information.

24 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay. Thank you.

25 So when we get into the company

0035

1 confidential portion of the hearing, it's going to

2 proceed the same way that the non-confidential session

3 did. We will then ask each of the witnesses to come

4 back up, and we will have cross-examination of each of

5 the witnesses on company confidential information.

6 Then we want to impanel the company witnesses for

7 bench questions that are company confidential. And

8 then after we have cross-examination of Staff and

9 Public Counsel's witness, we want to impanel those two

10 witnesses for company confidential questions from the

11 bench.

12 Then we will take a short break. We will

13 remain in company confidential session, and we will

14 have closing argument on -- from all parties. We will

15 afford 15 minutes to each party. The companies will

16 go first. They can reserve part of their 15 minutes

17 to rebut anything they hear from Staff or Public

18 Counsel in your closing arguments.

19 And then to reiterate, this will -- the

20 closing arguments will be presented in the company

21 confidential session. I don't see how I could expect

22 you to give two separate closings, one touching upon

23 non-confidential and one upon company confidential, so

24 I believe the only way to balance the interests of

25 wanting -- I'll slow down, I apologize -- to balance

0036

1 the interests of full public disclosure and wanting to

2 ensure appropriate protection of company confidential

3 information is to have the closing arguments in the

4 company confidential session.

5 So as regards the confidentiality issue

6 that I was going to bring up, we've already discussed

7 the Appendix I to the Colstrip Air Quality Permit, and

8 that the permit is public and that information in it

9 can be discussed non-confidentially, including

10 performance indicators, in particular, opacity,

11 Particulate Matter Continuous Emission Monitors, or

12 PM CEMS, and I want to confirm with the companies,

13 scrubber plumb bob delta P is -- can be discussed --

14 at least as it is an indicator, a performance

15 indicator, it can be discussed non-confidentially?

16 MR. MEYER: Yes for Avista.

17 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay.

18 MS. BARNETT: Same.

19 MS. MCDOWELL: Yes for Pacific Power.

20 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Thank you.

21 We have discussed the official PM MATS

22 test results for Units 3 and 4, particularly as they

23 appear in several exhibits, including Exhibit RJR-3,

24 which has the official results from August 2016 to

25 December of 2018.

0037

1 We have talked about the consent decree

2 between Talen and the Montana Department of

3 Environmental Quality. Okay.

4 The last question I have regarding

5 confidentiality, I want to clarify, is there anything

6 about alternate indicators that cannot be discussed

7 non-confidentially? And I know we've had a brief

8 discussion, but I'm curious, is there something

9 specific about the indicators that we can't discuss

10 non-confidentially? Maybe a yes, no, and then if we

11 have to go off the record and talk at the bench, we

12 will.

13 MR. MEYER: Avista's first reaction is no,

14 but if we learn additional information, we'll make

15 sure to raise our hand and bring that to your

16 attention.

17 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay.

18 MR. KUMAR: Your Honor, on behalf of

19 Pacific Power, I think it's okay, but if you'll give

20 us just a moment, I'd like to confer with a few of my

21 witnesses.

22 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Sure. Let's take --

23 let's take a few minutes. Let's be off the record

24 just for a few minutes. Thank you.

25 (A break was taken from

0038

1 10:49 to 10:55 a.m.)

2 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay. Let's be back on

3 the record.

4 We had a short discussion off the record,

5 which helped to clarify for me what portions of the

6 discussion that might surround the alternative

7 indicators is company confidential, should remain

8 company confidential, and what parts may be openly

9 discussed non-confidentially.

10 With that, we've already discussed

11 procedure for today's hearing. Are there any

12 questions about how we're going to go forward today

13 before I go and get the commissioners?

14 Mr. Dallas.

15 MR. DALLAS: Yeah. I think my -- my

16 understanding, and before we went on the record, I

17 discussed that I blew up a copy of CLT-7 --

18 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Yes.

19 MR. DALLAS: -- because it's a very

20 difficult exhibit to read. My cross-examination does

21 touch on this exhibit, and the Commission has stated a

22 preference to have as much cross not in the company

23 confidential session as possible.

24 And I would like to ask the companies if

25 it would be okay if I asked questions pertaining to

0039

1 the first two rows and the first four columns. So

2 column 1 -- I mean, sorry -- row 1, the first 4

3 columns, and row 2, the first 4 columns.

4 These columns pertain to two dates:

5 February 7th, 2018, and February 14th, 2018. They

6 state which units were tested, and the third column

7 indicates that these were the Quarter 1 compliance

8 tests, and column 4 represents the results of those

9 tests.

10 And I would like to -- to confirm with the

11 companies that I can touch upon those four columns.

12 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Let -- let me stop you.

13 MR. DALLAS: Okay.

14 JUDGE O'CONNELL: I'm -- I'm -- first, I'm

15 familiar with the CLT-7 --

16 MR. DALLAS: Okay.

17 JUDGE O'CONNELL: -- but I think that this

18 is a discussion that you need to have with opposing

19 counsel when we are on break and I go get the

20 commissioners.

21 MR. DALLAS: Okay.

22 JUDGE O'CONNELL: And you can have that

23 discussion, and then we can revisit when we come back.

24 And maybe, perhaps before you ask the questions, we

25 can -- I will hear from opposing counsel whether there

0040

1 are going to be objections.

2 And if you get an indication from them

3 while I'm getting the commissioners, perhaps you

4 decide not to ask it, so I'm going to leave that up to

5 you and opposing counsel to discuss while I'm away.

6 Okay?

7 MR. DALLAS: Thank you, your Honor.

8 JUDGE O'CONNELL: All right.

9 I do want to mention, to avoid a lot of

10 shuffling around of attorneys and witnesses, what I'd

11 like to see, as far as logistics and where everyone is

12 sitting, I'd like to have these three tables to my

13 left to be for the company attorneys, and the two

14 tables directly across from the bench to be for the

15 witnesses.

16 So I know that usually we have our witness

17 stand over here to my left, but I'd like to ask that

18 the witnesses testify from where you are now sitting,

19 Ms. McDowell. And you'd be familiar with that

20 arrangement from an open meeting. So I think it would

21 be easier for the shuffling that we're going to have

22 with the witnesses if they sit there.

23 So are there any other questions,

24 procedure, before we -- before we go off the record

25 and I go get the commissioners? Okay.

0041

1 Hearing none, the time is 11:00 a.m. in

2 the morning, and we will take a ten-minute break and

3 come back at 10 after 11:00, and I'll be back with the

4 commissioners. Thank you.

5 (A break was taken from

6 11:00 to 11:14 a.m.)

7 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay. Let's be back on

8 the record. We are back on the record following a

9 short break. I'm joined now by Commissioner Rendahl

10 and Commissioner Balasbas.

11 The parties have stipulated to the

12 admission of all the pre-filed exhibits,

13 cross-examination exhibits, and the revised exhibits

14 received from Pacific Power on February 7, 2020.

15 I have also indicated to the commissioners

16 the redesignation of certain information as

17 non-confidential as provided by Pacific Power earlier

18 in our hearing, and have indicated to them the limits

19 of that non-confidentiality, in particular for the

20 alternate performance indicators that we will address

21 at the end.

22 So with the commissioners here, let's take

23 short appearances again beginning with the companies.

24 Let's start with Pacific Power, and we will work our

25 way around the room.

0042

1 MS. MCDOWELL: Katherine McDowell here on

2 behalf of Pacific Power.

3 MR. MEYER: David Meyer for Avista.

4 MS. BARNETT: Donna Barnett for Puget

5 Sound Energy.

6 MR. KUMAR: And Ajay Kumar also for

7 Pacific Power.

8 MS. GAFKEN: Lisa Gafken, Public Counsel.

9 MR. TELMOURI: Dan Telmouri, Assistant

10 Attorney General, on behalf of Commission Staff.

11 MR. DALLAS: Joe Dallas, Assistant

12 Attorney General on behalf of Commission Staff.

13 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay.

14 Let's begin with non-confidential

15 cross-examination according to the witness list

16 provided by the parties.

17 Public Counsel has indicated

18 cross-examination for Wilding from Pacific Power, Tack

19 from Pacific Power, Dempsey from Avista, Johnson from

20 Avista, and Roberts from PSE.

21 Staff has indicated cross-examination for

22 Tack from Pacific Power.

23 We will start with Pacific Power's

24 witnesses, Wilding first.

25 Michael Wilding, will you please come

0043

1 forward to be sworn? Will you please stay standing

2 and raise your right hand.

3

4 MICHAEL WILDING, witness herein, having been

5 first duly sworn on oath,

6 was examined and testified

7 as follows:

8

9 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Please be seated.

10 Ms. McDowell, Mr. Kumar, would you like to introduce

11 and qualify the witness?

12 MR. KUMAR: Thank you, your Honor.

13 DIRECT EXAMINATION

14 BY MR. KUMAR:

15 Q. Mr. Wilding, could you please state and spell

16 your name for the record?

17 A. Yes. My name is Michael G. Wilding.

18 COMMISSIONER BALASBAS: Turn on the mic.

19 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

20 A. Yes, my name is Michael G. Wilding, spelled

21 M-I-C-H-A-E-L, middle initial G, last name

22 W-I-L-D-I-N-G.

23 BY MR. KUMAR:

24 Q. Now, Mr. Wilding, by whom are you employed

25 and in what capacity?

0044

1 A. I'm employed by Pacific Power. I am the

2 director of net power costs and regulatory policy.

3 Q. Thank you.

4 Mr. Wilding, with the corrections we

5 identified earlier, if I were to ask you the same

6 questions that are contained in your direct and

7 rebuttal testimony here today, would you give the same

8 answers?

9 A. Yes.

10 MR. KUMAR: Your Honor, I would like to

11 make Mr. Wilding available for cross-examination.

12 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay. Thank you. Thank

13 you, Mr. Kumar.

14 Let's turn to Public Counsel. Ms. Gafken,

15 you may proceed with your cross-examination.

16 MS. GAFKEN: Thank you.

17 CROSS-EXAMINATION

18 BY MS. GAFKEN:

19 Q. Good morning, Mr. Wilding.

20 A. Good morning.

21 Q. Would you please turn to your rebuttal

22 testimony, Exhibit MGW-3CCT, and go to page 10, lines

23 6 through 17?

24 A. Okay.

25 Q. You do not calculate a cost of a theoretical

0045

1 spring outage, correct?

2 A. In my rebuttal testimony, that is correct.

3 Q. Would you please turn to Cross-Exhibit,

4 Exhibit MGW-4X?

5 A. I'm there.

6 Q. And Cross-Exhibit MGW-4X is PacifiCorp's

7 response to Public Counsel Data Request 350, correct?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. In subsection A, the Company confirms that

10 the summer Colstrip outage was due to the official

11 MATS PM test results, correct?

12 A. That is correct.

13 Q. And subsection B confirms that testing would

14 generally take place while generating units are

15 operating, correct?

16 A. Yes, that's correct.

17 Q. The Colstrip plant did not exceed the MATS

18 limit in February 2018, correct?

19 A. Yes, that's correct.

20 Q. This means that Colstrip was not required to

21 shut down due to exceeding the MATS limit and did not

22 experience derate after the February tests, correct?

23 A. That's my understanding, and I would have to

24 defer operational questions to Mr. Tack.

25 Q. I'll go ahead and ask the next question. If

0046

1 you have to defer to Mr. Tack, that's -- that's fine.

2 A. Okay.

3 Q. Doesn't this mean that Colstrip could have

4 continued operating while troubleshooting took place

5 had such troubleshooting begun in the spring instead

6 of in the summer?

7 A. Yeah, I -- I would have to defer to Mr. Tack

8 as he's the -- the expert witness on -- on the

9 operations and -- of the Colstrip plant.

10 MS. GAFKEN: I have no further questions

11 for Mr. Wilding.

12 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay.

13 Redirect?

14 MR. KUMAR: I have no redirect,

15 your Honor.

16 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay.

17 Well, there will be no bench questions at

18 this time. We're going to save those for the bench

19 panel. So Mr. Wilding, for now, you may take a seat

20 back in the audience. Thank you.

21 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

22 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Let's -- let's proceed

23 the next Pacific Power witness, Charles Tack. Will

24 you please come forward to be sworn in. And will you

25 please stay standing and raise your right hand.

0047

1 CHARLES TACK, witness herein, having been

2 first duly sworn on oath,

3 was examined and testified

4 as follows:

5

6 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Please be seated.

7 Ms. McDowell, Mr. Kumar, would you like to introduce

8 and qualify the witness?

9 MS. MCDOWELL: Thank you, your Honor.

10 DIRECT EXAMINATION

11 BY MS. MCDOWELL:

12 Q. Good morning, Mr. Tack.

13 A. Good morning.

14 Q. Can you please state and spell your name for

15 the record?

16 A. My name is Charles L. Tack.

17 MR. KUMAR: Please use the microphone.

18 JUDGE O'CONNELL: I apologize. There's a

19 light around the base of the microphone. It's red

20 when it's turned off. When you press the button to

21 turn it on, it turns green. Thank you.

22 A. It's Charles L. Tack, I go by Chuck, and it's

23 C-H-A-R-L-E-S, L, and then T-A-C-K.

24 BY MS. MCDOWELL:

25 Q. Mr. Tack, how are you employed?

0048

1 A. I am employed by Pacific Power as the managing

2 director of generation support.

3 Q. In that capacity, have you prepared testimony

4 in this proceeding?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Do you have any changes or corrections to

7 that testimony?

8 A. No.

9 Q. If I were to ask you the questions that are

10 set forth in your pre-filed testimony here today,

11 would your answers be the same?

12 A. Yes.

13 MS. MCDOWELL: Mr. Tack is available for

14 cross-examination.

15 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Thank you, Ms. McDowell.

16 So I notice that Staff and Public Counsel

17 have questions. Have you had a discussion about who

18 would like to go first?

19 MS. GAFKEN: No, but I'm happy if Staff

20 would like to -- I mean, kind of the --

21 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Sure.

22 MS. GAFKEN: -- ordinary order. I'm fine

23 with that.

24 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Typically, Staff does --

25 MS. GAFKEN: Yes.

0049

1 JUDGE O'CONNELL: -- ask their questions

2 first, but I was curious whether there had been any

3 agreement between the two of you.

4 MR. DALLAS: And that's fine with Staff.

5 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay.

6 MR. DALLAS: But before I ask Mr. Tack

7 questions, can I talk to the Commission?

8 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Is it about Exhibit

9 CLT-7?

10 MR. DALLAS: That's correct.

11 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Yes, please -- please

12 tell us.

13 MR. DALLAS: So earlier in the proceeding,

14 I talked about how CLT-7 is difficult to read. And in

15 preparation for this hearing, I have passed around a

16 larger, blown-up exhibit. And I just want to make

17 sure that this is available to the commissioners and

18 also the witness.

19 JUDGE O'CONNELL: And I remember asking if

20 Pacific Power had confirmed that it was an accurate

21 representation, and I'm curious, can Pacific Power

22 confirm that it's an accurate representation of CLT-7?

23 MR. KUMAR: Yes.

24 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay.

25 I do think it would be useful for the

0050

1 commissioners to have the enlarged copy, if we could.

2 MR. KUMAR: Can I -- can I give it to my

3 witness?

4 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Yes, please.

5 Do you have enlarged copies for us?

6 MR. DALLAS: I -- I believe I printed off

7 15, so there should be a few extras.

8 MR. MEYER: We have some extras here.

9 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay.

10 MR. MEYER: I made a mark on this one, so

11 don't -- I'm all good. I've got mine over here.

12 MR. DALLAS: And I would also like to let

13 the Commission know that this is a company

14 confidential exhibit, but I have conferred with each

15 of the companies, and they have allowed me to talk

16 about certain information within this company

17 confidential exhibit within the non-confidential

18 cross-section of this hearing.

19 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay.

20 And that information that you're going to

21 be discussing is the -- the parts of this that is

22 non-confidential, because it appears elsewhere without

23 the context, that would remain company confidential,

24 correct?

25 MR. DALLAS: That is correct.

0051

1 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay.

2 With that understanding between you and

3 the other parties, let's go ahead and proceed.

4 MR. DALLAS: Thank you.

5 CROSS-EXAMINATION

6 BY MR. DALLAS:

7 Q. Mr. Tack, can you please refer to what has

8 been marked as Company Confidential Exhibit CLT-7?

9 A. Yep, I'm there.

10 Q. This exhibit contains a spreadsheet that I

11 would like to ask you some questions about.

