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STATE OF MISSOURI  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

Local Public Hearing  
June 17, 2014  
Lebanon, Missouri

In the Matter of ) File No. GR-2014-0086  
Summit Natural Gas of )  
Missouri Inc.'s Filing )  
Of Revised Tariffs To )  
Increase Its Annual )  
Revenues For Natural )  
Gas Service )

DANIEL JORDAN, Presiding  
SENIOR REGULATORY LAW JUDGE

SCOTT T. RUPP, Commissioner

REPORTED BY: PAULA C. VOYLES, CCR, RPR, CRR

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

2 \* \* \* \* \*

3 REGULATORY JUDGE JORDAN: The Commission  
4 is calling the action in file number GR-2014-0086,  
5 and that is the general rate action for Summit  
6 Natural Gas of Missouri, Incorporated, which  
7 includes a request for a rate increase.

8 This is the Missouri Public Service  
9 Commission's Local Public Hearing on the rate  
10 increase.

11 I am Daniel Jordan. I'm the regulatory  
12 law judge assigned to this action. My job this  
13 evening will be to conduct an orderly proceeding.  
14 And when this entire case concludes, I will draft a  
15 decision which will constitute my recommendation to  
16 the Commission, and then the commissioners will vote  
17 on the final disposition of this action.

18 Let's begin with entries of appearance.  
19 We'll start with the applicant.

20 MS. CARTER: Diana Carter with Brydon,  
21 Swearngen & England for Summit Natural Gas of  
22 Missouri.

23 REGULATORY JUDGE JORDAN: Thank you.

24 And for staff?

25 MR. BORGMEYER: Thank you, your Honor.

1 My name is John Borgmeyer, and I'm appearing on  
2 behalf of the staff of the Public Service  
3 Commission, P.O. Box 360, Jefferson City, Missouri  
4 65102.

5 REGULATORY JUDGE JORDAN: Thank you.

6 And for the Office of Public Counsel?

7 MS. BAKER: Christina Baker, P.O. Box  
8 2230, Jefferson City, Missouri, 65102, appearing on  
9 behalf of the Office of Public Counsel and the  
10 customers.

11 REGULATORY JUDGE JORDAN: Thank you.

12 And Commissioner Rupp, do you have any  
13 opening remarks for this?

14 COMMISSIONER RUPP: Sure. Thank you,  
15 Judge. Just want to thank you for all coming out  
16 and welcome you to the public hearing, let you know  
17 that I am here to listen to everything that you have  
18 to say and then report back to the other  
19 commissioners.

20 Just the fact that I am the only one  
21 here does not mean anything about the gravity of the  
22 situation, the importance of the issue. We have  
23 other cases going on. I left a hearing to get down  
24 here, so we will all read the transcripts or listen  
25 to the -- if it's recorded, the other commissioners

1 will be able to hear all of your thoughts as well.

2 I am here to listen to your comments and  
3 concerns about this case, which means, you know, you  
4 can tell me your thoughts. I could ask you some  
5 questions to help clarify what your statement is;  
6 however, you are not allowed to ask me any  
7 questions, and I am not allowed to respond, because  
8 that could be viewed as pre -- you know, prejudging  
9 of the case before all the facts are in. So I will  
10 pretty much remain quiet unless I have a comment  
11 that I need clarified by you.

12 But we are here to listen, and there is  
13 a transcript being made. And I appreciate you  
14 taking the time to come out and talk about this  
15 issue, as we take every issue, every rate increase  
16 extremely, extremely important to the entire state.  
17 So thank you.

18 REGULATORY JUDGE JORDAN: We are taking  
19 testimony, which is to say that your statements will  
20 be made under oath. So if you wish to speak, come  
21 to the podium, use the microphone so everybody can  
22 hear you. I will administer an oath or an  
23 affirmation, if you prefer.

24 I'll be calling names from this list.  
25 The nature of the statements that the Commission

1 finds useful here varies, and different people have  
2 different views as to what kind of proceeding this  
3 is.

4           Though this action constitutes  
5 litigation, this phase of it, to me, looks a little  
6 bit more like investigation; that is, this is a  
7 really good opportunity for customers and other  
8 interested persons to inform the staff and the  
9 Commission of issues regarding service, issues of  
10 billing, issues regarding the safe and adequate  
11 service that we hope that a utility will provide to  
12 its customers.

13           So staff does a very -- works very hard  
14 to investigate these things, to investigate service  
15 issues, but this is their chance to cover more  
16 ground than they ever possibly could. It's a very  
17 big job.

18           So I may ask you a few questions to get  
19 you started when you come to the podium. Do speak  
20 clearly. Be concise. If you want to make a point  
21 that was made during the question-and-answer  
22 session, make it now so that it will be on the  
23 record. If somebody has already said something that  
24 you agree with, you don't have to repeat what they  
25 say. Just tell us that you endorse that position.

1                   And when you're done with your  
2                   statement, there may be some questions for you from  
3                   the parties or from the commissioner or from myself,  
4                   just to clarify what it is you are telling us.