12 Now, Pacific Power has titled this exhibit as

13 the spreadsheet used by Talen to track alternative

14 indicators. Accordingly, this spreadsheet was used by

15 the operator to track its investigative efforts

16 between the first quarter and second quarter official

17 PM emission tests, correct?

18 A. I don't think that's a hundred percent

19 correct. This was troubleshooting efforts that they

20 put forward, and a lot of this is confidential. I

21 know the first two lines are. But in general, this

22 was troubleshooting efforts that we can get into

23 the -- the confidential part so I can explain what

24 went on here.

25 Q. Okay.

0052

1 And I guess for the purposes of this

2 question, was this -- was this spreadsheet used by the

3 operator when it was conducting its efforts?

4 A. This was part of the effort. There was more

5 than just this. But this was a piece of what they

6 used.

7 Q. All right. Thank you.

8 Starting at the first row, dated

9 February 7th, 2018, does this row pertain to the

10 official Q1 PM emission test for Colstrip Unit 3?

11 A. Yes. This row is showing the official result

12 from February as a baseline point is why they put that

13 on here.

14 Q. And is the quarterly PM emission test the

15 determinative test submitted to the Montana Department

16 of Environmental Quality to determine if the Colstrip

17 units are within PM compliance?

18 A. Yes. The official MATS PM test is quarterly,

19 and it was done in February and June, that's correct.

20 Q. And Mr. Tack, what are the consequences of

21 Colstrip units failing a quarterly PM emission test by

22 operating over the PM emission limit?

23 A. The consequences would be, when they violate

24 their limits, is to shut the unit down. But there's

25 more to it than just this. The actual limit is a

0053

1 30-day rolling average for the entire site, Units 1,

2 Unit 2, Unit 3 and Unit 4, and that's what ends up

3 being your compliance limit.

4 So the .030 limit that we're talking about is

5 the overall site's rolling average on a 30-day

6 average.

7 Q. Okay.

8 And averaged among all the units that are

9 operating, isn't it true that PM compliance limit

10 is .030 pounds per British Thermal Units?

11 A. That's correct. The limit for the site

12 is .030 pounds per million BTU.

13 Q. Okay.

14 Now, referring back to row 1, what were the

15 results of the Quarter 1 official PM emission test at

16 Unit 3?

17 A. On -- on the row here, so it would be the

18 column 4, and it shows Unit 3 as a .027.

19 Q. Therefore, isn't it true that Unit 3

20 individually was operating at .003 under the PM

21 emission limit?

22 A. So you're saying .003 as in thousandths below

23 the actual .030?

24 Q. Correct.

25 A. Because it's hundredths and thousandths place.

0054

1 So yes, it is below by itself. But, again, it's a

2 site-wide rolling average, but, yes, it is, by itself,

3 below the limit.

4 Q. Thank you.

5 Mr. Tack, can we move down to the second row,

6 dated February 14th, 2018? Does this row pertain to

7 the official Quarter 1 PM test for Colstrip Unit 4?

8 A. Yeah, that's correct. That's correct. This

9 is for Unit 4.

10 Q. And Mr. Tack, what were the results of the

11 Quarter 1 official PM emission test at Unit 4?

12 A. For Unit 4 alone, the result is a .034 pounds

13 per million BTU. But, again, it's within compliance

14 because it's a site-wide rolling 30-day average.

15 Q. Okay.

16 A. This is just one data point. It's a rolling

17 average site-wide.

18 Q. So individually, just Unit 4, Unit 4 tested

19 at .004 above the PM emission limit?

20 A. That's correct.

21 Q. So Unit 3 tested at .027 and Unit 4 was

22 tested at .034; is that correct?

23 A. That's correct.

24 Q. Therefore, isn't it true that these units

25 averaged together at or very near the compliance limit

0055

1 of .030?

2 A. The actual official numbers that came out from

3 the site-wide rolling average was right at the limit,

4 the compliance limit of .030, and it was still within

5 compliance.

6 MR. DALLAS: And -- thank you. No further

7 questions.

8 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay.

9 Any redirect?

10 MS. MCDOWELL: No, your Honor.

11 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay.

12 Then let's move on to Public Counsel's

13 cross-examination. Ms. Gafken.

14 CROSS-EXAMINATION

15 BY MS. GAFKEN:

16 Q. Good morning, Mr. Tack.

17 A. Good morning.

18 Q. I'm going to start with the questions that

19 Mr. Wilding handed to you.

20 We were referring to Cross-Exhibit MGW-4X.

21 Do you have a copy of that?

22 A. I -- I don't have a copy of his.

23 MS. GAFKEN: Does counsel have it? Or I

24 can give him one.

25 MR. KUMAR: I got it.

0056

1 THE WITNESS: Okay.

2 BY MS. GAFKEN:

3 Q. So I think you've already -- I think you just

4 stated this, but I'm going to ask the question just to

5 set the next question up.

6 So the Colstrip plant did not exceed the MATS

7 limits in the February 2018 test, correct?

8 A. Correct.

9 Q. This means that Colstrip was not required to

10 shut down due to exceeding the MATS limits, and did

11 not experience derate after the February test,

12 correct?

13 A. That's correct. They did not derate, and they

14 were not required to shut down because they were

15 within compliance.

16 Q. Doesn't this mean that Colstrip could have

17 continued operating while troubleshooting if such

18 troubleshooting had taken place in the spring after

19 the February test instead of in the summer?

20 A. Yes. And they did do troubleshooting

21 activities that started in February.

22 Q. I'm pausing just because we have it split

23 between how we're talking about these things. I think

24 we'll get into that --

25 A. Yeah.

0057

1 Q. -- in the company confidential session.

2 For now, could you turn to your rebuttal

3 testimony, Exhibit CLT-14CCT, and go to page 7?

4 A. I'm there.

5 Q. And refer to lines 2 through 5.

6 There you state that the alternative

7 indicators have accurately portrayed PM levels since

8 2016 except for the two formal stack tests in Q1 and

9 Q2 of 2018, correct?

10 A. That's correct.

11 Q. By formal stack tests, are you referring to

12 the official compliance tests used to measure

13 compliance with MATS?

14 A. That's correct. These are the -- the official

15 MDEQ formal stack tests.

16 Q. And the official compliance tests are the

17 only tests that determine compliance with MATS,

18 correct?

19 A. That's -- that's mostly correct. The official

20 MDEQ parameter for the MATS PM is the official test

21 that takes place -- took place in February and June.

22 However, there is a Title 5 permit that

23 Colstrip is required to be in compliance with, which

24 is a CAM Plan, a Continuance -- a Continuous Assurance

25 Monitoring Plan, that has three alternate indicators

0058

1 that they're also to follow as well.

2 Q. And those -- those alternate indicators,

3 they're -- they're higher than the MATS test; is that

4 correct?

5 A. There's -- there's not a direct correlation.

6 When -- when you say higher, could you give me a

7 little more detail? Because it's not a direct, this

8 number equivalates [sic] to this number --

9 Q. Okay.

10 A. -- so I'm trying to understand.

11 Q. So there's a .03 threshold for MATS --

12 JUDGE O'CONNELL: If we can pause for just

13 a moment. If you are on the conference bridge line,

14 we can hear the rustling of your microphone. If you

15 would mind please muting your microphone. Thank you.

16 BY MS. GAFKEN:

17 Q. Under the CAM Plan that you were just

18 referring to for Units 3 and 4, isn't the threshold

19 a .05?

20 A. No. I don't know where you're getting

21 the .05.

22 Q. We'll -- we'll save those for another.

23 A. Okay.

24 Q. Diagnostic testing is not used to determine

25 compliance with MATS, correct?

0059

1 A. That's correct. We do not use diagnostic

2 testing -- unofficial in-stack testing to assure

3 compliance with the official in-stack testing.

4 Q. Turning back to the quote on page 7, lines 2

5 through 5, by "Q1," are you referring to the

6 February 2018 MATS test?

7 A. That's correct. I'm referring to the February

8 official stack test.

9 Q. And by "Q2," are you referring to the

10 June 2018 official MATS test?

11 A. That's correct.

12 Q. Would you please turn to your rebuttal

13 testimony, CLT-14CCT, and go to page 17, lines 8

14 through 9?

15 A. Okay.

16 Q. There you state that MDEQ imposed a

17 relatively minor eight percent circumstances penalty

18 in its final assessment, correct?

19 A. That's correct.

20 Q. Okay.

21 There's two exhibits that refer to the same

22 type of information. I'm going to refer you to CLT-6,

23 page 3. The other exhibit is CLT-15, but I just want

24 to refer to the chart. There's two charts.

25 A. Okay. I'm on CLT-6, page 3.

0060

1 Q. There's a solid line at 36 on the two graphs

2 on that page, and the line is labeled PM CAMS Plan, PM

3 CEMS Limit less than 36.

4 What does that line indicate?

5 A. So from my understanding, for the operator,

6 what they do is they set -- they set these bands on

7 these lines that -- what ends up happening is, through

8 the course of operation, if they approach and start to

9 approach these limits, there should be a conservative

10 value regarding the official PM MATS number.

11 So what they're doing is, it's almost kind of

12 like an alert or a warning, hey, if we're approaching

13 these, we might have some other issues before we

14 actually go into noncompliance.

15 I want -- I want to be clear on these lines,

16 though. There's something here that -- this isn't a

17 direct permit limit or something like that. What they

18 do with these, sometimes equipment's worn out, so

19 they'll move them. Sometimes they've been testing for

20 a long time. These can be adjusted by the operator to

21 where they feel it is appropriate to give them a

22 warning of another issue.

23 Q. So if -- I don't think this question is

24 confidential, but the companies will alert us, I

25 think.

0061

1 If the results went above that line, would

2 there be any consequence?

3 A. Not a -- officially, no. What they would do

4 is, they would let the MDEQ know, because -- MDEQ know

5 it's part of their CAM Plan. But on top of that, when

6 we're talking consequence, like, is there -- is there

7 something you're going to be in consequence, or is it

8 just information? Is it, like -- I'm trying to

9 understand what you mean by consequence. They

10 would -- they would obviously evaluate, and they

11 should be evaluating before it gets there as well.

12 Q. Okay.

13 So you stated that if -- if a result ended up

14 above that 36 line, they would let MDEQ know about

15 that, correct?

16 A. From my understanding, yes.

17 Q. But that wouldn't put them in forced outage

18 or a derate?

19 A. No.

20 Q. Does that line 36 correspond with -- with a

21 pound per MMBTU unit [sic]?

22 A. I don't have the units in front of me, but I

23 don't think it's a direct correlation. I have -- I

24 have to validate that. I don't have the units in

25 front of me.

0062

1 Q. All right.

2 Are you familiar with the operating permit

3 that's issued by MDEQ?

4 A. I could reference it. I couldn't recall it.

5 Q. An excerpt was provided in Mr. Robert's

6 testimony as Exhibit RG -- I just the lost it --

7 RJR-6. I don't know if you have a copy of that.

8 A. I don't have that, yeah. Well, actually, I --

9 I don't think I have RJR-6.

10 Q. Okay.

11 So your counsel just provided you with RJR-6.

12 If you could look at page 1. There's a chart under B,

13 which is titled Applicable Regulations, Emission

14 Limits and Monitoring Requirements.

15 Do you see that?

16 A. Yeah, I see it.

17 Q. Does the column entitled Emission Limits help

18 you answer whether the -- the line 36 correlates to a

19 pound per MBTU threshold?

20 A. With just this information here, I -- I

21 couldn't directly correlate this, yeah.

22 MS. GAFKEN: I think that's all I have for

23 the non-confidential portion of my questions.

24 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay. Thank you.

25 Any redirect?

0063

1 MS. MCDOWELL: No redirect, your Honor.

2 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay.

3 There are no bench questions at the

4 moment. We'll save those for a bench panel. So

5 Mr. Tack, please take a seat in the audience and we

6 will call you back up in a moment. Thank you.

7 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

8 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Let's turn now to

9 cross-examination questions, non-confidential

10 questions for Avista witnesses.

11 We'll start with Thomas Dempsey. Will you

12 please come forward and be sworn in. Will you please

13 stay standing and raise your right hand.

14

15 THOMAS DEMPSEY, witness herein, having been

16 first duly sworn on oath,

17 was examined and testified

18 as follows:

19

20 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Thank you. Please be

21 seated.

22 MR. MEYER: Mr. Dempsey will have one very

23 minor correction on one page that -- cite that I'll

24 provide.

25 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay.

0064

1 Mr. Meyer, please go ahead.

2 DIRECT EXAMINATION

3 BY MR. MEYER:

4 Q. For the record, would you please state your

5 name and your employer?

6 A. Thomas Dempsey, Avista Utilities.

7 Q. Thank you.

8 And have you prepared and pre-filed exhibits

9 that have been marked and introduced into evidence?

10 A. I have.

11 Q. Would you identify any corrections or

12 changes?

13 A. Yes, we have one correction, and it's in

14 Exhibit TCD-4, and it's on page 14 on lines 11 and 13.

15 The word MATS PM appears, and it should say RM5 PM in

16 both locations.

17 Q. So let's -- one more time, please, for those

18 who are still finding it. Just -- just pause for a

19 moment.

20 Okay. Try it -- try it again.

21 A. Page 14 of TCD-4T, on lines 11 and 13, the

22 word MATS should be replaced with RM5.

23 Q. So Mr. Dempsey, if I were to ask you the

24 questions that appear in your pre-filed and admitted

25 exhibit with that change having been made, would your

0065

1 answers be true and correct?

2 A. Yes.

3 MR. MEYER: With that, he's available for

4 cross-examination.

5 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Thank you.

6 Ms. Gafken, you may proceed with your

7 cross-examination.

8 MS. GAFKEN: Before I get into the

9 questions, the Public Counsel had identified an

10 exhibit for Mr. Johnson, and that exhibit has been

11 marked WGJ-4X. And after discussions with Mr. Meyer,

12 that exhibit is being redirected to Mr. Dempsey. So

13 that's where we'll start.

14 MR. MEYER: Mr. Dempsey, do you have that

15 before you?

16 THE WITNESS: I do. Did you say --

17 MS. GAFKEN: WGJ-4X.

18 THE WITNESS: Yes, I have that before me.

19 CROSS-EXAMINATION

20 BY MS. GAFKEN:

21 Q. And WGJ-4X is Avista's response to Public

22 Counsel Data Request No. 322, correct?

23 A. That is correct.

24 Q. In subsection A, Avista confirms that the

25 summer Colstrip outage is primarily the result of the

0066

1 MATS emission standard rather than efforts to reduce

2 emissions, correct?

3 A. That's correct.

4 Q. And in subsection B, Avista confirms that

5 testing would generally take place when generating

6 units are operating, correct?

7 A. That's correct.

8 MR. MEYER: Mr. Dempsey, would you move

9 your mic a little closer to you? Thank you.

10 BY MS. GAFKEN:

11 Q. And the Colstrip plant did not exceed the

12 MATS limits in February 2018, correct?

13 A. That's correct.

14 Q. This means that -- that Colstrip was not

15 required to shut down due to exceeding the MATS limits

16 and did not experience derate in the -- after the

17 February test, correct?

18 A. That's correct.

19 Q. Doesn't this mean that Colstrip could have

20 continued operating while troubleshooting took place

21 had such troubleshooting begun in the spring instead

22 of in the summer of 2018?

23 A. Yes. And they did begin diagtoc- --

24 diagnostic testing in February.

25 Q. And, again, we'll get into more of those

0067

1 details in the company confidential session.

2 A. Okay.

3 MS. GAFKEN: I think the rest of my

4 questions do pertain to the company confidential

5 session of the hearing, so I will pause here.

6 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Thank you.

7 Ms. McDowell and Mr. Kumar, any redirect?

8 MR. MEYER: That would be my witness.

9 JUDGE O'CONNELL: I apologize. Habit from

10 the first two, I guess. Apologies, Mr. Meyer.

11 MR. MEYER: I'm not sure how to take that.

12 MS. MCDOWELL: Neither am I.

13 MR. MEYER: But I don't, in answer to your

14 question.

15 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay. Well, I don't --

16 I don't feel as bad as I might then. Okay.

17 Well, no bench questions at this time.

18 We're going to call back up some witnesses for bench

19 questions, but for now, please take a seat in the

20 audience, Mr. Dempsey. Thank you.

21 So next, Mr. William Johnson, would you

22 please come forward to be sworn in. And will you

23 please stay standing and raise your right hand.