5                   So any questions about our procedure  
6                   before we get started taking testimony? (No audible  
7                   response).

8                   I am not seeing any, so we will begin  
9                   calling our witnesses.

10                  And the first name on my list is Sherman  
11                  Davis.

12                  MR. DAVIS: Thank you very much for  
13                  hearing me. Thanks for coming to Lebanon so we can  
14                  have some input on what's going on with the PSC.

15                  REGULATORY JUDGE JORDAN: Thank you for  
16                  coming in to see us. I'll administer an oath to you  
17                  or an affirmation, if you'd like.

18                  MR. DAVIS: Okay.

19                  REGULATORY JUDGE JORDAN: Please raise  
20                  your right hand. Do you solemnly swear that the  
21                  testimony you are about to give will be the truth,  
22                  the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?

23                  MR. DAVIS: I do.

24                  / / /

25                  / / /

1 Whereupon--

2 SHERMAN DAVIS,  
3 was called as a witness, and having been first duly  
4 sworn, was examined and testified as follows:

5 REGULATORY JUDGE JORDAN: Thank you very  
6 much. And you are Sherman Davis?

7 MR. DAVIS: Correct.

8 REGULATORY JUDGE JORDAN: Are you a  
9 customer of Summit?

10 MR. DAVIS: Yes, I am.

11 REGULATORY JUDGE JORDAN: All right.  
12 Why don't you go ahead and tell the Commission what  
13 you want the Commission to know.

14 MR. DAVIS: A lot of the questions I had  
15 have been asked. I just wanted to be sure they got  
16 answered tonight, so that's why I signed up for  
17 this.

18 But I want to thank Summit Natural Gas  
19 for coming to Lebanon. I have had excellent  
20 service, and I have saved more than a thousand  
21 dollars a year on my heating bills previously.

22 I was concerned with the increase being,  
23 you know, 26, 27 percent. I thought that to be  
24 excessive. I just want the Public Commission to  
25 look at this and be sure to justify an increase for



1 Summit Natural Gas and set it to where it will be  
2 fair for everybody.

3 Thank you very much.

4 REGULATORY JUDGE JORDAN: You're quite  
5 welcome.

6 Any questions for this witness from  
7 Summit?

8 MS. CARTER: No questions. Thank you.

9 REGULATORY JUDGE JORDAN: Anything from  
10 staff?

11 MR. BORGMEYER: No questions. Thank  
12 you, your Honor.

13 REGULATORY JUDGE JORDAN: Office of  
14 Public Counsel?

15 MS. BAKER: No, but thank you.

16 REGULATORY JUDGE JORDAN: Commissioner?

17 COMMISSIONER RUPP: No.

18 REGULATORY JUDGE JORDAN: And I have no  
19 questions for you. Thank you for your statement.

20 The next name on my list is Robert  
21 Young.

22 MR. YOUNG: Robert Young got his  
23 question answered. I thought I had to sign the  
24 sheet to ask the question, so I have nothing to say.

25 REGULATORY JUDGE JORDAN: Fair enough.

1 Thank you for attending, and I'm glad your questions  
2 were answered, and I appreciate you mentioning that  
3 on the record.

4 The next name I have is Frank Cardoza.

5 Please raise your right hand. There you  
6 go.

7 REGULATORY JUDGE JORDAN: Do you  
8 solemnly swear that the testimony you are about to  
9 give will be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing  
10 but the truth?

11 MR. CARDOZA: So help me God.  
12 Whereupon--

13 FRANK CARDOZA,  
14 was called as a witness, and having been first duly  
15 sworn, was examined and testified as follows:

16 MR. CARDOZA: I want to thank everybody  
17 being here from Summit Gas. I know I probably came  
18 across kind of harsh, but, you know, the facts are  
19 the facts, and the figures are the figures. A lot  
20 of questions were answered, which kinda changed up  
21 what I was going to speak, but I do request that the  
22 Board consider having a billing analysis, because  
23 just what I learned in the short-term or time of  
24 speaking here, that I've been paying more money than  
25 I should have originally, based on my gas

1 consumption. All right? But I want to go with the  
2 figures and wish the Panel, the Board to consider  
3 this.

4 If I stay under my current plan and I  
5 use about 519 CCFs a year, using the \$1.77, which  
6 rolls in the other charge, the whole thing, okay,  
7 that comes out to \$918.63.

8 Now, if I go with their SFV plan, which  
9 is a savings, actually -- and I had to calculate  
10 that out -- that comes out to \$618. That's a  
11 300-dollar delta. So now I'm questioning why is  
12 there such a delta between the two plans? So I wish  
13 someone to look at that and to look at mitigating  
14 that so it's not such a huge swing.

15 The customers here, I think a lot of the  
16 questions we have is we get a little, green thing in  
17 the mail, and I had to call around numerous times to  
18 figure out what district we're in because it didn't  
19 say "Lebanon." I caught it down here in the print  
20 here (indicating).

21 If there was a plan comparison -- show  
22 us, your customers, where we're at today, what we're  
23 looking at, and what our options would be -- would  
24 probably help to sell this whole thing.

25 Because my first fear is that someday,

1 like many, we all retire. We're all on a fixed  
2 income, and 300 bucks or 600 bucks a year is quite a  
3 lot of money for lots of people who are not working  
4 right now. So they don't have that available cash.

5 Pending your questions.

6 REGULATORY JUDGE JORDAN: Thank you.

7 First, we'll go with the utility. Any  
8 questions for this witness?

9 MS. CARTER: No questions. Thank you.

10 REGULATORY JUDGE JORDAN: Staff?

11 MR. BORGMEYER: No questions. Thank  
12 you.

13 REGULATORY JUDGE JORDAN: OPC?

14 MS. BAKER: No. Thank you very much.

15 REGULATORY JUDGE JORDAN: Commissioner?

16 COMMISSIONER RUPP: None.

17 REGULATORY JUDGE JORDAN: I had a few  
18 questions, because you referred to some things which  
19 I think you probably explained during the earlier  
20 session, but I wasn't listening to any of that. So  
21 you said you wanted a billing analysis?

22 MR. CARDOZA: Well, I think as if, you  
23 know, like some people who are salesmen and stuff,  
24 when they get out they look at, hey, your current  
25 bill is this; you're overpaying. If you had this

1 plan, this is a better rate that you should be on.

2 And to probably answer a lot of  
3 questions people here, when we first signed up, I  
4 didn't know there really was another plan other  
5 than, yeah, you pay an additional ten bucks a month.  
6 If you use X amount of gas, it's not a big deal; you  
7 don't get charged that.

8 Now, maybe I should have read the small  
9 print, and I'm guilty of that. So I have a hot  
10 water heater. I always burn gas throughout the  
11 year. So that I never thought twice about it.

12 I never knew that the proposed piece --  
13 I actually thought your proposed -- your 73 cents is  
14 what I was really going to get charged. So I didn't  
15 panic too much about it because I'm already paying  
16 70 cents, so it's only a 4-cent difference.

17 I come to find out tonight that that's  
18 not reality. So it really wasn't explained very  
19 well on this sheet. So my fear is when the \$1.77  
20 one came out and I did the quick calculator piece,  
21 that's a pretty significant jump.

22 REGULATORY JUDGE JORDAN: Okay. Go  
23 ahead.

24 MR. CARDOZA: But I understand the  
25 difference in the plans now, figuring it out, but if

1 I had known that and if I was a retired person, I  
2 could have saved a few bucks.

3 REGULATORY JUDGE JORDAN: And the  
4 document that you're referring to there that you  
5 just were telling me about --

6 MR. CARDOZA: Is the one that came out  
7 in the last bill, I think. This is the one that  
8 came out in the mail, that Summit sent out with  
9 their gas bills.

10 REGULATORY JUDGE JORDAN: Okay. So  
11 that's an enclosure?

12 MR. CARDOZA: Correct.

13 REGULATORY JUDGE JORDAN: That's not the  
14 notice of local public hearing, is it?

15 MR. CARDOZA: This little piece right  
16 here (indicating), public hearing scheduled, down at  
17 the bottom.

18 REGULATORY JUDGE JORDAN: Okay.

19 MR. CARDOZA: It came in the mail. You  
20 get your bill. Here (indicating).

21 REGULATORY JUDGE JORDAN: Okay.

22 MR. CARDOZA: And this was in the  
23 envelope. Most people probably discarded it,  
24 thinking it was junk mail or some advertising thing.

25 REGULATORY JUDGE JORDAN: Would you mind

1 bringing it up here so I can look at it?

2 MR. CARDOZA: (Tendering document).

3 REGULATORY JUDGE JORDAN: Thank you.

4 Okay. Yes. Okay. For the record, this is -- I'm  
5 going to give this back to you. I don't need to  
6 keep it. But for the record this is the Notice of  
7 Local Public Hearings and Request for Comments  
8 Regarding Proposed Rate Increase. So that's what --  
9 that's what I thought this was. From a distance, I  
10 couldn't tell.

11 MR. CARDOZA: Yeah.

12 REGULATORY JUDGE JORDAN: Okay. And  
13 thank you. You can certainly have that back.  
14 (Tendering document). Thank you.

15 And just for my peace of mind, you used  
16 the term "delta"?

17 MR. CARDOZA: The difference.

18 REGULATORY JUDGE JORDAN: Thank you.

19 MR. CARDOZA: I'm sorry.

20 REGULATORY JUDGE JORDAN: Did that spur  
21 any questions from any of the parties or from the  
22 commissioner?

23 COMMISSIONER RUPP: No.

24 REGULATORY JUDGE JORDAN: Thank you.

25 MR. CARDOZA: Thank you.

1                   REGULATORY JUDGE JORDAN: The last name  
2 that I have on my list is Kevin Stubblefield.

3                   MR. STUBBLEFIELD: I'm like Mr. Young.  
4 I was just trying to obtain some information  
5 tonight, and most of the questions were answered, so  
6 no comments from me are necessary.