24 / / /

25 / / /

0068

1 WILLIAM JOHNSON, witness herein, having been

2 first duly sworn on oath,

3 was examined and testified

4 as follows:

5

6 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Please be seated.

7 Mr. Meyer, would you like to introduce and

8 qualify the witness, please.

9 MR. MEYER: Thank you. I'm glad to.

10 DIRECT EXAMINATION

11 BY MR. MEYER:

12 Q. Are you ready?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Okay. Thank you.

15 For the record, please state your name and

16 your employer.

17 A. William G. Johnson, and I'm employed by

18 Avista.

19 Q. And in what capacity?

20 A. I'm a wholesale marketing manager in the power

21 supply department.

22 Q. And did you cause to be prepared and filed

23 various exhibits that have already been identified and

24 marked and entered into the record?

25 A. Yes, I did.

0069

1 Q. Any changes or corrections?

2 A. No.

3 MR. MEYER: With that, I tender the

4 witness.

5 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay. Thank you.

6 Ms. Gafken, your cross-examination,

7 please.

8 MS. GAFKEN: I'm happy to say, I think

9 we'll get through all of this cross-examination

10 without having to go into the confidential portion of

11 the hearing.

12 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Thank you.

13 CROSS-EXAMINATION

14 BY MS. GAFKEN:

15 Q. Good morning, Mr. Johnson.

16 A. Good morning.

17 Q. In your initial testimony filed in

18 Avista's -- Avista's IRM Docket UE-190222, you

19 calculated the impact on Avista's net power costs

20 resulting from the summer 2018 Colstrip outage,

21 correct?

22 A. That's correct.

23 Q. And in your rebuttal testimony, you calculate

24 the impact of the outage on Avista's net power costs

25 to reflect arguments made by Commission Staff and

0070

1 Public Counsel, correct?

2 A. Could you repeat that?

3 Q. Sure.

4 So I'm referring to the rebuttal testimony

5 that you filed in the docket that we're here on today.

6 You recalculate the impact of the outage on Avista's

7 net power costs to reflect arguments made by

8 Commission Staff and Public Counsel, correct?

9 A. I recalculated to address Mr. Allison and

10 Gomez's suggestion that a spring outage would have

11 been less expensive. So I calculated a spring outage,

12 and took the delta from that from the summer outage to

13 come up with a new estimate of impact to power costs.

14 Q. Thank you. That's exactly what I was

15 referring to.

16 I'll go ahead and ask the next question. I

17 think you kind of anticipated it.

18 In particular, you reduced the incremental

19 costs incurred by the summer -- I'm sorry. You

20 reduced the incremental cost incurred in the summer of

21 2018 by your estimate of incremental power costs for a

22 similar outage had it occurred -- occurred in the

23 spring, correct?

24 A. That's correct.

25 Q. Would you please turn to your rebuttal

0071

1 testimony, which is Exhibit WGJ-2T, and go to page 2,

2 line 8?

3 A. Okay.

4 Q. There you characterize Staff and Public

5 Counsel's testimony as being that it would have been

6 better to take the outage or derate in the spring,

7 correct?

8 A. I took their suggestion in their testimony

9 that it would have been less expensive because of

10 typically lower power prices in the spring to have had

11 the outage occur in the spring.

12 Q. By outage/derate, do you mean to interpret

13 Staff and Public Counsel's position as being that

14 Colstrip would not be able to operate in the spring in

15 the same way that it was not able to operate in the

16 summer after the June test?

17 A. I simply wanted to address their issue that

18 spring prices are typically lower than summer prices,

19 and to try to quantify what that meant. So I took a

20 similar outage to the summer and just applied it to

21 the March and April months instead of July and August.

22 Q. Do you assume in your calculation that

23 Colstrip would have experienced an outage similar in

24 length and scope in the spring as to what actually

25 occurred in the summer?

0072

1 A. Like I just said, because I didn't want to

2 make this whole analysis any more hypothetical than it

3 already is, I assumed that it would be a magni- -- the

4 magnitude and duration of the outage would have

5 been -- would have been identical had it happened in

6 the spring as it did in the summer.

7 Q. If I were to ask you operations questions,

8 would you defer those to Mr. Dempsey?

9 A. Yes, I would.

10 Q. Okay.

11 Would you please turn to Cross-Exhibit

12 WGJ-4X, which is Avista's response to Public Counsel

13 Data Request No. 322?

14 A. I'm there.

15 Q. In subsection B, Avista confirms that testing

16 would generally take place when operating units -- or

17 I'm sorry -- when generating units are operating,

18 correct?

19 A. Correct.

20 MS. GAFKEN: I have no further questions

21 for Mr. Johnson.

22 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Mr. Meyer, any redirect?

23 MR. MEYER: I do. Thank you.

24 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay. Thank you. Go

25 ahead.

0073

1 REDIRECT EXAMINATION

2 BY MR. MEYER:

3 Q. I would like to just explore briefly two

4 areas. Let's begin with questioning around your

5 initial pre-filed testimony way back when our IRM

6 docket was started, and that has been marked as

7 WGJ-1T. And you don't have to turn to any particular

8 page there, because I know you're familiar with it.

9 But when the company made the filing, what

10 did the company estimate to be the net impact of the

11 Colstrip two-and-a-half-month outage to be on the IRM

12 entries for the entire calendar year of 2018?

13 A. For the entire year, we did -- we always do an

14 analysis of the impacts of every variation we have in

15 our IRM, and for the entire year, you'd have --

16 (Phone interruption in the

17 audience.)

18 BY MR. MEYER:

19 Q. Excuse me. Okay. Let's pick up where you

20 left off.

21 For the entire year, you were saying?

22 A. For the entire year, the Colstrip plant only

23 contributed an additional $209,000 of additional power

24 supply expense for the year, even despite the hiccup

25 in July and August.

0074

1 The plant ran better than expected for the

2 other months, so the impact for the entire calendar

3 year, which we usually evaluate the IRM, was $209,000

4 in the surcharge direction.

5 Q. All right.

6 And that includes any impact of the outage

7 that we're discussing here this morning?

8 A. That includes the impact of the outage in the

9 summer.

10 Q. Okay.

11 Now, that's a different number than, of

12 course, the -- do you recall what the replacement

13 power cost estimates were for Staff and yourself under

14 what you called a hypothetical analysis?

15 A. The hypothetical summer outage analysis was

16 roughly three-and-a-half million dollars. When you

17 adjusted out the spring, it was about $2.4 million.

18 Q. And you were asked about those analyses. And

19 why did you state in response to questioning that --

20 why did you characterize those as hypothetical?

21 A. Because they -- they're -- they're hindsight

22 estimates. They're not based on any actual booked

23 expenses. I mean, the IRM is about true, actual

24 booked expenses. And what we're doing here is kind of

25 going back and said [sic], well, if this wouldn't have

0075

1 happened, what might have been the booked expenses.

2 So you have to make a bunch of -- you have to

3 make some assumptions about what -- you know, how much

4 reduced generation there was, what the replacement

5 power cost was, and you're doing the hypothetical. I

6 mean, it has to be hypothetical.

7 Q. And in that hypothetical, did you take into

8 account the impact on market prices in the spring if

9 that much plant generation was taken out of service?

10 A. No, I didn't. And -- you know, I tried to

11 keep it as simple as possible and just do the same

12 identical analysis to the -- to the summer, because

13 that was the contention of Mr. Allison and Mr. Gomez,

14 that prices are lower and, yet, they were lower. So I

15 just tried to keep it as straightforward and simple as

16 possible, not try to add new assumptions or subjective

17 assumptions to make the whole thing even -- even

18 further from actuals.

19 Q. Last question.

20 So you don't place much stock in those

21 hypothetical calculations?

22 A. They're -- they're informational. They're --

23 they were provided as informational information.

24 They're not -- there's no identifiable booked expenses

25 in the IRM that you can identify these numbers, so

0076

1 they're -- they're informational is what I would

2 classify them as.

3 MR. MEYER: Okay. Thank you. That's all

4 I have.

5 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Thank you.

6 Ms. Gafken, recross?

7 MS. GAFKEN: I guess, actually, just one

8 question.

9 RECROSS-EXAMINATION

10 BY MS. GAFKEN:

11 Q. Mr. Johnson, you were talking with Mr. Meyer

12 about hypotheticals, and I understand that the spring

13 number is a hypothetical.

14 Do you characterize the summer estimate that

15 you had also included in your original testimony to be

16 a hypothetical number?

17 A. Well, it's hypothetical because we don't know

18 exactly what it cost. There's no line item that we

19 can identify. We didn't book expenses as this is

20 Colstrip replacement power. It's just part of our

21 system, so we're having to make assumptions about

22 what -- what the real impact of that was.

23 MS. GAFKEN: Okay. Thank you.

24 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Mr. Meyer, I don't think

25 there would be any redirect from that, but is there?

0077

1 MR. MEYER: There is not.

2 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay. Thank you.

3 Ms. Gafken, you had indicated perhaps

4 operational questions for Mr. Dempsey instead of

5 asking them of Mr. Johnson.

6 MS. GAFKEN: I already asked them.

7 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Oh, okay. I wanted to

8 make sure.

9 MS. GAFKEN: Thank you.

10 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay.

11 Mr. Johnson, we have no bench questions

12 for you, so thank you -- or one moment, please. So

13 thank you for your testimony. You're excused.

14 Or Ms. Gafken, I want to confirm, all of

15 your questions for Mr. Johnson were asked. You do not

16 have any company confidential questions for

17 Mr. Johnson for later?

18 MS. GAFKEN: That is correct.

19 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay. That's what I

20 wanted to make sure.

21 Thank you, Mr. Johnson.

22 Okay. Let's -- let's move on, then, to

23 Ronald Roberts from PSE. Please come forward and be

24 sworn in. Please remain standing and raise your right

25 hand.

0078

1 RONALD ROBERTS, witness herein, having been

2 first duly sworn on oath,

3 was examined and testified

4 as follows:

5

6 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Please sit.

7 And Ms. Barnett, would you like to

8 introduce and qualify the witness?

9 MS. BARNETT: Yes. Thank you.

10 DIRECT EXAMINATION

11 BY MS. BARNETT:

12 Q. Mr. Roberts, please state your name and title

13 and spell your name for the court reporter.

14 A. Make sure the mic is on, which it is not.

15 Is it on now?

16 Q. Yes.

17 A. Great.

18 Name is Ronald Roberts. That's R-O-B-E-R-T-S.

19 I'm the director of generation and natural gas storage

20 for Puget Sound Energy.

21 Q. Mr. Roberts, do you have before you what were

22 marked and entered as Exhibits RJR-1T through RJR-7?

23 A. I do.

24 Q. And do you have any corrections to any of

25 your exhibits or testimony at this time?

0079

1 A. I do not.

2 Q. Are your pre-filed direct and rebuttal

3 testimony and accompanying exhibits true and correct

4 to the best of your information and belief?

5 A. Yes, they are.

6 MS. BARNETT: Your Honor, PSE offers

7 Ronald Roberts for cross-examination at this time.

8 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay. Thank you.

9 Public Counsel has indicated

10 cross-examination. Ms. Gafken, please proceed.

11 MS. GAFKEN: Thank you.

12 CROSS-EXAMINATION

13 BY MS. GAFKEN:

14 Q. Good morning, Mr. Roberts.

15 A. Good morning -- well, good afternoon now, I

16 guess, so yes.

17 Q. You are correct.

18 I'm just confirming we're still in the

19 non-confidential portion of this.

20 Would you please turn to your rebuttal

21 testimony, Exhibit RJR-4CCT, and go to page 6?

22 A. Page 6, you said?

23 Q. Page 6.

24 A. Okay. I am there.

25 Q. And refer to lines 5 through 7.

0080

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. There you state that the elevated PM levels

3 shown in the February 2018 compliance tests were

4 within the range of historical variability, correct?

5 A. Correct.

6 Q. Would you please turn to Cross-Exhibit

7 RJR-8X?

8 A. Let me find that one. Hang on for a second.

9 Did you say 8? It's that one right in front of me,

10 yes.

11 Q. Cross-Exhibit RJR-8X is Puget Sound Energy's

12 response to Public Counsel Data Request No. 332,

13 correct?

14 A. Correct.

15 Q. In subsection A, the response states that the

16 February 2018 test indicated the highest PM emissions

17 rate for Unit 3 ever reported in an official MATS

18 compliance test up to that point, correct?

19 A. Correct.

20 Q. And subsection B confirms that the

21 February 2018 test indicated the highest PM emissions

22 rate for Unit 4 ever reported in an official MATS

23 compliance test up to that point, correct?

24 A. That is correct.

25 Q. Subsection C addresses the history of tests

0081

1 that you considered when you stated that the February

2 test results fell within the range of historical

3 variability, right?

4 A. That is correct. There are tests that were

5 done to measure particulate matter well before the PM

6 MATS. PM MATS is basically -- utilizes particulate

7 matter to -- as a surrogate for the MATS portion. So

8 Colstrip had been doing particulate testing for many,

9 many years under EPA guidelines.

10 Q. Mr. Roberts, you anticipated my next

11 question.

12 A. Oh, sorry.

13 Q. That's okay.

14 The last two lines of subsection C list

15 various historical test results for Units 3 and 4,

16 correct?

17 A. Correct.

18 Q. The high end of the example test results

19 listed there are unacceptably high for the MATS PM

20 compliance purposes, correct?

21 A. They are, but that was prior to MATS

22 compliance being a requirement.

23 Q. Understood.

24 Would you turn to your rebuttal testimony,

25 RJR-4CCT, and go to page 20?

0082

1 A. I'm there.

2 Q. You're faster than I am.

3 A. I had help.

4 Q. At lines 18 through 20, you testified that

5 MDEQ essentially stated that the operator was prudent

6 in its actions. Is that a correct characterization of

7 your testimony there?

8 A. Yes, it is.

9 Q. Would you please turn -- would you please

10 turn to Cross-Exhibit RJR-14X? RJR-14X is Puget Sound

11 Energy's response to Public Counsel Data Request 339,

12 correct?

13 A. That is correct.

14 Q. That response discusses the circumstances

15 that warrant an increase in the base penalty, correct?

16 A. It does.

17 MS. GAFKEN: I think most of my other

18 questions fall in the confidential portion of the

19 hearing.

20 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay. Thank you.

21 Ms. Barnett, do you have any redirect?

22 MS. BARNETT: Just a follow-up on this

23 same exhibit.

24 / / /

25 / / /

0083

1 REDIRECT EXAMINATION

2 BY MS. BARNETT:

3 Q. Mr. Roberts, what is your understanding of

4 the adjusted base penalty -- the maximum adjusted

5 base -- adjusted base penalty that MDEQ could apply?

6 A. The maximum under their guidelines is a

7 30 percent penalty to adjust off of the base.

8 Q. And how much did they apply in this case?

9 A. Eight percent.

10 MS. BARNETT: No further questions.

11 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Ms. Gafken, any recross

12 from what you heard?

13 MS. GAFKEN: No.

14 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay. Thank you.

15 Hold on one moment, Mr. Roberts.

16 (Discussion off the record.)

17 JUDGE O'CONNELL: All right.

18 Mr. Roberts, you're going to stay seated

19 there. We'd like to also ask Mr. Dempsey, Avista's

20 witness, and Mr. Tack, Pacific Power's witness, to

21 come join Mr. Roberts at the witness table, and we

22 have non-confidential bench questions that we'd like

23 to have the witnesses answer.

24 Welcome back. I'd like to remind you all

25 that you remain under oath. I'm going to start the

0084

1 questions from the bench.

2 Mr. Tack, I have a follow-up question on

3 something that you testified to. The 30-day rolling

4 average for determining the PM MATS results, how does

5 that 30-day rolling average, how does that work?

6 MR. TACK: So, from my understanding, what

7 they do is they take the official results from the

8 different testings on Unit 1, Unit 2, Unit 3, Unit 4,

9 they can average them out. But where it gets kinda

10 complex is, it is a rolling average.

11 So basically, kind of an analogy, I guess,

12 is, let's say you started January 1st, had a

13 January 30th result, when you hit January 31st, the

14 first day falls off -- you see what I'm saying -- for

15 that test. And it just kind of keeps rolling down.

16 But they take the overall site-wide

17 average, and that's how we have the official

18 compliance standard is to the site.

19 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay.

20 Can you explain to me, then, the

21 significance of having any particular date designated

22 for the -- the official test for any particular unit?

23 For example, let's take Quarter 1 for

24 the -- in 2018, for Unit 3 and 4. Those were on

25 different days. How does the 30-day average work when

0085

1 you have that one day where you're starting that

2 evaluation?