7                   REGULATORY JUDGE JORDAN: Very good.  
8 I'm glad your questions were answered, and thank you  
9 for mentioning that.

10                   That's the last name that I have on my  
11 list, but we have this room for a while, so if  
12 anyone else would like to speak, you could do so  
13 now, on the record.

14                   (No audible response).

15                   And I'm not seeing anyone, so I guess  
16 that will close our testimony. And with that, I  
17 will -- before I adjourn, I want to thank you every  
18 one for attending, because the Commission learns a  
19 lot about each case from this kind of proceeding,  
20 and your participation leads to a better result, and  
21 so I hope that you know that.

22                   And do remember that if you or your  
23 neighbors have any questions or comments, you can  
24 comment to staff, and you also have the Office of  
25 Public Counsel to represent you, the ratepayers,



1 before the Commission.

2 So on behalf of the Missouri Public  
3 Service Commission, thank you for attending. I will  
4 adjourn this hearing, and we will go off the record.

5

6 (Concluded at 6:52 p.m.)

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I N D E X

Witness	Page
SHERMAN DAVIS .....	8
FRANK CARDOZA .....	10

(No Exhibits)

CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER .....	19
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Phonetic spelling: (ph) Exactly as stated: (sic)



<b>A</b>	<p><b>based</b> 10:25  <b>behalf</b> 4:2,9 17:2  <b>best</b> 19:11  <b>better</b> 13:1 16:20  <b>big</b> 6:17 13:6  <b>bill</b> 12:25 14:7,20  <b>billing</b> 6:10              10:22 12:21  <b>bills</b> 8:21 14:9  <b>bit</b> 6:6  <b>Board</b> 10:22 11:2  <b>Borgmeyer</b> 2:14              3:25 4:1 9:11              12:11  <b>bottom</b> 14:17  <b>Box</b> 2:10,17 4:3,7  <b>bringing</b> 15:1  <b>Brydon</b> 2:3 3:20  <b>bucks</b> 12:2,2              13:5 14:2  <b>burn</b> 13:10</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>C</b></p> <p><b>C</b> 1:25 2:20 3:1              19:8,19  <b>calculate</b> 11:9  <b>calculator</b> 13:20  <b>call</b> 11:17  <b>called</b> 8:3 10:14  <b>calling</b> 3:4 5:24              7:9  <b>Capitol</b> 2:4  <b>Cardoza</b> 10:4,11              10:13,16 12:22              13:24 14:6,12              14:15,19,22              15:2,11,17,19              15:25 18:6  <b>Carter</b> 2:3 3:20              3:20 9:8 12:9  <b>case</b> 3:14 5:3,9              16:19  <b>cases</b> 4:23  <b>cash</b> 12:4  <b>caught</b> 11:19  <b>CCFs</b> 11:5  <b>CCR</b> 1:25 2:20</p>	<p>19:20  <b>cents</b> 13:13,16  <b>certainly</b> 15:13  <b>CERTIFICATE</b>              18:18 19:1  <b>Certified</b> 19:9,9  <b>certify</b> 19:10,13  <b>chance</b> 6:15  <b>changed</b> 10:20  <b>charge</b> 11:6  <b>charged</b> 13:7,14  <b>Christina</b> 2:7 4:7  <b>christina.bake...</b>              2:8  <b>City</b> 2:4,11,17              4:3,8  <b>clarified</b> 5:11  <b>clarify</b> 5:5 7:4  <b>clearly</b> 6:20  <b>close</b> 16:16  <b>come</b> 5:14,20              6:19 13:17  <b>comes</b> 11:7,10  <b>coming</b> 4:15 7:13              7:16 8:19  <b>comment</b> 5:10              16:24  <b>comments</b> 5:2              15:7 16:6,23  <b>Commission</b> 1:2              2:13,16 3:3,16              4:3 5:25 6:9              8:12,13,24              16:18 17:1,3              19:5  <b>commissioner</b>              1:19 4:12,14              7:3 9:16,17              12:15,16 15:22              15:23  <b>commissioners</b>              3:16 4:19,25  <b>Commission's</b>              3:9  <b>comparison</b>              11:21  <b>concerned</b> 8:22</p>	<p><b>concerns</b> 5:3  <b>concise</b> 6:20  <b>Concluded</b> 17:6  <b>concludes</b> 3:14  <b>conduct</b> 3:13  <b>consider</b> 10:22              11:2  <b>constitute</b> 3:15  <b>constitutes</b> 6:4  <b>consumption</b>              11:1  <b>Correct</b> 8:7              14:12  <b>counsel</b> 2:6,9,14              4:6,9 9:14              16:25 19:14  <b>COUNTY</b> 19:3  <b>Court</b> 19:9  <b>cover</b> 6:15  <b>CRR</b> 1:25 2:20              19:19  <b>current</b> 11:4              12:24  <b>customer</b> 8:9  <b>customers</b> 4:10              6:7,12 11:15,22</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>D</b></p> <p><b>D</b> 2:14 3:1 18:3  <b>Daniel</b> 1:17 3:11  <b>Davis</b> 7:11,12,18              7:23 8:2,6,7,10              8:14 18:5  <b>deal</b> 13:6  <b>decision</b> 3:15  <b>delta</b> 11:11,12              15:16  <b>Department</b> 2:9              2:15  <b>Deputy</b> 2:14  <b>Development</b> 2:9              2:15  <b>Diana</b> 2:3 3:20  <b>difference</b> 13:16              13:25 15:17  <b>different</b> 6:1,2  <b>direction</b> 19:12</p>	<p><b>discarded</b> 14:23  <b>disposition</b> 3:17  <b>distance</b> 15:9  <b>district</b> 11:18  <b>document</b> 14:4              15:2,14  <b>dollars</b> 8:21  <b>draft</b> 3:14  <b>duly</b> 8:3 10:14</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>E</b></p> <p><b>E</b> 3:1,1 18:3  <b>earlier</b> 12:19  <b>East</b> 2:4,21  <b>Economic</b> 2:9,15  <b>employee</b> 19:13              19:15  <b>enclosure</b> 14:11  <b>endorse</b> 6:25  <b>England</b> 2:3 3:21  <b>entire</b> 3:14 5:16  <b>entries</b> 3:18  <b>envelope</b> 14:23  <b>evening</b> 3:13  <b>everybody</b> 5:21              9:2 10:16  <b>Exactly</b> 18:22  <b>examined</b> 8:4              10:15  <b>excellent</b> 8:19  <b>excessive</b> 8:24  <b>Exhibits</b> 18:14  <b>explained</b> 12:19              13:18  <b>extremely</b> 5:16              5:16</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>F</b></p> <p><b>fact</b> 4:20  <b>facts</b> 5:9 10:18              10:19  <b>fair</b> 9:2,25  <b>Fax</b> 2:11,18,22  <b>fear</b> 11:25 13:19  <b>figure</b> 11:18  <b>figures</b> 10:19,19              11:2</p>
<b>B</b>	<p><b>back</b> 4:18 15:5              15:13  <b>Baker</b> 2:7 4:7,7              9:15 12:14</p>			