3 MR. TACK: We would have to do some math

4 on that, but I could tell you, there's no significance

5 to why they set them that way. A lot of times it's

6 resources. Just to go in and do the test, it's a

7 process. There's, you know, the maintenance staff,

8 operations staff, the formality of it. And that's

9 kind of why they offset them.

10 But we would have to go look at the actual

11 results to see -- there should be in the -- in the

12 rolling 30-day, you should have always that average

13 carryforward. I don't believe it's one that just

14 falls off like the test overall. It's an overall

15 average.

16 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Are there any

17 operational conditions that have to be factored into

18 that in those 30 days where some days drop off because

19 of operational factors?

20 MR. TACK: I don't want to speak to the

21 drop-off, but operational factors are extremely

22 important because the test is required to be run at

23 normal operating conditions, which is 90 to 110

24 percent power. They have to run the unit at that

25 load. So essentially, all the tests are apples to

0086

1 apples as they're rolling through.

2 They -- they don't want a lot of variance,

3 so they do have standards to operationally run those

4 units. But you wouldn't just drag it out to throw

5 your number down. That -- it doesn't work that way.

6 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay.

7 MR. TACK: So --

8 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Just to be clear,

9 so assuming that Units 1 and 2 were operating, because

10 they weren't operating at that time, and you take a

11 30-day rolling average for the site, and you started

12 with Unit 1 sometime in January, and you did Unit 2

13 and Unit 3 and Unit 4, so it's that one -- it's that

14 one test over the four units, each one test at each

15 unit over a 30-day period that you calculate, there's

16 no other test that you factor into that 30-day period,

17 right? It's just those --

18 MR. TACK: It's the official tests only is

19 what they factor into those results.

20 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Over the 30-day

21 rolling period?

22 MR. TACK: Um-hmm.

23 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: So for your Exhibit

24 CLT-7CC, and I don't think this is confidential

25 because I think Staff asked you questions about this,

0087

1 the very two top lines referring to February 7 and

2 February 14th, those were within a rolling 30-day

3 period, so that constituted the test, correct?

4 MR. TACK: They were, but from my

5 understanding, it's not like -- like you would always

6 have results from each plant in that quarter, so it's

7 not like one of these just falls off and it pulls the

8 limit down. They still average them. They use those

9 official results.

10 But, yes, these are the official from

11 those days --

12 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Right.

13 MR. TACK: -- that would have factored

14 into the overall result.

15 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: So within that

16 rolling 30-day period, these are the two points that

17 you would average within that 30- -- 30-day period?

18 MR. TACK: Correct, with the other two

19 units.

20 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: If they were

21 operating?

22 MR. TACK: I'm pretty sure, yeah, if they

23 were -- and I -- I don't know their status at that

24 time, Unit 1 and 2.

25 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: All right. Thank

0088

1 you.

2 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Thank you, Mr. Tack.

3 Let's -- we have other questions.

4 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Yeah, I have more,

5 just -- not just that one.

6 Okay. So, actually, for Mr. Dempsey,

7 something that came up in your cross, I just want to

8 clarify with you.

9 So in your testimony, your rebuttal

10 testimony, TCD-4T, do you have that?

11 MR. DEMPSEY: I do, yes.

12 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Okay.

13 And you made a correction to your

14 testimony on page 14 that removed the acronym MATS and

15 replaced RM5?

16 MR. DEMPSEY: That's correct.

17 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Okay.

18 So if you look at page 18 of your

19 testimony, it also refers to an acronym of MATS RM5.

20 MR. DEMPSEY: That's correct, yes.

21 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Is that different

22 from RM5 PM?

23 MR. DEMPSEY: Yes, it is. RM stands for

24 Reference Method 5. It's an EPA-specified test used

25 for compliance with particulate regulations. And so

0089

1 particulate testing -- Reference Method 5 testing has

2 been conducted for many years. In 20'6, that same

3 testing was then -- it was used for compliance not

4 only with particulate matter emissions themselves, but

5 as a surrogate to estimate non-mercury metal

6 emissions.

7 So when I said MATS RM5 in the testimony,

8 I'm referring to that test that -- an RM5 test that

9 happened during the period in which MATS was also in

10 effect, which would have been used for particulate

11 compliance and MATS compliance.

12 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Okay. Thank you

13 for that clarification.

14 Okay. So continuing with you,

15 Mr. Dempsey, and I'm assuming if there's any answer to

16 my question that is confidential, just let me know and

17 then we'll reserve that to the confidential portion of

18 the hearing, but I hope that this won't generate a

19 confidential answer.

20 MR. DEMPSEY: Okay.

21 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: When the February

22 Quarter 1 2018 PM MATS test -- or is that actually the

23 RM5 MATS test? Is that what I should call it?

24 MR. DEMPSEY: It's both. If you're

25 talking about February 2018, it was an RM5 test that

0090

1 was used for MATS as well as particulate matter

2 compliance.

3 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Okay.

4 So referring to that test, when it was

5 conducted, and then immediately thereafter, were there

6 any red flags that went up for you or for Avista?

7 MR. DEMPSEY: So the February -- the

8 February MATS compliance test was conducted on those

9 two days, and I don't have those two dates in front of

10 me. The -- Talen -- we had an owner and operations

11 meeting in February of 2018. I was not at that

12 meeting at Colstrip. We did not have an Avista

13 representative at that meeting, which is when they

14 raised it with the ownership group.

15 In 15 years of being the Colstrip rep, and

16 preparation for it, that is the only meeting I know of

17 missing, but they did raise that issue with the

18 ownership in February of 2018.

19 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: So was there no

20 other Avista representative at the meeting?

21 MR. DEMPSEY: Not for that February 2018

22 meeting, that's correct.

23 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay.

24 So Mr. Dempsey, as to the Q1 PM MATS test

25 results, if no Avista representative was at that O&O

0091

1 committee meeting, when did Avista become aware of

2 the -- the MATS results from the Q1?

3 MR. DEMPSEY: I did participate in the

4 March 2018 meeting. I don't specifically recall the

5 discussion there, although it has been testified by

6 others that they did give an update on those results

7 that were seen in February of 2018.

8 It's my understanding they were in

9 compliance, and that the indications and operational

10 indicators that were looked into and evaluated did not

11 reflect any anomalous operation; in fact, those

12 indicators had been declining.

13 So the update would have been that -- that

14 things were improving, so I --

15 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Well --

16 MR. DEMPSEY: -- I don't specifically

17 recall when I learned of the February MATS results.

18 JUDGE O'CONNELL: So I'm curious just

19 about the official MATS results and -- I mean, it's a

20 public information test, and it's been disclosed in

21 RJR-3, and it's, you know, in discussion this morning

22 that those official test results are non-confidential.

23 I'm just curious, shouldn't you, as a

24 co-owner, know about the PM MATS results as soon as

25 that test gets taken?

0092

1 MR. DEMPSEY: Those -- those tests are

2 filed publicly, and we have that available to us.

3 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: So when did you

4 know about them?

5 MR. DEMPSEY: As I said, I don't

6 specifically recall when I -- when we learned of the

7 test results. They had passed. It wouldn't be

8 something that was brought to my attention if it -- if

9 it -- you know, when the test failed in Q2, I knew

10 immediately. But in Q1, with the results passing, I

11 didn't become aware of them for a while. I was in New

12 Zealand so --

13 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay.

14 So to follow up on the Commissioner's

15 first question then, the test result came back

16 at .030, and there were no red flags being raised at

17 Avista because of that test result because you would

18 have known, I'm assuming, right away if there were red

19 flags?

20 MR. DEMPSEY: If they had failed the test,

21 they might have called us all immediately. Well, I'm

22 sure they would have, because it would be required to

23 shut down the units as they did for -- as they did in

24 Q2.

25 We weren't at that meeting. I did not

0093

1 receive, that I can recall, any communication that

2 they had passed but were close to the limit.

3 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Okay. Thank you.

4 So Mr. Roberts, were you at the owner and

5 operators meeting when they disclosed the --

6 MR. ROBERTS: No, I was not, but I did

7 have two representatives at that meeting. So we were

8 aware of it in February that they were nearing

9 compliance limits.

10 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: And so for your

11 folks that were there, when they came back, did that

12 give you any red flags --

13 MR. ROBERTS: It certainly --

14 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: -- about the

15 operations?

16 MR. ROBERTS: It certainly raised a

17 concern that they were close to the limit. At that

18 point, Talen had presented a plan for the things that

19 they were going to look at in terms of the alternative

20 measures.

21 It's much like anything in a -- in a plant

22 troubleshooting environment, if you have an indication

23 that something is wrong, you need to go figure out, is

24 it real, first of all, and second, you need to look at

25 all the other parameters around that to find out if

0094

1 there's any data that might indicate that the reading

2 was false. And Talen had a plan for doing that, and

3 proceeded to do that after the February test.

4 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: So did they

5 communicate that to you as a -- as a co-owner?

6 MR. ROBERTS: At the owners meetings, they

7 started to communicate the plan, but there was an

8 email later, and I don't remember the exact date, that

9 they had sent out with a plan that they were following

10 to look at that.

11 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Okay. And I

12 believe that's in the record.

13 MR. ROBERTS: Yes.

14 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: So did you -- after

15 that owner-operator meeting and the email from the

16 operator, did you consider or discuss with any others

17 at the company about having a contingency plan for if

18 the emissions continued to be high, or if the limit

19 was exceeded?

20 MR. ROBERTS: We did not discuss a plan

21 like that, because at that point in time, all the

22 indications that we had from Talen that they were

23 supplying to us was that they were not going to have

24 compliance issues at the Q2 test.

25 So at that point, we were relying somewhat

0095

1 on the information supplied by the operator, who's

2 been running that facility for 40 years, that they did

3 not see a problem based off of the indicators that

4 they had from the other alternative methods to look at

5 emissions.

6 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: So you didn't see a

7 need after that owner-operator meeting, and after the

8 test, to talk to the trading floor at Avista about

9 hedging or any other -- other contingency in the event

10 there was a failure?

11 MR. ROBERTS: I think I'd be in trouble if

12 I talked to Avista's trade floor, but no --

13 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Probably would.

14 MR. ROBERTS: -- I didn't do that. No, we

15 did not talk to the trade floor about that as a -- as

16 an issue.

17 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Thank you. Okay.

18 So Mr. Tack, so you were at the

19 owner-operator meeting when they disclosed the results

20 of the February test, correct?

21 MR. TACK: Correct.

22 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Okay.

23 So did it raise any red flags for you?

24 MR. TACK: Yes.

25 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Okay.

0096

1 So did you, after this, consider or

2 discuss with others at PacifiCorp any contingency

3 plans for if the emissions continued to be high, or if

4 the limit was exceeded?

5 MR. TACK: So from my conversations with

6 Talen, I was comfortable with the direction and the

7 results and the alternate indications, so I didn't go

8 back and talk to marketing. But I went back and asked

9 lots of questions of my own experts to ensure what

10 they were telling me was the accurate approach and the

11 right direction.

12 So we definitely discussed it and talked,

13 you know, overall what's going on. But, again, with

14 the information given from Talen, I was extremely

15 comfortable.

16 And if you don't mind, I want to give a

17 little bit of why I'm so biased to this and I

18 understand it so well.

19 I hold a senior reactor operator license

20 in nuclear power where I was an operator for

21 approximately eight years, and it is considered the

22 gold standard of operations. For two years, alls

23 [sic] we did was train, so I pick up on a lot of these

24 things pretty fast.

25 I was not concerned because they were

0097

1 within compliance, but I went over and I talked to

2 them and said, what do we do -- what do we got going

3 here? We're in compliance, but what are we going to

4 do moving forward?

5 So that was the best approach to me. And

6 when I listened to them, and they talked about the

7 alternate indicators, how the plant's looking, the

8 scrubber, the boiler, they were ready, they were

9 prepared. They knew what was going on. Like not the

10 actual event, but they knew what to do from an

11 operational practice to proceed forward, so I was

12 comfortable with that.

13 Am I going too fast?

14 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: You're talking very

15 fast, and the court reporter can't take it all down.

16 MR. TACK: Sorry. I apologize.

17 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: So you're going to

18 have to -- do you need him to repeat any of that?

19 THE COURT REPORTER: No.

20 MR. TACK: I'm pretty passionate about it,

21 so --

22 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Okay. So just

23 think slow.

24 MR. TACK: Okay. Okay. So we'll go back.

25 So back at the senior reactor operator

0098

1 license, which is, again, considered the gold standard

2 in operations, for two years, alls [sic] we're trained

3 to do is to catch up on other parameters, alternate

4 indicators, what -- I apologize.

5 THE COURT REPORTER: Keep going.

6 MR. TACK: Okay.

7 Basically, what is the plant telling me?

8 What -- what do we got going on here? You got to

9 remember, these aren't just a simple vehicle. This is

10 a massive, acres and acres of equipment, thousands of

11 pieces of components, different indications. So it

12 takes time to look into these, but you know your plant

13 as an operator.

14 So when I look at these guys and I talk to

15 them and I ask them what they're doing, they

16 understand these different parameters. What are we

17 seeing over here? What are we seeing over here? They

18 were beyond confident that they were okay. Everything

19 that told me it was an anomalous test.

20 It had been elevated. It brought concern.

21 Let's go monitor, let's go see what we're doing here,

22 and 100 percent in line with what I would have done

23 with my experience as well.

24 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Okay. Thank you.

25 So -- so Mr. Roberts, did you ask similar

0099

1 questions of the company after the February results

2 and the owner-operator meeting?

3 MR. ROBERTS: Our owners' reps did ask

4 similar questions about what is the plan, what are you

5 looking at, are you seeing things that are going on,

6 and, yes, similar questions.

7 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: And is there

8 documentation in the record about those?

9 MR. ROBERTS: No. No. Commissioner,

10 those are typically operational discussions.

11 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: I'm sorry. You

12 don't have a mic in front of you.

13 MR. ROBERTS: I'm sorry.

14 No, there was no documentation of that.

15 These are more phone calls, conversations, they're

16 operational in nature, which operational things happen

17 in realtime. And a lot of these things are just quick

18 phone calls, hey, what are you seeing here, what --

19 what kinds of things are you doing.

20 We don't go through formal documentation

21 of every operational issue that happens at a facility

22 or we would never operate a facility because there

23 would be so much to do with that. So when there's

24 normal courses of things happening, those are quick

25 decisions that are made and quick phone calls to

0100

1 update people.

2 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: So would you call

3 this normal operations, what was going on in February?

4 MR. ROBERTS: I would. You know, they had

5 an elevated test reading, it was not out of

6 compliance, and it was anomalous. It was a -- one

7 bump up.

8 And I think, in my opinion, you know, and

9 having been the manager of power generation and the

10 operations manager at Colstrip, I have a pretty good

11 history and knowledge of both the people there, as

12 well as the equipment. And in my opinion, at that

13 point, this was kind of a one-off, we better look and

14 see and make sure we understand what's going on. And

15 I have confidence in the people there that were doing

16 that.

17 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Okay. Thank you.

18 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Mr. Tack, about your

19 communication with Talen, you -- you said that there

20 were red flags going up for you after you heard about

21 the February test, that you did follow up with Talen

22 and had many conversations.

23 Do you have any documentation in the email

24 trail showing that you had these conversations with

25 Talen during that time period?

0101

1 MR. TACK: So specific, those

2 conversations, no. Do we have emails of things that

3 back up what we discussed? Yes, that are -- we'll

4 talk about. I guess they're confidential.

5 But remember this too. When I'm in that

6 room, I feel like I'm one of the best when it comes to

7 the operators, the way I've been trained, right? So

8 when these things are talking to me [sic], I

9 completely understand it.

10 And this is just one issue. You gotta

11 remember, they might have been talking about a

12 transformer over here that's elevated, a feed pump

13 over here. These are just things that they pick up to

14 me because it was elevated.

15 I wasn't concerned because we were in

16 compliance. If they would have said we were out of

17 compliance, it's a different story. Hey, we're

18 elevated. Where's our next step going? Where are we

19 gonna be, and how do we know we're gonna get there?

20 That's -- that's kind of the process, and that's why I

21 was comfortable with it.

22 And that's -- again, but you don't -- you

23 don't write those things down because there's --

24 there's so many of them, and it is operational, it's

25 dynamic. And from my experience, 99 out of 100 times,

0102

1 it turns down at the next point.

2 I sat in a control room for years, and

3 I've watched spikes all the time on random equipment.

4 You don't jump on it. You sit back, you look at other

5 parameters, you gotta understand what's going on. It

6 happens all the time.