<p><b>figuring</b> 13:25  <b>file</b> 1:11 3:4  <b>Filing</b> 1:12  <b>final</b> 3:17  <b>financially</b> 19:16  <b>find</b> 13:17  <b>finds</b> 6:1  <b>first</b> 7:10 8:3              10:14 11:25              12:7 13:3  <b>fixed</b> 12:1  <b>follows</b> 8:4 10:15  <b>foregoing</b> 19:10  <b>form</b> 19:12  <b>Frank</b> 10:4,13              18:6  <b>further</b> 19:13</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>G</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>G</b> 3:1  <b>gas</b> 1:11,14 2:2              3:6,21 8:18 9:1              10:17,25 13:6              13:10 14:9  <b>general</b> 3:5  <b>give</b> 7:21 10:9              15:5  <b>glad</b> 10:1 16:8  <b>go</b> 8:12 10:6 11:1              11:8 12:7 13:22              17:4  <b>God</b> 10:11  <b>going</b> 4:23 7:14              10:21 13:14              15:5  <b>good</b> 6:7 16:7  <b>gravity</b> 4:21  <b>green</b> 11:16  <b>ground</b> 6:16  <b>GR-2014-0086</b>              1:11 3:4  <b>guess</b> 16:15  <b>guilty</b> 13:9</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>H</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>hand</b> 7:20 10:5  <b>hard</b> 6:13</p>	<p><b>harsh</b> 10:18  <b>hear</b> 5:1,22  <b>hearing</b> 1:5 3:9              4:16,23 7:13              14:14,16 17:4              19:5  <b>Hearings</b> 15:7  <b>heater</b> 13:10  <b>heating</b> 8:21  <b>help</b> 5:5 10:11              11:24  <b>hey</b> 12:24  <b>Honor</b> 3:25 9:12  <b>hope</b> 6:11 16:21  <b>hot</b> 13:9  <b>huge</b> 11:14</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>I</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>importance</b> 4:22  <b>important</b> 5:16  <b>includes</b> 3:7  <b>income</b> 12:2  <b>Incorporated</b> 3:6  <b>increase</b> 1:13 3:7              3:10 5:15 8:22              8:25 15:8  <b>indicating</b> 11:20              14:16,20  <b>inform</b> 6:8  <b>information</b> 16:4  <b>input</b> 7:14  <b>interested</b> 6:8              19:16  <b>investigate</b> 6:14              6:14  <b>investigation</b> 6:6  <b>involved</b> 19:15  <b>issue</b> 4:22 5:15              5:15  <b>issues</b> 6:9,9,10,15</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>J</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>Jefferson</b> 2:4,11              2:17 4:3,8  <b>job</b> 3:12 6:17  <b>John</b> 2:14 4:1  <b>Jordan</b> 1:17 3:3</p>	<p>3:11,23 4:5,11          5:18 7:15,19          8:5,8,11 9:4,9          9:13,16,18,25          10:7 12:6,10,13          12:15,17 13:22          14:3,10,13,18          14:21,25 15:3          15:12,18,20,24          16:1,7  <b>judge</b> 1:17 3:3,12              3:23 4:5,11,15              5:18 7:15,19              8:5,8,11 9:4,9              9:13,16,18,25              10:7 12:6,10,13              12:15,17 13:22              14:3,10,13,18              14:21,25 15:3              15:12,18,20,24              16:1,7  <b>jump</b> 13:21  <b>June</b> 1:6  <b>junk</b> 14:24  <b>justify</b> 8:25  <b>J.D</b> 2:7</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>K</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>keep</b> 15:6  <b>Kevin</b> 16:2  <b>kind</b> 6:2 10:18              16:19  <b>kinda</b> 10:20  <b>knew</b> 13:12  <b>know</b> 4:16 5:3,8              8:13,23 10:17              10:18 12:23              13:4 16:21  <b>known</b> 14:1</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>L</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>law</b> 1:17 3:12  <b>leads</b> 16:20  <b>learned</b> 10:23  <b>learns</b> 16:18  <b>Lebanon</b> 1:7              7:13 8:19 11:19</p>	<p>19:5  <b>left</b> 4:23  <b>Let's</b> 3:18  <b>list</b> 5:24 7:10              9:20 16:2,11  <b>listen</b> 4:17,24 5:2              5:12  <b>listening</b> 12:20  <b>litigation</b> 2:21              6:5  <b>little</b> 6:5 11:16              14:15  <b>local</b> 1:5 3:9              14:14 15:7 19:5  <b>look</b> 8:25 11:13              11:13 12:24              15:1  <b>looking</b> 11:23  <b>looks</b> 6:5  <b>lot</b> 8:14 10:19              11:15 12:3 13:2              16:19  <b>lots</b> 12:3</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>M</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>Madison</b> 2:10,16  <b>Madrid</b> 2:21  <b>mail</b> 11:17 14:8              14:19,24  <b>matter</b> 1:11              19:10  <b>mean</b> 4:21  <b>means</b> 5:3  <b>mentioning</b> 10:2              16:9  <b>microphone</b> 5:21  <b>MIDWEST</b> 2:21  <b>mind</b> 14:25 15:15  <b>Missouri</b> 1:1,7              1:12 2:2,8,13              2:15 3:6,8,22              4:3,8 17:2 19:2              19:5,5  <b>mitigating</b> 11:13  <b>MLS-160702/P...</b>              19:25  <b>MO</b> 2:4,11,17,22</p>	<p><b>money</b> 10:24              12:3  <b>month</b> 13:5</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>N</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>N</b> 3:1 18:3  <b>name</b> 4:1 7:10              9:20 10:4 16:1              16:10  <b>names</b> 5:24  <b>Natural</b> 1:11,13              2:2 3:6,21 8:18              9:1  <b>nature</b> 5:25  <b>necessary</b> 16:6  <b>need</b> 5:11 15:5  <b>neighbors</b> 16:23  <b>never</b> 13:11,12  <b>notice</b> 14:14 15:6  <b>number</b> 3:4  <b>numerous</b> 11:17</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>O</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>O</b> 3:1  <b>oath</b> 5:20,22 7:16  <b>obtain</b> 16:4  <b>Office</b> 2:6,9 4:6,9              9:13 16:24  <b>okay</b> 7:18 11:6              13:22 14:10,18              14:21 15:4,4,12  <b>OPC</b> 12:13  <b>opening</b> 4:13  <b>opportunity</b> 6:7  <b>options</b> 11:23  <b>orderly</b> 3:13  <b>originally</b> 10:25  <b>overpaying</b>              12:25</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>P</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>P</b> 3:1  <b>Page</b> 18:4  <b>Panel</b> 11:2  <b>panic</b> 13:15  <b>participation</b>              16:20</p>
--	--	--	---	--