7 Noise, instrumentation, somebody walks by,

8 there's a lot of things there that it makes sense to

9 kind of step back, what do we have going on big

10 picture. This point could be anomalous.

11 So we just -- that -- that's basically

12 their approach, which I fully understand. So that's

13 kind of why there's, I guess, no official writing from

14 me, but there is emails from them.

15 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay. Thank you.

16 COMMISSIONER BALASBAS: All right.

17 I'd like to turn to the alternative

18 indicators or measures. And I'm going to ask a series

19 of questions, and as my colleague indicated earlier,

20 if your answer is covering confidential information, I

21 will reserve the question to the confidential portion

22 of today's session.

23 So Mr. Dempsey, I'm going to start with

24 you. So my first question is, in between official

25 PM -- PM MATS stack testing, how does the operator

0103

1 customarily monitor the emissions of the plant to

2 ensure compliance with the next official test?

3 MR. DEMPSEY: So the permit has within it

4 a PM CAM Plan that identifies various alternative

5 indicators that are used to monitor that are

6 correlated with PM emissions and allow them to -- to

7 gauge the performance of the unit when it's operating

8 at all different levels, when it is in steady state

9 and parked at high load. These are -- these are

10 continuously monitored all the time.

11 COMMISSIONER BALASBAS: And so after the

12 February 2018 test, and in March and again in April,

13 what, if anything, did Avista inquire as to what was

14 being done in addition to those measures?

15 MR. DEMPSEY: As I have -- as I have

16 testified earlier, I don't recall specifically being

17 told the results of the -- the Q1 test.

18 However, having the discussions and

19 looking back, they -- they looked at the PM CEMS, the

20 opacity, plumb bob DP, other -- I think those are --

21 there's one other that I'm missing here, but other

22 factors to -- to kind of gauge the performance of the

23 unit.

24 They also did some additional diagnostic

25 things, like burner tilts, other just boiler

0104

1 operations-type activities.

2 COMMISSIONER BALASBAS: So did you or

3 anyone else at Avista recommend to Talen or other

4 co-owners any additional monitoring or testing in

5 addition to the things that you just discussed?

6 MR. DEMPSEY: No, we did not.

7 COMMISSIONER BALASBAS: Okay.

8 So Mr. Roberts, I'm going to ask you the

9 same series of questions here. So would you add

10 anything to Mr. Dempsey's response about what the

11 operator would customarily do to monitor emissions for

12 the next upcoming test?

13 MR. ROBERTS: I would just add that,

14 again, kind of a little bit off of what Chuck had said

15 earlier, Colstrip is an incredibly complex machine. I

16 think the boiler operations and the scrubber

17 operations are inherently high priorities in terms of

18 making sure that the unit remains in compliance.

19 There was a lot of discussion on burners,

20 coal quality, scrubber operations throughout that time

21 period. So I would just add that it is not a -- a

22 very simple thing to look at a boiler that size and --

23 and come up with something.

24 So Talen, I think, in my opinion, did a

25 pretty reasonable job, so we didn't need to add

0105

1 anything to what they were doing.

2 COMMISSIONER BALASBAS: And so -- so then,

3 did you inquire as to anything done in addition in the

4 February, March or April time frame?

5 MR. ROBERTS: In the March and April time

6 frame, there were continued discussions on what they

7 were looking at from a troubleshooting standpoint, and

8 I don't have exact details of that.

9 COMMISSIONER BALASBAS: Okay.

10 So you did not, then -- I think you just

11 stated this, but you did not, then, recommend anything

12 to Talen or any of the other co-owners to anything in

13 addition to what was already being done?

14 MR. ROBERTS: Not at that point, no.

15 COMMISSIONER BALASBAS: Okay. Thank you.

16 So Mr. Tack, I will turn to you now for

17 the first question of how the operator would

18 customarily monitor the emissions for the next

19 upcoming test, and is there anything you would add to

20 Mr. Dempsey and Mr. Roberts' responses?

21 MR. TACK: Just -- just kind of overall in

22 general, they have the CAM plan. So they've got three

23 good indicators over here, we've got kind of an

24 anomalous point over here, and on top of that, the

25 operators are out checking scrubber performance,

0106

1 boiler performance, something they see every day.

2 How's it looking? Do we see anything odd? Everything

3 looked okay.

4 So that operator was going through that.

5 The actual details of it, that's -- that's up to the

6 operator. They gotta feel that out in dynamic time.

7 Where do I see my challenges? Is there something I'm

8 concerned about?

9 So -- I know. I'm going too fast for her.

10 So to slow down and let her catch up here.

11 So basically, they went through, we talked

12 about that at the February. In March when I saw them

13 again, how we looking? How do we feel? We feel okay.

14 Our plant's looking good. Our CAM Plan, our old --

15 our parameters, they look good. They were trending

16 down, if anything. We feel comfortable with the

17 direction the plant is going, and that's how it kept

18 moving forward.

19 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Mr. Tack, it's the speed

20 with which you are speaking regularly that is causing

21 the trouble for the court reporter, not the speed

22 quickly and then allow time for her to catch up. It's

23 the constant flow that makes it challenging. So

24 just -- we'd like to be conscious --

25 MR. TACK: I'll do my best to slow down.

0107

1 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Thank you.

2 COMMISSIONER BALASBAS: So Mr. Tack, then,

3 you or anyone at Pacific Power did not recommend any

4 additional things to Talen or the other co-owners to

5 do to monitor the emissions other than what was -- has

6 already been mentioned?

7 MR. TACK: No. I was comfortable with the

8 direction they were going. There was no further

9 recommendation. Every indication they gave me, we

10 were comfortable, and there was enough data points to

11 be comfortable, but nothing else. What they were

12 doing was the right direction.

13 COMMISSIONER BALASBAS: Okay.

14 So this next question is for all three of

15 you, and, again, I will start with Mr. Dempsey.

16 So when an official in-stack test reading

17 is high, what is the industry standard practice or

18 view for relying on the alternative measures or

19 indicators?

20 MR. DEMPSEY: So the -- the EPA Reference

21 Method 5 test is the only test that's actually

22 sanctioned for determining compliance. The -- the PM

23 CEMS equipment, for example, the opacity indication,

24 those types of tools are usually dia- -- diagnostic

25 tools. They're not used to directly calculate the --

0108

1 the pound per million BTU compliance emissions.

2 Now, what is specifically done for

3 Colstrip in this case is, each quarter, they're

4 required to take a look at the results from the RM5

5 test, the official compliance test. They have to

6 compare -- they have to compare their PM CEMS

7 indications, and if it falls within a specific

8 tolerance, they can then use those indications as they

9 are to continue and assure compliance going forward.

10 If, as in the case, for example, Q2 of

11 2018, they completely failed to correlate, they are

12 required to recalibrate and retest with five -- with I

13 believe five tests, and reestablish a correlation

14 between those alternative indicators and the test.

15 So they have to check the validity of

16 those alternative indicators on a quarterly basis, and

17 that report is a public document and -- and -- and out

18 there for review, and I -- I base some of my analysis

19 that maybe is in the confidential section on that.

20 COMMISSIONER BALASBAS: Okay.

21 Mr. Roberts, same question as I just asked

22 Mr. Dempsey. Would you like me to repeat it?

23 MR. ROBERTS: No, I think I can --

24 COMMISSIONER BALASBAS: Okay.

25 MR. ROBERTS: -- I can go from there.

0109

1 I think industry best practice when you

2 see any elevated reading, whether it's an

3 environmental parameter or whether it's a pump that's

4 running hotter than normal, is the same process. And

5 it's the, look at the reading, go back, and try and

6 verify through alternate methods, is it real or not.

7 And also look at the conditions around that to see if

8 it's still operating within reasonable terms, and if

9 everything is still functioning properly.

10 I think industry best practice is to take

11 that approach rather than to slam everything down just

12 because you get an elevated blip. That's just not how

13 things are done. It's a troubleshooting process, and

14 the unit, frankly, needs to be online to troubleshoot.

15 COMMISSIONER BALASBAS: Okay. Thank you.

16 Mr. Tack, would you add anything to

17 Mr. Dempsey or Mr. Roberts' answers?

18 MR. TACK: Not specifically, but in

19 general, you know, it's -- like they said, it's -- you

20 can't chase momentary blips. Whether it's an official

21 test or not, you can't. You'll get yourself in

22 trouble.

23 And -- and if we would have -- let's just

24 say we believed in that indication and shut down, I

25 believe the outage would have went significantly

0110

1 longer than it did.

2 All that troubleshooting, all the

3 information gathered over those next few months into

4 June was a huge asset to that operator when it came

5 time when they actually didn't pass. They had tons of

6 information, things they'd been chasing, so they were

7 way out ahead of the game when the official thing

8 came.

9 If they would have went down and wanted to

10 go down, it's not the right direction. So what they

11 did is appropriate, and it gathered a lot of valuable

12 information over the next couple months.

13 COMMISSIONER BALASBAS: All right.

14 So my last question, again, will be to all

15 three of you, and I will start again back with

16 Mr. Dempsey. Do you believe that the alternative

17 measures and the actions taken here were enough given

18 that the February 2018 test was right at the

19 compliance limit?

20 MR. DEMPSEY: I do. And in particular, I

21 do because they followed the permit as written, and

22 with regards to compliance monitoring, again, to

23 reiterate Chuck's point about anomalous indications.

24 One thing I want to call out is that the

25 elevated Q1 result in 2018, the PM CEMS indication was

0111

1 elevated in the same way from the prior quarter. So

2 they didn't have any reason, given the information at

3 the time, to believe those alternative indicators

4 weren't accurate.

5 COMMISSIONER BALASBAS: So do you believe,

6 then, that any extraordinary actions were taken in

7 response to the February 2018 PM test?

8 MR. DEMPSEY: Well, certainly,

9 extraordinary actions were taken. They -- they did

10 see a result that was higher than expected. They

11 didn't -- they began diagnostics even though, you

12 know, it was a momentarily blip up. There had been a

13 similar blip up three quarters plier -- three quarters

14 prior on one of the units.

15 They began to take diagnostic action, look

16 at -- the plant manager sent an email around to his

17 operations team asking them to look at a variety of

18 parameters that would -- that might contribute to the

19 higher result. I've opened that here. It's in the

20 CLT-5CC, and I can't -- is this a confidential --

21 MR. MEYER: It's confidential probably.

22 MR. DEMPSEY: Okay. We'll -- we'll take

23 that to the confidential section, then, if that's

24 okay.

25 COMMISSIONER BALASBAS: All right.

0112

1 So Mr. Roberts, I will turn to you now,

2 same question. Do you believe that the alternative

3 measures are enough when you were right at the -- or

4 when the plant was right at the edge of compliance?

5 MR. ROBERTS: I do feel that they are.

6 COMMISSIONER BALASBAS: And, again, any --

7 do you believe that extraordinary actions were taken

8 in response to that?

9 MR. ROBERTS: I do believe that they took

10 appropriate actions to look at all the other

11 conditions that could have affected that result, so I

12 think they took the appropriate actions.

13 COMMISSIONER BALASBAS: But you would not

14 consider those actions extraordinary?

15 MR. ROBERTS: I guess it's in a

16 definitional thing. Extraordinary in that it was

17 different than what they typically looked at, and

18 after a good test, I would say yes. But in reality, I

19 think they were doing their job, which is to try and

20 figure out, is this real or not.

21 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay.

22 COMMISSIONER BALASBAS: And then,

23 Mr. Tack, your turn to respond to the same questions.

24 MR. TACK: So I kind of have kind of --

25 this is extremely complex, and I want to kind of talk

0113

1 about something else and why it's so important to use

2 alternate indicators.

3 Let's assume that it failed accurate.

4 Let's assume it failed at quite a bit below the limit,

5 but my alternate indicators are all trending up.

6 That's -- it's the same thing vice versa. I don't

7 just trust it.

8 If this is my compliance point, even

9 though I could go tell MDEQ, oh, look, we're okay,

10 I've got another indication over here telling me I've

11 got a problem, that's why it's so important to use so

12 many different parameters.

13 And when it comes to extraordinary, it is

14 in the definition, but they did what I expected. If I

15 would have stood up there and they would have said,

16 oh, we're elevated, we're okay, I would have been

17 bothered by it. But the fact that they were going

18 after it, challenging it, evaluating more points tells

19 me they're taking operational direction. This is

20 important to them. Let's go see what's going on.

21 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: So I'm going to

22 turn a little bit of a different direction. I'm going

23 to ask a few questions about in-stack testing. I know

24 most of them are confidential, but I think the ones

25 I'm going to ask you are not, but you can tell me if

0114

1 I'm wrong.

2 Okay. Starting with you, Mr. Dempsey, if

3 you turn to your testimony, TCD-4T at page 18, lines

4 11 through 19.

5 MR. DEMPSEY: I'm there.

6 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Okay.

7 So this is talking about the operating

8 conditions for the formal in-stack test, correct, for

9 the RMS [sic] MATS test?

10 MR. DEMPSEY: Yes, the EPA formal complete

11 test, yes.

12 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Okay.

13 So what does the -- the load need to be

14 for an in-stack test, or the operating conditions?

15 MR. DEMPSEY: In terms of specific

16 megawatts, I don't know that exactly. This -- my

17 testimony says 90 percent here.

18 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Okay.

19 So it has to be greater than 90 percent is

20 what I read.

21 MR. DEMPSEY: That's my understanding,

22 yes.

23 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Okay.

24 So -- and you also identify that, on lines

25 13 and 14, that there's specific requirements for

0115

1 releasing -- the companies have to release dispatch

2 control, too, for these tests, correct?

3 MR. DEMPSEY: That's correct. The -- the

4 operators at the plant need to park the unit at a

5 steady load, and it can't be moved around following

6 wind or just the general daily load patterns of the

7 companies.

8 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Okay.

9 So you've released your dispatch control

10 to Talen not to follow your load?

11 MR. DEMPSEY: That's correct. And we're

12 still receiving our share of the generation, and we

13 have to work around that with our other assets to meet

14 our load requirements.

15 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Okay.

16 So these are the official test

17 requirements. Are these the same requirements for an

18 official test, the EPA test, and an unofficial

19 in-stack test that the operator might do on its own?

20 MR. DEMPSEY: So I would say -- and, you

21 know, I'm not a -- I'm not a testing expert, I will

22 preface that, but, you know, with respect to their own

23 diagnostic approach, I would imagine that they would

24 probably try to catch it at the same situation,

25 although it might not have the same rigor. It might

0116

1 not be the average of three tests.

2 But if I was testing, I would try to --

3 try to mimic the conditions to get the most indicative

4 I could. But it's not prescribed and have to be that

5 way. They may find that they're getting good, or at

6 least valuable diagnostic information from testing at

7 a different load.

8 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: So the operator

9 would not need to tell you, an owner, for an

10 unofficial test, to release dispatch control?

11 MR. DEMPSEY: I would say not necessarily.

12 They might request it. They might contact our

13 marketing group and say, hey, you know, we want to

14 park it at 600 megawatts to do some diagnostic

15 testing, and they would contact everybody individually

16 and ask them for permission to do that if they wanted

17 that -- that level.

18 I would say that they wouldn't necessarily

19 have to. Colstrip, depending on the time of year,

20 will run at full load pretty -- pretty reliably, and

21 they could do that test without necessarily contacting

22 if they -- presumably.

23 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: So moving from a

24 hypothetical to what happened after February, would it

25 be confidential if I were to ask you whether you

0117

1 received a request from Talen to release dispatch

2 control?

3 MR. DEMPSEY: Well, I'm not sure whether

4 it's confidential or not, but I -- I don't have that

5 information. That -- that would have been something

6 that was directed to our marketing group directly, and

7 I'm not necessarily in the loop on that.

8 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Okay.

9 Would that be a question Mr. Johnson could

10 answer in confidential session?

11 MR. DEMPSEY: I don't think so.

12 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Okay.

13 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Mr. Dempsey, is -- those

14 requests, these hypothetical requests, if they were to

15 ask for the release of dispatch control, would there

16 be documentation of that? Confidentially or not

17 confidentially, is it something that there would be an

18 email or an official request for, or is it just a

19 phone call?

20 MR. DEMPSEY: Yeah, so phone call

21 communications with our marketing group, I believe,

22 are all recorded, so there would be a record of that.

23 When -- so let -- so let me be clear on -- on

24 communications, like, for an official quarterly test.

25 That would come out in an email. It would

0118

1 be -- it would be directed to our marketing group. I

2 would be copied on that. The marketing groups from

3 the companies, it's my understanding, they -- they

4 could be presented with alternatives and they could

5 vote, and then they -- there would be an announcement

6 of the time, and so I would see that. I'm not the one

7 responding to it or approving it, but I would see it.

8 With respect to an ad hoc test, if they

9 contacted our marketing group, that would be a

10 recorded phone call, and emails, of course, are kept

11 as well.

12 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Okay. Thank you.

13 I'm going to move on to Mr. Roberts. So

14 this is the way this is going to go. We're going to

15 ask you guys these questions individually so you get

16 the benefit of hearing Mr. Dempsey first.

17 So do you agree with Mr. Dempsey's

18 testimony about the conditions that are required for

19 the official test?

20 MR. ROBERTS: I do. They have to be

21 between 90 percent and 110 percent of load. So yes, I

22 agree with Thomas's --

23 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: And PSE would have

24 to release dispatch control?

25 MR. ROBERTS: That is true.

0119

1 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: And there would be

2 an official record of that?

3 MR. ROBERTS: There is.

4 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Okay.

5 So is it the same for an official test and

6 an unofficial test?

7 MR. ROBERTS: I would answer that as a

8 hypothetical, that it could be handled different ways

9 depending on the time of year. Obviously, if it's

10 done in the summer or the deep of winter when a unit

11 is already running at full load, it's likely that the

12 operator could go in and do an informal test without

13 us relinquishing control.

14 If it's done at a period of time when the

15 market is down and the units aren't fully dispatched,

16 that might be a different story, where we would need

17 to give input on that. Because any time we raise load

18 when it's lower, it's -- it's not in the money for a

19 reason, and we aren't running it at load, so those --

20 those decisions would go through our trade floor.

21 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Okay.

22 And the same questions for you, Mr. Tack.

23 Do you concur that the conditions that Mr. Dempsey has

24 described in his testimony here today, that those are

25 the conditions for running the official test?

0120

1 MR. TACK: Yes. There are -- there are

2 requirements like he listed for running an official

3 MATS PM test.

4 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Okay.

5 And in your experience, are those the same

6 conditions for an official test or an unofficial

7 in-stack test?

8 MR. TACK: No, they can change them

9 around. So you can do them lined up with the plant,

10 which is what these guys are talking about, but you

11 can also do them with lower load as well.

12 These are -- so -- so to kind of give a

13 little bit of a -- like a teaching on this, the -- the

14 official MATS PM is three different points that they

15 do these tests and then they average them.

16 An in-stack test, they can do at any time.

17 They can go in, they can do it right now, they can do

18 it at low load. They're going to try and correlate,

19 but it's about diagnostic and troubleshooting.

20 Like Thomas said, and Ron did, in a

21 perfect situation, you'd be up there, the same

22 conditions, kind of comparing apples to apples. But a

23 lot of times, you don't have that privilege. If

24 market's low, they're gonna go in and take advantage

25 of it when it's low.

0121

1 So it's kind of all right, but they can do

2 it -- the unofficial in-stack testing, they'll go in

3 one time, take a quick point, go from there. They

4 won't do this overall averaging so --

5 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: So there may be a

6 time that you don't know what's going on because they

7 don't contact the company about releasing dispatch

8 control?

9 MR. TACK: That's correct. In those

10 situations, it -- it wouldn't be the dispatch control.

11 They could go in and do it on their own as an operator

12 as part of their troubleshooting.

13 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Okay.

14 You need to slow down.

15 MR. TACK: Okay.

16 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: If there was a

17 request to release dispatch control, would PacifiCorp,

18 similar to Avista and PSE, have a record of that

19 request to release dispatch control?

20 MR. TACK: I believe so. I'd have to

21 contact marketing, because I'm actually out of that

22 loop. So they work directly with our marketing

23 department.

24 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Okay. Thank you.

25 So I'm going to move on to another set of

0122

1 questions, and hopefully these won't take that long,

2 but they might.

3 So in looking at the testimony and the

4 exhibits in the case that all the companies have

5 provided, and from Staff, it looks like the companies

6 provided minutes of the owner and operator meetings to

7 Staff in response to a Staff data request response.

8 Do you recall that?

9 MR. TACK: Yes.

10 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Okay.

11 But those minutes don't appear in the

12 exhibits that we have. Are there any minutes of the

13 owner and operator meetings that were held between

14 February 1st and September 30th, 2018?

15 MR. TACK: They all have been provided.

16 They're -- they're pretty generic, but they've all

17 been provided through the data requests that I

18 understand.

19 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Okay.

20 So just so you know, that goes to the

21 parties. We don't see any of that.

22 MR. TACK: Okay.

23 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: So Mr. Gomez

24 indicated in his testimony that these minutes weren't

25 very substantive or helpful. Is that your

0123

1 understanding?

2 MR. TACK: I think it depends on somebody

3 from the outside versus somebody from the inside.

4 When I'm sitting in that room, you know, I track

5 things that are important to me. This might be

6 something different to Puget, something different to

7 Avista, but there is not a lot of detail in their

8 minutes.

9 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Okay.

10 When you say you would track them, would

11 you write notes on those minutes?

12 MR. TACK: A lot of times what I do

13 because, again, this is something I just understand, I

14 go home and I create my weekly report to my boss if

15 it's something that I think is substantial, and then

16 that's been provided.

17 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Okay.

18 So I guess I'm going to ask as a bench

19 request, and it might be the same for all of you, just

20 so that we have them in our record, to see these

21 minutes for the owners and operators meetings that

22 were held between February 1st and September 30th,

23 okay, of 2018.

24 MR. DEMPSEY: Can I ask a question? Were

25 you asking --

0124

1 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: That request will

2 go to your counsel and they'll work with you. But

3 yes, that request goes to all three companies, but if

4 they're all the same, then I think one single response

5 would be the same.

6 MR. DEMPSEY: The -- the question that --

7 that Mr. Tack responded to, did you want us to weigh

8 in on --

9 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: You do not need to

10 weigh in on that question.

11 But I'm going to start with you,

12 Mr. Dempsey, on my next line of questions, because it

13 goes to your testimony, unless you have a question,

14 Mr. O'Connell.

15 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Regarding the bench

16 request --

17 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Yes.

18 JUDGE O'CONNELL: -- we're going to number

19 that Bench Request No. 1. As the commissioner

20 mentioned, we really need only one copy of the O&O

21 committee meeting minutes. Is -- instead of requiring

22 that of all three companies, is there a company that

23 will provide it on behalf of all three? Otherwise, we

24 can require it of all three.

25 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: You can consult on

0125

1 that and --

2 MR. ROBERTS: PSE --

3 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: -- let us know at a

4 break.

5 MR. ROBERTS: PSE will do it.

6 MR. KUMAR: I mean, I think we all

7 provided them in discovery so --

8 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: We'll work on that.

9 MS. BARNETT: Do a joint response.

10 JUDGE O'CONNELL: And since you've already

11 provided them before, it should be rather easy to file

12 them in the docket in response to the bench request.

13 Is this something that could also be

14 provided by Tuesday along with the updated CLT-2?

15 Okay. Let's make that the due date then.

16 Okay. Thank you.

17 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Okay.

18 So Mr. Dempsey, you -- in your testimony

19 now at Exhibit TCD-4T at page 22, on lines 16

20 through 19, you referenced a project committee.

21 MR. DEMPSEY: Yes.

22 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: And you state that

23 the operator is required to use its best efforts to

24 keep all members of the project committee informed of

25 all significant matters with respect to the operation

0126

1 and maintenance of the units.

2 You see that?

3 MR. DEMPSEY: Yes.

4 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Okay.

5 Are all owners of the plants members of

6 the project committee?

7 MR. DEMPSEY: Yes, that's correct.

8 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: And are you a

9 member of the project committee?

10 MR. DEMPSEY: I -- Steve Wenke has been --

11 recently been assigned those responsibilities for

12 Colstrip. He's working for me in that capacity.

13 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Did you used to

14 attend these project committee meetings?

15 MR. DEMPSEY: Yes.

16 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: And did you attend

17 them at the time that we're talking about?

18 MR. DEMPSEY: Yes, with the exception of

19 the February 2018 meeting.

20 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Okay.

21 And so how frequently does the project

22 committee meet?

23 MR. DEMPSEY: The project committee meets

24 on a monthly basis.

25 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Okay.

0127

1 And similar to my questions about the O&O

2 meetings, are there any minutes of project committee

3 meetings?

4 MR. DEMPSEY: It's the same meeting.

5 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Project committees

6 are the same as the O- --

7 MR. DEMPSEY: That's -- that's the meeting

8 that we're talking about. There's a set of minutes

9 for those, as well as a significant volume of handouts

10 and other information that are provided to the group,

11 and we have provided in response to data requests.

12 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: So when you say

13 there was a significant volume of information, is --

14 at those meetings, so there was -- I'm aware of the

15 Staff's data request about the minutes. Have the

16 information that was also handed out at those meetings

17 been provided to Staff in a data request?

18 MR. DEMPSEY: They have. That would

19 include -- we get an environmental report, a safety

20 report, a budget report, a loss generation report,

21 just off the top of my head. Those were all provided

22 in response to data request.

23 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Okay.

24 So -- and this may end up being a

25 confidential question, or an answer, confidential

0128

1 answer. So if the operator was required at these

2 meetings to keep all members informed of significant

3 matters, wouldn't the issues between February and June

4 be significant matters for members?

5 MR. DEMPSEY: I would think that's a --

6 yes, that's fair.

7 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: All right.

8 So Mr. Roberts, you've heard these

9 questions, so I guess I was unaware that project

10 committee meetings were the same as owner and operator

11 meetings. But would you agree with what Mr. Dempsey

12 had said?

13 MR. ROBERTS: I would agree. I would add

14 to it a little bit as well. As the ownership

15 agreement requires quarterly meetings, and back in, I

16 would say, early '17, the ownership group decided that

17 more regular interface on Colstrip was appropriate, so

18 the ownership committee began meeting monthly at

19 Colstrip.

20 During that time frame, and I'm going to

21 answer the rest of the questions, we had two owners'

22 reps for Colstrip during the February and March time

23 frame, Charles Wharton, who has since retired from the

24 company, and his replacement, Nancy Atwood, attended

25 those meetings.

0129

1 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Okay.

2 And Mr. Tack, any different response for

3 PacifiCorp?

4 MR. TACK: Do you mind kind of repeating

5 your question?

6 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Sure.

7 So I -- I had assumed that the project

8 committee was something different than the owner and

9 operators meeting. That's why these questions are

10 helpful.

11 So I guess the key question, because I

12 think you've answered the other ones previously, but

13 if the owner is required to inform -- if the operator

14 is required to inform owners of all significant

15 matters related to the operation and maintenance of

16 the units, wouldn't the issues that occurred between

17 February and June that we're talking about in this

18 case be significant to owners?

19 MR. TACK: Hindsight, yes. In the moment,

20 no. They did bring it up in the February meeting that

21 it was elevated, but there was no significance. We

22 were fully expecting to recover.

23 So looking back, absolutely, this -- this

24 would have turned into -- but at that time, if you

25 could take yourself to February and to March, we're

0130

1 tracking it, we're trending, there was -- all this

2 information wasn't out there. And what ended up

3 happening, that's all hindsight.

4 So again, through that event, they talked

5 about it, they addressed it, they talked about these

6 situations, but not in a significant -- it was of

7 importance, but it wasn't -- you know, when I hear

8 significant, I'm thinking the failure.

9 So that's kind of the context of -- of the

10 meetings, but, yes, they did talk about it and address

11 it.

12 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Okay.

13 I think the remainder of my questions

14 about that would have to be in confidential session.

15 JUDGE O'CONNELL: I'll ask a follow-up

16 question about the O&O committee meetings, the monthly

17 meetings.

18 When were the monthly meetings held in

19 April and May of 2018?

20 MR. TACK: They're all --

21 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Do you have that

22 information?

23 MR. TACK: Yeah, they're all the third

24 Wednesday of the month.

25 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay.

0131

1 So for the commissioners' data -- Bench

2 Request No. 1, I'd like to clarify that we're

3 expecting to see also the minutes -- whatever minutes

4 there are from all of the committee meetings,

5 including the April and May committee meetings.

6 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Right. So every

7 month between February 1st and September 30th of 2018.

8 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay.

9 I have a couple questions that Chair

10 Danner has directed me to ask of the company witnesses

11 that are non-confidential.

12 So I'd like to ask Mr. Wilding, if you

13 could come join the witnesses, and Mr. Tack, you can

14 be excused. Thank you.

15 My first question, Mr. Roberts, you argue

16 in your testimony that Staff witness Gomez has never

17 run a coal plant and so we should disregard his

18 recommendations. Well, none of us on the bench have

19 ever run a coal plant either. Are you saying that we

20 should just rubberstamp whatever you recommend?

21 MR. ROBERTS: No. I'm just stating that

22 Mr. Gomez doesn't have the level of experience around

23 running a coal plant that the witnesses do. I'm not

24 in any way discrediting his capabilities or yours to

25 ask questions about it. But at times the questions

0132

1 were, I think, argumentative from Mr. Gomez.

2 JUDGE O'CONNELL: My next question is

3 about the initial filings from the companies, and I'll

4 ask for a response from each of the witnesses in turn.

5 Pacific Power filed a couple pages

6 regarding the Colstrip outage, PSE filed something

7 around six pages, and Avista, something around four

8 pages and your testimony.

9 Do you think you met your burden of proof

10 with your initial filings? I mean, we, the Commission

11 and Staff, have had to do a lot of detective work to

12 bring the issues out and develop the issues. This was

13 an indulgence Staff didn't have to afford the

14 companies. Staff could have just as easily argued

15 that you haven't met your burden and been done with

16 this several months ago.

17 So, Mr. Dempsey, do you think you did meet

18 your burden in the initial filings?

19 MR. MEYER: Just -- this is not an

20 objection, per se, but recognizing that the burden of

21 proof, burden of persuasion have different meanings in

22 a legal context, and this witness, of course, is not a

23 lawyer. But from what he understands from a lay

24 perspective, I don't have any problem with the

25 question.

0133

1 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Yes. And to his extent,

2 does he think he -- he put forward enough that we

3 could support a finding that we need to?

4 MR. MEYER: Sure. Thank you.

5 MR. DEMPSEY: So as a point of

6 clarification, are you referring to the initial

7 discussion that was 190222 --

8 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Correct.

9 MR. DEMPSEY: -- testimony?

10 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Correct.

11 MR. DEMPSEY: May I have just a moment to

12 take a look at that?

13 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Sure.

14 MR. DEMPSEY: So that initial testimony

15 as -- as I responded there was almost entirely

16 focused, which we -- we expected was the concern, on

17 the actions that occurred after the unit was found to

18 be out of compliance in Q2.

19 With respect to that, we, at the time, did

20 not have any sort of understanding or awareness of the

21 fact that the issues between the Q1 test, which the

22 plant was in compliance, and the Q2 test would be at

23 issue, so we didn't address that.

24 Based on -- based on that testimony, which

25 was focused on the time period after the violation

0134

1 occurred, we do feel that the standard was met. And I

2 may have -- standard may not be the right word. I

3 forgot what you said a minute ago.

4 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Right.

5 Mr. Roberts, let's hear from you next.

6 MR. ROBERTS: I feel there was a lot of

7 misconception of what the questions were during this

8 process. And during the initial filing, I -- I felt

9 like we addressed what we thought the issue was, which

10 was the time period that Colstrip was out of

11 compliance, which was the June test, post-June test.

12 That is what we felt we were answering

13 throughout the entire process, only later to find out

14 that really we were concerned about this time period,

15 the interim time period between the February and the

16 June test.

17 So for us, I think there was a little bit

18 of misconception of what we were trying to answer in

19 the initial filing, versus what we were really trying

20 to get to is what actions were taken between having an

21 elevated reading in February and noncompliance in

22 June.

23 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay. Thank you.

24 And Mr. Wilding?

25 MR. WILDING: Yes. Thank you.

0135

1 In -- before when we were preparing our

2 initial PCAM filing, our Power Cost Adjustment

3 Mechanism filing, PacifiCorp did receive an email from

4 Staff asking us to address the Colstrip outage in our

5 initial testimony.

6 And specifically, they asked for two

7 things. They asked for the cause of the outage and

8 the replacement power costs. At the time that we

9 filed, we still had not received the Root Cause

10 Analysis, which to us is really the document that

11 explains what caused the analysis, and really the gold

12 standard in the industry to look back and know the --

13 the cause of the -- the outage.