<p><b>parties</b> 7:3 15:21 19:14,15 <b>Paula</b> 1:25 2:20 19:8,19 <b>pay</b> 13:5 <b>paying</b> 10:24 13:15 <b>PC</b> 2:3 <b>peace</b> 15:15 <b>Pending</b> 12:5 <b>people</b> 6:1 12:3 12:23 13:3 14:23 <b>percent</b> 8:23 <b>person</b> 14:1 19:16 <b>persons</b> 6:8 <b>ph</b> 18:22 <b>phase</b> 6:5 <b>Phonetic</b> 18:22 <b>piece</b> 13:12,20 14:15 <b>plan</b> 11:4,8,21 13:1,4 <b>plans</b> 11:12 13:25 <b>Please</b> 7:19 10:5 <b>podium</b> 5:21 6:19 <b>point</b> 6:20 <b>position</b> 6:25 <b>possibly</b> 6:16 <b>pre</b> 5:8 <b>prefer</b> 5:23 <b>prejudging</b> 5:8 <b>Presiding</b> 1:17 <b>pretty</b> 5:10 13:21 <b>previously</b> 8:21 <b>print</b> 11:19 13:9 <b>probably</b> 10:17 11:24 12:19 13:2 14:23 <b>procedure</b> 7:5 <b>proceeding</b> 3:13 6:2 16:19 <b>PROCEEDIN...</b> 1:3</p>	<p><b>Professional</b> 19:8 <b>proposed</b> 13:12 13:13 15:8 <b>provide</b> 6:11 <b>PSC</b> 7:14 <b>public</b> 1:2,5 2:6,9 2:13,16 3:8,9 4:2,6,9,16 8:24 9:14 14:14,16 15:7 16:25 17:2 19:5,5 <b>P.E</b> 2:7 <b>p.m</b> 17:6 <b>P.O</b> 2:10,17 4:3,7</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Q</b></p> <p><b>question</b> 9:23,24 <b>questioning</b> 11:11 <b>questions</b> 5:5,7 6:18 7:2,5 8:14 9:6,8,11,19 10:1,20 11:16 12:5,8,9,11,18 13:3 15:21 16:5 16:8,23 <b>question-and-a...</b> 6:21 <b>quick</b> 13:20 <b>quiet</b> 5:10 <b>quite</b> 9:4 12:2</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>R</b></p> <p><b>R</b> 3:1 <b>raise</b> 7:19 10:5 <b>rate</b> 3:5,7,9 5:15 13:1 15:8 <b>ratepayers</b> 16:25 <b>read</b> 4:24 13:8 <b>reality</b> 13:18 <b>really</b> 6:7 13:4,14 13:18 <b>Real-Time</b> 19:9 <b>recommendation</b> 3:15 <b>record</b> 6:23 10:3 15:4,6 16:13</p>	<p>17:4 <b>recorded</b> 4:25 19:11 <b>reduced</b> 19:12 <b>referred</b> 12:18 <b>referring</b> 14:4 <b>regarding</b> 6:9,10 15:8 <b>Registered</b> 19:8 <b>regulatory</b> 1:17 3:3,11,23 4:5 4:11 5:18 7:15 7:19 8:5,8,11 9:4,9,13,16,18 9:25 10:7 12:6 12:10,13,15,17 13:22 14:3,10 14:13,18,21,25 15:3,12,18,20 15:24 16:1,7 <b>relative</b> 19:13,14 <b>remain</b> 5:10 <b>remarks</b> 4:13 <b>remember</b> 16:22 <b>repeat</b> 6:24 <b>report</b> 4:18 <b>Reported</b> 1:25 2:19 <b>Reporter</b> 18:18 19:1,8,9,9 <b>represent</b> 16:25 <b>request</b> 3:7 10:21 15:7 <b>respond</b> 5:7 <b>response</b> 7:7 16:14 <b>result</b> 16:20 <b>retire</b> 12:1 <b>retired</b> 14:1 <b>Revenues</b> 1:13 <b>Revised</b> 1:12 <b>right</b> 7:20 8:11 10:5 11:1 12:4 14:15 <b>Robert</b> 9:20,22 <b>rolls</b> 11:6 <b>room</b> 16:11</p>	<p><b>RPR</b> 1:25 2:20 19:19 <b>Rupp</b> 1:19 4:12 4:14 9:17 12:16 15:23</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>S</b></p> <p><b>s</b> 1:12 3:1 <b>safe</b> 6:10 <b>salesmen</b> 12:23 <b>saved</b> 8:20 14:2 <b>savings</b> 11:9 <b>scheduled</b> 14:16 <b>SCOTT</b> 1:19 <b>see</b> 7:16 <b>seeing</b> 7:8 16:15 <b>sell</b> 11:24 <b>SENIOR</b> 1:17 <b>sent</b> 14:8 <b>service</b> 1:2,14 2:13,16 3:8 4:2 6:9,11,14 8:20 17:3 19:5 <b>SERVICES</b> 2:21 <b>session</b> 6:22 12:20 <b>set</b> 9:1 <b>SFV</b> 11:8 <b>sheet</b> 9:24 13:19 <b>Sherman</b> 7:10 8:2,6 18:5 <b>short-term</b> 10:23 <b>show</b> 11:21 <b>sic</b> 18:22 <b>sign</b> 9:23 <b>signed</b> 8:16 13:3 <b>significant</b> 13:21 <b>situation</b> 4:22 <b>small</b> 13:8 <b>solemnly</b> 7:20 10:8 <b>somebody</b> 6:23 <b>someday</b> 11:25 <b>sorry</b> 15:19 <b>speak</b> 5:20 6:19 10:21 16:12 <b>speaking</b> 10:24</p>	<p><b>spelling</b> 18:22 <b>Springfield</b> 2:22 <b>spur</b> 15:20 <b>ss</b> 19:3 <b>staff</b> 2:14 3:24 4:2 6:8,13 9:10 12:10 16:24 <b>start</b> 3:19 <b>started</b> 6:19 7:6 <b>state</b> 1:1 2:8,15 5:16 19:2,5 <b>stated</b> 18:22 <b>statement</b> 5:5 7:2 9:19 <b>statements</b> 5:19 5:25 <b>stay</b> 11:4 <b>Street</b> 2:10,16 <b>Stubblefield</b> 16:2 16:3 <b>stuff</b> 12:23 <b>Suite</b> 2:10,16 <b>Summit</b> 1:11 2:2 3:5,21 8:9,18 9:1,7 10:17 14:8 <b>sure</b> 4:14 8:15,25 <b>swear</b> 7:20 10:8 <b>Swearengen</b> 2:3 3:21 <b>swing</b> 11:14 <b>sworn</b> 8:4 10:15</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>T</b></p> <p><b>T</b> 1:19 <b>take</b> 5:15 <b>talk</b> 5:14 <b>Tariffs</b> 1:12 <b>Tel</b> 2:5,11,18,22 <b>tell</b> 5:4 6:25 8:12 15:10 <b>telling</b> 7:4 14:5 <b>ten</b> 13:5 <b>Tendering</b> 15:2 15:14 <b>term</b> 15:16 <b>testified</b> 8:4</p>