14 And so we complied with both those things

15 to the best of our ability. We said, there was an

16 outage due to the PM test exceedance. We do not have

17 the Root Cause Analysis. And we offered to supplement

18 the testimony with that Root Cause Analysis as soon as

19 we had it.

20 And then we did calculate the replacement

21 power costs for that outage. And we were the last

22 ones to file our -- our power cost true-up mechanism,

23 that PCAM mechanism.

24 And so then, as soon as we started

25 receiving data requests from Staff, we reached out to

0136

1 Staff on multiple occasions and offered, we said,

2 whoa, we -- like, obviously, we had our wires crossed

3 a little bit. We didn't have the Root Cause Analysis

4 yet. And -- but you're asking a lot of questions

5 leading up to the outage, which we didn't understand

6 was going to be kind of the -- the -- the focus of

7 their investigation or their questions.

8 And like I said, we were the last ones to

9 file, so we hadn't been told anything other than the

10 cause of the outage and the replacement power cost.

11 And so after reaching out to Staff

12 multiple times offering to have workshops, you know,

13 we got together, we got Mr. Tack, who's our --

14 obviously our expert, highly qualified, trained, knows

15 this stuff inside and out, and we got him in the room

16 with Staff.

17 He was able to answer a lot of questions,

18 provide a narrative, provide some of the data that

19 they were looking for. Through the data requests, we

20 provided contemporaneous documentation in the form of

21 the data that the -- that the operator was looking at

22 and using to make decisions.

23 And once we got Mr. Tack in the room and

24 we were able to really clarify what Staff was looking

25 for, then we decided to file the supplemental

0137

1 testimony explaining what had gone on at the outage

2 and leading up to the outage.

3 So once we filed our supplemental

4 testimony and initial filing, I do feel that we -- we

5 met our burden of proof, and we took that very

6 seriously.

7 And I will say for PacifiCorp, our net

8 power costs are very large, and -- and so in our

9 initial filing, we go through and we kind of explained

10 what happened. And the Colstrip Unit 4, PacifiCorp is

11 very small. We just have 10 percent of Unit 4 in our

12 rates, which is essentially -- and then once you

13 allocate that to Washington, it's essentially

14 17 megawatts.

15 And so we do try to explain everything,

16 and that kind of moved around, what was different from

17 our base period into the actuals. And then once --

18 like I said, once we really understood what Staff was

19 looking for, yes, I do feel like we met our burden of

20 proof after we had filed that initial testimony and

21 were able to work with Staff to really respond to

22 their questions.

23 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay. Thank you very

24 much.

25 Okay. So we're going to take our lunch

0138

1 break at this time. When we come back, we'll continue

2 non-confidential questions, cross-examination of

3 Staff's witness and Public Counsel's witness, and then

4 we will go into confidential session afterwards.

5 So we will break for one hour and return

6 at 2:15 p.m. We'll be off the record. Thank you.

7 (Lunch recess was taken from

8 1:13 p.m. to 2:15 p.m.)

9 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay. Let's be back on

10 the record.

11 We are back from our lunchtime break and

12 we are ready to begin the non-confidential

13 cross-examination questions of Staff and Public

14 Counsel.

15 After we do cross-examination and

16 redirect, we will impanel both witnesses to take

17 questions from the bench on non-confidential issues.

18 Okay.

19 I see that Mr. Gomez is here already. Is

20 there anything that we should discuss before we begin

21 cross-examination? Okay. Seeing nothing, Mr. Gomez,

22 please stand

23 / / /

24 / / /

25 / / /

0139

1 DAVID GOMEZ, witness herein, having been

2 first duly sworn on oath,

3 was examined and testified

4 as follows:

5

6 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Please sit.

7 Okay. Mr. Dallas, would you like to

8 introduce and qualify the witness?

9 MR. DALLAS: Yes, your Honor.

10 DIRECT EXAMINATION

11 BY MR. DALLAS:

12 Q. Can you please state and spell your last name

13 for the record?

14 A. David C. Gomez, D-A-V-I-D, C, G-O-M-E-Z.

15 Q. And can you state your current occupation?

16 A. My current position here at the Commission is

17 assistant manager for power supply.

18 Q. And in this capacity, have you provided

19 testimony in this docket?

20 A. Yes, I have.

21 Q. Are there any changes or corrections you

22 would like to make to your testimony at this time?

23 A. No.

24 MR. DALLAS: Mr. Gomez is available for

25 cross-examination.

0140

1 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay. Thank you.

2 Ms. McDowell? Mr. Kumar?

3 MS. MCDOWELL: Thank you, your Honor.

4 CROSS-EXAMINATION

5 BY MS. MCDOWELL:

6 Q. Good afternoon, Mr. Gomez.

7 A. Good afternoon.

8 Q. You know, I'm just going to ask you a few

9 questions. Most of my questions are confidential, but

10 the judge has instructed us to ask even foundational

11 questions in the non-confidential section, so I'll

12 just ask you a very few number of questions, and then

13 more later on this afternoon.

14 So can you tell me how long you've been

15 employed at the Commission?

16 A. I've been at the Commission since 2007.

17 Q. Is it safe to assume that, during that time,

18 you've reviewed a number of Root Cause Analysis

19 reports?

20 A. I would think that, again, based on

21 recollection, without total certainty, yes, I have

22 looked at Root Cause Analysis reports in the past.

23 Q. And do you agree the purpose of these reports

24 is to determine the cause of an incident and figure

25 out the steps necessary to prevent such an incident

0141

1 from recurring in the future?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And there are -- these RCAs are usually

4 conducted by a third-party expert; is that correct?

5 A. I wouldn't know about usually. I would just

6 say that they're conducted typically to determine what

7 caused a particular incident, and as you had

8 mentioned, to prevent any further reoccurrence. But

9 whether or not they were done by a third party or not,

10 I couldn't tell you. I've seen cases where it's been

11 done by the organization.

12 Q. By the company itself?

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. Okay. Thank you.

15 So the RCA here was conducted by Sologic LLP;

16 are you aware of that?

17 A. Yes, I am.

18 Q. And there was some testimony in

19 Avista's testi- -- in Avista's testimony describing

20 them as a large international firm that focuses

21 exclusively on RCA investigations.

22 Is that your understanding?

23 A. It -- I am not aware of Sologic's reputation.

24 But as recommended by Mr. Dempsey or as Avista, I

25 would -- I would be okay with accepting that, yes.

0142

1 Q. And you would agree, wouldn't you, that a

2 Root Cause Analysis report is an important part of a

3 prudence investigation?

4 A. Not necessarily, nor in this case. In this

5 case, root cause was something that's important to

6 understand and know in totality with regards to the

7 outage.

8 But before the outage actually even occurred,

9 there were steps and actions that needed to take place

10 in order to determine -- in order to be able to

11 respond to the PM limits at the compliance limit, and

12 what was alternative indicators that weren't

13 correlating. So --

14 Q. Well -- so Mr. Gomez, if Talen and the

15 co-owners had not conducted a Root Cause Analysis

16 report, wouldn't you have faulted them for that?

17 A. Again, yes, I would say -- I would say that if

18 they had not determined the root cause, yes, that that

19 would be a problem, not necessarily imprudent, because

20 I think we would have to look at the entirety of it

21 relative to the Commission's standard.

22 Q. So can you turn to page 46 of your testimony?

23 That's DCG-1CCT. Do you have that?

24 A. I'm there.

25 Q. And that's where you begin your prudence

0143

1 recommendation and summarizing your testimony.

2 A. Yes, I see it.

3 Q. Do you see that?

4 So can you point to where you discuss the

5 Root Cause Analysis in your recommendation?

6 A. Again, the facts of this case, the RCA, within

7 the context of the testimony that I provided, and the

8 recommendations, relate to more with what the control

9 and management was. What were the decisions and

10 actions? How are those arrived at at Colstrip? How

11 can Staff --

12 Q. Mr. Gomez, I don't mean to interrupt you --

13 A. Oh, I'm sorry.

14 Q. -- but my question is, can you point to where

15 you discuss the RCA in your prudence recommendation?

16 A. I believe I talk about the RCA relative to

17 other issues in my testimony, but I'm not altogether

18 sure --

19 Q. But not in your prudence recommendation?

20 A. If -- I will say no, it's not there, but that

21 doesn't -- again --

22 MS. MCDOWELL: All right. That's all I

23 have in this section of the questioning. I'll have

24 more questions about the Root Cause Analysis once we

25 go into the confidential session.

0144

1 THE WITNESS: Great. Thank you.

2 MS. MCDOWELL: Thank you.

3 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Thank you, Ms. McDowell.

4 Mr. Dallas, any redirect?

5 MR. DALLAS: Yes, your Honor.

6 REDIRECT EXAMINATION

7 BY MR. DALLAS:

8 Q. Mr. Gomez, can you turn to page 42 of your

9 testimony?

10 A. Okay. I'm there.

11 [ \*CONFIDENTIAL\*

12

13

14

15

16 \*CONFIDENTIAL\* ]

17 MR. KUMAR: Your Honor, I think --

18 THE WITNESS: I think we're in

19 confidential. Sorry.

20 MS. MCDOWELL: I think we are.

21 MR. DALLAS: I would agree with that.

22 BY MR. DALLAS:

23 Q. So --

24 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Let's move on,

25 Mr. Dallas.

0145

1 MR. DALLAS: Okay.

2 BY MR. DALLAS:

3 Q. Let's go ahead and move on.

4 But just for the purposes of this question,

5 you did talk about the Root Cause Analysis in your

6 testimony?

7 A. Yes, I did.

8 MR. DALLAS: No further questions.

9 MR. KUMAR: Your Honor, at this point, I

10 would like to move to, I think, mark that --

11 Mr. Gomez's response to that last question as

12 confidential and make it unavailable to the public

13 transcript.

14 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Is there any objection?

15 MR. DALLAS: There's no objection to

16 Mr. Gomez's response that pertained to the substance

17 of the RCA.

18 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay.

19 Then the -- the transcript will be marked

20 as to the response to Mr. Dallas's question, the

21 entirety of the answer will be marked as company

22 confidential.

23 And the second question that Mr. Dallas

24 asked regarding whether Mr. Gomez referred to the RCA

25 in his testimony, that part is not confidential. That

0146

1 response was not company confidential, but the first

2 question and the response will be marked as company

3 confidential.

4 There are -- as we discussed at the

5 opening -- the outside of this proceeding, there are

6 two levels or two separate indications of

7 confidentiality. There is confidential information,

8 which a company may designate, and that information

9 may not be viewable by the other companies in this

10 proceeding. However, there is another confidential

11 indicator, company confidential information, which,

12 while it is confidential information, it is shared

13 between the companies and, therefore, can be shared in

14 this proceeding amongst the companies.

15 Okay. Is there -- no further redirect

16 from Mr. Dallas, correct?

17 MR. DALLAS: That is correct.

18 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay.

19 Is there any recross?

20 MS. MCDOWELL: No, your Honor.

21 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Great.

22 Well, there's no bench questions at this

23 time. We will call you back up with Mr. Allison for

24 non-confidential bench questions. So please return to

25 the audience.

0147

1 THE WITNESS: Yes, your Honor.

2 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Thank you, Mr. Gomez.

3 Now, let's have Avi Allison, will you

4 please come forward and be sworn in? Please stand --

5 stay standing and raise your right hand.

6

7 AVI ALLISON, witness herein, having been

8 first duly sworn on oath,

9 was examined and testified

10 as follows:

11

12 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Please be seated.

13 Ms. Gafken.

14 DIRECT EXAMINATION

15 BY MS. GAFKEN:

16 Q. Good afternoon, Mr. Allison.

17 A. Good afternoon.

18 Q. Would you please state your name and spell

19 your last name for the record?

20 A. Yes. My name is Avi Allison. Last name is

21 A-L-L-I-S-O-N.

22 Q. And by whom are you employed?

23 A. I'm employed by Synapse Energy Economics.

24 Q. What is your position with Synapse?

25 A. I am a senior associate.

0148

1 Q. And did you -- well, let me ask this

2 question.

3 On whose behalf are you testifying here

4 today?

5 A. I'm testifying on behalf of Public Counsel.

6 Q. Did you prepare testimony and exhibits that

7 were entered into the record earlier today?

8 A. Yes, I did.

9 Q. Do you have any changes to those -- to the

10 testimony or the exhibits?

11 A. No, I do not.

12 MS. GAFKEN: Okay. Mr. Allison is

13 available for cross-examination.

14 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Thank you.

15 Mr. Kumar or Ms. McDowell, please go

16 ahead.

17 MR. KUMAR: Thank you, your Honor.

18 CROSS-EXAMINATION

19 BY MR. KUMAR:

20 Q. Good afternoon, Mr. Allison. My name is Ajay

21 Kumar. I'm an attorney with Pacific Power.

22 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I'm sorry. I'm having

23 trouble hearing you.

24 BY MR. KUMAR:

25 Q. Good afternoon, Mr. Allison. My name is Ajay

0149

1 Kumar. I'm an attorney with Pacific Power.

2 Could you turn to page 9 of your testimony?

3 JUDGE O'CONNELL: And could we please wait

4 a moment so that we can --

5 A. I am there.

6 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay. Thank you.

7 BY MR. KUMAR:

8 Q. Now, Mr. Allison, on page 9 of your testimony

9 on lines 10 through 19, you review the final MDEQ

10 penalty calculation; isn't that true?

11 A. That's correct.

12 Q. And based on your review of the MDEQ penalty

13 calculation, you conclude on page 9 that --

14 specifically lines 18 and 19, that the penalty appears

15 to reflect MDEQ's conclusion that the emissions

16 exceedance was foreseeable.

17 Am I stating that correctly?

18 A. Yes, that's correct.

19 Q. Now, Mr. Allison, isn't it true that that

20 penalty calculation is an attachment to the

21 stipulation for the consent decree, which was filed in

22 district court in Montana?

23 A. Yes, that is my understanding.

24 Q. Okay.

25 Mr. Allison, can I refer you to Exhibit

0150

1 CLT-11? Do you have that with you?

2 A. Yes, I do.

3 Q. Could you turn to page 7 of that exhibit?

4 A. Yes, I am there.

5 Q. And this is the -- this is the consent decree

6 that we were just discussing, isn't it? Isn't that

7 true?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Now, at paragraph 22, in that first sentence,

10 it states that, prior to June 2018, Talen reviewed the

11 indicators in the CAM Plan and discovered no cause for

12 higher PM emissions, and no indication that the second

13 quarter PM test would suddenly deviate to an extent

14 never seen since MATS testing began.

15 Am I stating that correctly?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And the next sentence states that, prior to

18 June 2018, Talen reviewed the operation of Unit 3 and

19 Unit 4 and found no indications of abnormal

20 operations.

21 Am I stating that correctly?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And sort of the final sentence in that

24 section says that -- describes, however, a review of

25 scrubber operations and alternate indicators that we

0151

1 have been discussing all indicated normal operation,

2 quote, suggesting PM emissions rates similar to what

3 had been previously seen for Units 3 and 4.

4 Am I stating that correctly?

5 A. Yes.

6 MR. KUMAR: Thank you, your Honor. I have

7 no further questions.

8 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Is there any redirect?

9 REDIRECT EXAMINATION

10 BY MS. GAFKEN:

11 Q. Mr. Allison, you were asked questions about

12 paragraph 22 on page 7 of CLT-11.

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. What is your understanding of the Compliance

15 Assurance Monitoring Plan and what's required of

16 companies under that?

17 A. Yes. So the Compliance Assurance Monitoring

18 Plan requires tracking of these alternative

19 indicators. This requirement, as I understand it, has

20 been in effect since long before the Quarter 1 2018

21 test, so just noting that the monitoring of these

22 alternative indicators was not some new reaction to

23 the high levels. It was something that was happening

24 already.

25 And just referring to what that actual CAM

0152

1 Plan is and says, it was attached as RJR-6 by

2 Mr. Roberts, Puget Sound Energy. And I think there's

3 a couple things to note with respect to that CAM Plan

4 that are important.

5 Number one is that, on -- and I can give folks

6 a chance to get to that exhibit, if they would like

7 to. Number one is that, on page 1 of that CAM Plan,

8 the emissions limit, the unit-specific emissions limit

9 that is stated for tracking is identified for Units 1

10 and 2 of Colstrip at 0.10 pounds per MMBTU. That is

11 more than three times the allowable site-wide limit;

12 and it is 0.05 pounds per MMBTU for Units 3 and 4.

13 That is about 66 percent higher than the site-wide

14 emissions limit.

15 Turning to page 8 of that CAM Plan, it states

16 that these alternative indicators were set to match up

17 to the emissions limits set forth on page 1. In other

18 words, they were set for compliance with a 0.05 pounds

19 per MMBTU threshold for Units 3 and 4, and 0.10 for

20 Units 1 and 2.

21 In other words, satisfaction of the thresholds

22 for the alternative indicators does not at all

23 indicate that you are likely to be on a path towards

24 compliance with the official MATS PM test.

25 The other thing I would finally note is that

0153

1 it says, again, on page 8 of the PM CAM Plan at

2 paragraph F that these alternative indicators are

3 assumed to be a reasonable approximation for the

4 official test as long as they're within 25 percent of

5 the CAM Plan excursion limit.

6 And again, that CAM Plan excursion limit is

7 set at -- to approximate 0.05 pounds per million

8 British Thermal Units, so we're talking about an

9 acceptable correlation that is quite substantial.

10 I think that is all I have to say about the

11 CAM Plan.

12 MS. GAFKEN: Thank you. I have no further

13 questions.

14 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Mr. Kumar, recross on

15 what you heard from Mr. Allison?

16 MR. KUMAR: Yes, just a few questions.

17 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Sure.

18 RECROSS-EXAMINATION

19 BY MR. KUMAR:

20 Q. Mr. Allison, you discussed the CAM Plan sort

21 of at length. And isn't it true that the agency

22 charged with sort of reviewing the CAM Plan and

23 administering -- sorry.

24 Isn't it true that the agency charged with,

25 you know, reviewing the CAM Plan and administering the

0154

1 MATS standard is the Montana Department of

2 Environmental Quality?

3 A. Yes, that is my understanding.

4 Q. And could you turn back to -- could you turn

5 back to CLT-11?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And this consent decree was filed by the

8 Montana Department of Environmental Quality; isn't

9 that true?

10 A. That is my understanding.

11 Q. And paragraph 22 where we were talking about

12 before --

13 A. Sorry. I would just amend that to say, it was

14 filed, I think, jointly by Montana Department of

15 Environmental Quality in cooperation following

16 settlement discussions jointly with Talen, so it

17 was not them alone.

18 Q. And it sets out the agreed-upon sort of facts

19 of the outage between the Montana Department of

20 Environmental Quality and Talen?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And it states, I guess, in the -- that first

23 sentence that there was no indication that the second

24 quarter PM tests would suddenly deviate to an extent

25 never seen since MATS testing PM [sic] --

0155

1 MS. GAFKEN: Asked and answered.

2 BY MR. KUMAR:

3 Q. -- MATS PM testing began in 2016.

4 MS. GAFKEN: Asked and answered.

5 MR. KUMAR: Your Honor --

6 MS. GAFKEN: That was one of the questions

7 that was asked on original cross.

8 JUDGE O'CONNELL: I understand, but I

9 think we've allowed some latitude in cross and

10 redirect. I want to allow a little latitude here as

11 well. I'm going to overrule the objection.

12 Mr. Allison, even if it touches a little

13 bit on a response you've already given, please answer

14 the question.

15 A. Sorry. Could you please point me to the line

16 and restate the question?

17 BY MR. KUMAR:

18 Q. So paragraph 22, I believe there's a -- in

19 that first sentence, starting sort of in the third

20 line down, it states that no indication that the

21 second quarter PM tests would suddenly deviate to an

22 extent never seen since MATS testing PM -- MATS PM

23 testing began in 2016.

24 A. It does say that, and I would note that the

25 inclusion of the language "deviate to an extent never

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1 seen," so folks may recall that, when it deviated in

2 the Quarter 2 2018, it did not deviate by a little

3 bit. It was far above the threshold for compliance.

4 And so I think -- I think that language is

5 instructive. Perhaps there was not reason to believe

6 that it would be so far out of compliance, but I think

7 there was a lot of evidence, and I think we will talk

8 about some of that later, to indicate that it was

9 going to be out of compliance.

10 MR. KUMAR: I have no further questions,

11 your Honor.

12 JUDGE O'CONNELL: So at this point, I'd

13 like to ask Mr. Gomez to come back and join

14 Mr. Allison at the witness desk. And I'll remind you

15 both that you remain under oath. And we will have

16 non-confidential bench questions from us.

17 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Good afternoon.

18 MR. GOMEZ: Good afternoon, Commissioner.

19 MR. ALLISON: Good afternoon.

20 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Okay. So

21 Mr. Gomez, let's begin with you.

22 So in your testimony, you've stated what

23 you think the utility should have done, or what Talen

24 should have done after the February 2018 PM MATS test.

25 And that test did meet the .03 pounds per MMBTU limit,

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1 correct?

2 MR. GOMEZ: Yes, Commissioner.

3 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Okay.

4 So because the test met the standard, what

5 action do you think is prudent to shut down the units

6 to investigate why the limit was -- was just -- just

7 met or -- or not?

8 MR. GOMEZ: As we've heard from the

9 company witnesses, the in-stack testing could have

10 occurred at any time that the unit was operating. It

11 didn't require the full 90 percent load. That was for

12 the -- reserved for the official test.

13 So the company -- or Commission Staff

14 would have expected, first, an acknowledgement that

15 there was a divergence between the PM levels and the

16 alternative indicators. And as Mr. Allison has just

17 gotten done explaining, the reason why -- technically

18 why that was the issue.

19 So Staff would have expected a plan to --

20 to develop, a coord- -- a coordinated plan that would

21 have included the utilities, and perhaps would have

22 started the investigations that occurred after

23 May 30th, the in-stack testing, could have happened

24 sooner. And that if the units would have had to have

25 gone into forced outage to correct the problem, as

0158

1 they did anyway, that that forced outage would have

2 happened sooner rather than later. And that --

3 that's --

4 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: But you're not --

5 you're not suggesting that the -- that Talen should

6 have shut down the plant because -- just simply

7 because of the February test?

8 MR. GOMEZ: No, Commissioner.

9 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Okay.

10 If the test had come in at .029 pounds per

11 MMBTU, would your response have been the same?

12 MR. GOMEZ: I think so, yes, because that

13 would have been still very close to the margin, the

14 specification or tolerance, if you will.

15 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: So you're saying

16 that they should have had a plan, but I thought I

17 heard them say that they did -- the operator did have

18 a plan for how to test, how to look at what was going

19 on.

20 MR. GOMEZ: Well, again, referring to

21 the -- to the exhibit that the company has indicated

22 to us was the plan, which is Mr. Tack's Exhibit CLT-5,

23 I don't see a plan, but I see an email calling for a

24 plan.

25 Staff won't contest that the -- that some

0159

1 activities, investigative activities were embarked on

2 by Talen. It's simply -- the problem is the timing

3 and coordination and the -- the contemporaneous

4 evidence that indicates that those were the actions

5 that were being pursued.

6 All we have is what the companies and

7 Mr. Tack have verbally told us. And if you look at

8 Mr. Tack's evidence, most of it, with the exception of

9 CLT-7, are not contemporaneous records, but are, in

10 fact, information that Mr. Tack got from Talen after

11 the fact.

12 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Okay.

13 So Mr. Allison, in your testimony, or I

14 guess in your -- you know, given this February test

15 that had just met the .03 pounds for [sic] MMBTU

16 limit, what action do you think is prudent, shutting

17 down the units to investigate why the limit was hit,

18 or doing further investigation?

19 MR. ALLISON: Starting with the first

20 question, no, I do not believe shutting down the units

21 immediately would have been the right course of

22 action. I believe conducting additional testing would

23 have been the right course of action, doing additional

24 investigations.

25 And basically, my understanding is that

0160

1 the companies chose to believe alternative indicators

2 over the test that actually matters for compliance,

3 and did not conduct any additional tests that actually

4 matter for compliance, or any approximation of those

5 tests for the next several months after that test in

6 February showed that they were right at the limit.

7 And I think that is one of the strangest

8 parts of this whole thing to me, and the part that I

9 would have expected would have -- should have been

10 different is conducting tests as part of the

11 investigation.

12 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: And similarly, if

13 there was a -- if the test had resulted in a

14 .029 pounds for MMBTU limit result, would your

15 recommendations be the same?

16 MR. ALLISON: Yes, I think so. Given what

17 a jump that was from previous levels and how close

18 that would be to the ultimate threshold, yeah, I think

19 0.029 would have justified that reaction as well.

20 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Okay. Thanks.

21 COMMISSIONER BALASBAS: All right.

22 Good afternoon, Mr. Gomez and Mr. Allison.

23 MR. GOMEZ: Good afternoon, Commissioner.

24 COMMISSIONER BALASBAS: So Mr. Gomez, I

25 will start with you. PSE, Avista and Pacific Power

0161

1 all provided on rebuttal different calculations for

2 the power cost -- replacement power costs related to

3 the outage that they would recommend if the Commission

4 were to disallow those costs.

5 Have you reviewed those, and do you agree

6 with those calculations?

7 MR. GOMEZ: We have reviewed them. I

8 agree with the calculation of Mr. Roberts of

9 17.9 million, which it was his revised testimony of

10 November 13th; 3.5 million for Avista, which was the

11 number that was provided by Mr. Johnson; and

12 the .5 million from Mr. Wilding for Pacific Power.

13 COMMISSIONER BALASBAS: So you would not

14 agree with the 11.7 million for PSE, the 2.4 million

15 for Avista or the 457,000 for Pacific Power?

16 MR. GOMEZ: That's correct.

17 COMMISSIONER BALASBAS: All right.

18 And Mr. Allison, the same question to you.

19 MR. ALLISON: So I think there are several

20 different components of the rebuttal testimony

21 calculations. I'll try to take them one by one.

22 One of -- there's one set of calculations

23 that Mr. Johnson performed assuming that there would

24 have been in this counterfactual scenario, where there

25 was an actual investigation conducted in the spring of

0162

1 2018, that there would have had to be an outage of the

2 exact same length and magnitude as the outage that

3 occurred in the summer of 2018.

4 I do not believe there's any evidence to

5 support the idea that that is the case. I think

6 from -- based on the testimony we heard earlier today,

7 the reaction, that a further investigation would not

8 have required shutting down the units. On the

9 contrary, it would have required continuing to operate

10 them to conduct the testing. So I do not believe

11 there's much to support that aspect of the revision to

12 the power cost calculation that was presented in

13 direct testimony.

14 There was a second piece from Puget Sound

15 Energy where they are now, as I understand it,

16 claiming that the number in direct testimony included

17 a portion of power costs that they attributed to

18 Colstrip Units 3 and 4, that they are now saying

19 actually is not attributable to Units 3 and 4.

20 And I, frankly, do not fully understand

21 why those costs were attributed to Units 3 and 4 in

22 the first place, and are not -- now it's not -- it was

23 not totally clear to me from the responses provided,

24 so I -- so I don't have a good answer on that at this

25 point.

0163

1 COMMISSIONER BALASBAS: So are you then --

2 are you staying with your recommended amounts for

3 disallowance if this Commiss- -- if the Commission

4 were to go that route in this case, based on your --

5 MR. ALLISON: Yes.

6 COMMISSIONER BALASBAS: -- testimony?

7 MR. ALLISON: And I -- just quickly,

8 there's a third piece, which is how those get passed

9 through the actual recovery mechanisms, dead bands,

10 sharing, I'm not touching on that. Yes, the amount

11 that was improperly incurred, I'm sticking with those

12 numbers from my direct testimony.

13 COMMISSIONER BALASBAS: All right. Thank

14 you.

15 So Mr. Gomez, regardless of the number for

16 power -- replacement power costs related to the

17 outage, for PSE, would you agree that there is no

18 impact to the ratepayers due to the dead bands and the

19 sharing pieces of their power cost mechan- -- PCA?

20 MR. GOMEZ: That's assuming that the --

21 that the outage costs are allowed to be actual costs

22 that would be passed through the bands.

23 My understanding of how that would be

24 handled in a disallowance is they wouldn't pass

25 through the bands at all. There would be a

0164

1 restatement of the actuals, and that $17.9 million

2 just -- would just not exist.

3 COMMISSIONER BALASBAS: Okay.

4 So then how would you -- for Avista, how

5 do you believe your recommendation would impact

6 flow-through in the IRM?

7 MR. GOMEZ: They would have to restate

8 their actuals as if the outage cost didn't exist.

9 That's my understanding of how the disallowance was

10 handled in Joy Longwall (phonetic).

11 COMMISSIONER BALASBAS: And would you say

12 the same for Pacific Power's PCAM?

13 MR. GOMEZ: Yes.

14 COMMISSIONER BALASBAS: All right.

15 So Mr. Gomez, in your testimony, you

16 stated that the utilities should be allowed to recover

17 their share of the 3.4 million in O&M and capital

18 expenses associated with corrective post-outage

19 action; is that correct?

20 MR. GOMEZ: That's correct, Commissioner.

21 COMMISSIONER BALASBAS: Did you provide

22 anywhere in your testimony or in the record a breakout

23 of that 3.4 million for each company's share of that

24 amount?

25 MR. GOMEZ: Yes, but I don't have it

0165

1 immediately available. It would take me some time to

2 give you those numbers. I don't have them off the top

3 of my head.

4 COMMISSIONER BALASBAS: Okay.

5 I would like to make that a bench request.

6 JUDGE O'CONNELL: We'll make that Bench

7 Request No. 2 to have a response to the breakdown of

8 the $3.4 million.

9 MR. GOMEZ: If I may, Commissioner, in the

10 Avista general rate case and in the Puget Sound

11 general rate case, for Puget Sound and Avista, those

12 numbers are broken up, but we would gladly provide

13 them in bench request also.

14 JUDGE O'CONNELL: I think we'd like to

15 have them consolidated in one place.

16 COMMISSIONER BALASBAS: Yes.

17 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Thank you.

18 COMMISSIONER BALASBAS: And Mr. --

19 Mr. Allison, again, on the 3.4 million in O&M costs,

20 do you agree with Mr. Gomez that the company should be

21 allowed to recover those costs?

22 MR. ALLISON: That's not something I

23 evaluated in my testimony, but I'm not disputing the

24 reasonableness of the ultimate response to the outage,

25 so I do not see a problem with that.

0166

1 COMMISSIONER BALASBAS: And then finally,

2 Mr. Gomez, in your testimony in the Puget Sound Energy

3 general rate case, I believe you recommended

4 disallowance of some costs where you are recommending

5 recovery here.

6 Could you -- would you please -- would you

7 please state, what is your recommendation?

8 MR. GOMEZ: Yes, Commissioner.

9 The reason why the recommendation in the

10 Puget Sound rate case was to not allow recovery is

11 because we hadn't had a decision in this case yet. So

12 it's really a matter of there be [sic] a convergence

13 of the decisions so that the Commission could render a

14 decision either relative in the Puget Sound general

15 rate case, but I could not make my recommendation

16 there with having not completed my testimony in the

17 outage case.

18 COMMISSIONER BALASBAS: Okay. All right.

19 Thank you.

20 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay. That's all our

21 non-confidential bench questions for these two

22 witnesses. So that almost brings -- one moment.

23 Before we end our non-confidential

24 session, let me confer with the commissioners for a

25 moment.

0167

1 (Brief discussion off the record.)

2 JUDGE O'CONNELL: Okay.

3 That is all of the non-confidential bench

4 questions we want to ask at this time. We are going

5 to close the non-confidential session of this hearing.

6 We're going to take a ten-minute break.

7 It is currently 10 till 3:00. We will clear the

8 court -- the hearing room, and at 3:00, we will return

9 in a company confidential session. Only persons

10 authorized to hear and be in the courtroom -- the

11 hearing room for company confidential information will

12 be allowed back in.

13 The public conference bridge line will be

14 turned off, and we will discuss company confidential

15 issues, including cross-examination and bench

16 questions.

17 So with that, we will be off the record.

18 We will return at 3:00. Thank you.

19 (End of non-confidential session.)

20 (A break was taken from

21 2:52 to 3:05 p.m.)

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1 (Beginning of company confidential

2 session.)

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3 STATE OF WASHINGTON )

) ss.

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6

7 I, ANITA W. SELF, a Certified Shorthand

8 Reporter in and for the State of Washington, do

9 hereby certify that the foregoing transcript is true

10 and accurate to the best of my knowledge, skill and

11 ability.

12 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand

13 and seal this 18th day of February 2020.

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17 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

18 ANITA W. SELF, RPR, CCR #3032

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