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<p>10:15  <b>testimony</b> 5:19                  7:6,21 10:8                  16:16  <b>thank</b> 3:23,25                  4:5,11,14,15                  5:17 7:12,15                  8:5,18 9:3,8,11                  9:15,19 10:1,16                  12:6,9,11,14                  15:3,13,14,18                  15:24,25 16:8                  16:17 17:3  <b>Thanks</b> 7:13  <b>thing</b> 11:6,16,24                  14:24  <b>things</b> 6:14 12:18  <b>think</b> 11:15                  12:19,22 14:7  <b>thinking</b> 14:24  <b>thought</b> 8:23                  9:23 13:11,13                  15:9  <b>thoughts</b> 5:1,4  <b>thousand</b> 8:20  <b>time</b> 5:14 10:23  <b>times</b> 11:17  <b>today</b> 11:22  <b>tonight</b> 8:16                  13:17 16:5  <b>transcript</b> 1:3                  5:13  <b>transcripts</b> 4:24  <b>truth</b> 7:21,22,22                  10:9,9,10  <b>trying</b> 16:4  <b>twice</b> 13:11  <b>two</b> 11:12</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>U</b></p> <p><b>understand</b>                  13:24  <b>use</b> 5:21 11:5                  13:6  <b>useful</b> 6:1  <b>utility</b> 6:11 12:7</p>	<hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>V</b></p> <p><b>varies</b> 6:1  <b>viewed</b> 5:8  <b>views</b> 6:2  <b>vote</b> 3:16  <b>Voyles</b> 1:25 2:20                  19:8,19</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>W</b></p> <p><b>want</b> 4:15 6:20                  8:13,18,24                  10:16 11:1                  16:17  <b>wanted</b> 8:15                  12:21  <b>wasn't</b> 12:20                  13:18  <b>water</b> 13:10  <b>WEBSTER</b> 19:3  <b>welcome</b> 4:16 9:5  <b>we'll</b> 3:19 12:7  <b>we're</b> 11:18,22                  11:22 12:1  <b>wish</b> 5:20 11:2,12  <b>witness</b> 8:3 9:6                  10:14 12:8 18:4  <b>witnesses</b> 7:9  <b>working</b> 12:3  <b>works</b> 6:13  <b>written</b> 19:12</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>X</b></p> <p><b>X</b> 13:6 18:3</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Y</b></p> <p><b>yeah</b> 13:5 15:11  <b>year</b> 8:21 11:5                  12:2 13:11  <b>Young</b> 9:21,22                  9:22 16:3</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>\$</b></p> <p><b>\$1.77</b> 11:5 13:19  <b>\$618</b> 11:10  <b>\$918.63</b> 11:7</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>1</b></p>	<p><b>10</b> 18:6  <b>17</b> 1:6  <b>19</b> 18:18</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>2</b></p> <p><b>200</b> 2:10,16  <b>2014</b> 1:6  <b>2230</b> 2:10 4:8  <b>2422</b> 2:21  <b>26</b> 8:23  <b>27</b> 8:23</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>3</b></p> <p><b>300</b> 12:2  <b>300-dollar</b> 11:11  <b>312</b> 2:4  <b>360</b> 2:17 4:3</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>4</b></p> <p><b>4-cent</b> 13:16  <b>417.877.9700</b>                  2:22  <b>417.877.9704</b>                  2:22</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>5</b></p> <p><b>519</b> 11:5  <b>573.635.7166</b> 2:5  <b>573.751.5472</b>                  2:18  <b>573.751.5562</b>                  2:11  <b>573.751.5565</b>                  2:11  <b>573.751.9285</b>                  2:18</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>6</b></p> <p><b>6:52</b> 17:6  <b>600</b> 12:2  <b>650</b> 2:10  <b>65102</b> 2:4,11,17                  4:4,8  <b>65804</b> 2:22</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>7</b></p> <p><b>70</b> 13:16  <b>73</b> 13:13</p>	<p><b>750</b> 2:20 19:20</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>8</b></p> <p><b>8</b> 18:5  <b>800</b> 2:16</p>
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