EVIDENTIARY HEARING VOL. 15 ER-2010-0355 & 0356 01-19-2011

1	We ask the Commission to question the
2	witnesses. Please don't pass on any of those folks.
3	They're all important to the process. They've all
4	filed testimony and they all can explain the important
5	issues the Commission faces. Thank you very much.
6	JUDGE PRIDGIN: Mr. Hatfield, thank you.
7	Is there any other party who wishes to give a mini
8	opening on Iatan?
9	All right. Hearing none, would Mr. Blanc
10	then be the first witness for KCP&L?
11	MR. FISCHER: Yes, sir.
12	JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right. Mr. Blanc, if
13	you'd come forward and be sworn, please. If you'll
14	raise your right hand to be sworn, please.
15	(Witness sworn.)
16	JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you, very much,
17	sir.
18	Mr. Fischer, when you're ready.
19	(KCP&L Exhibit Nos. 7, 8 and 9 were
20	marked for identification.)
21	CURTIS BLANC, having been sworn, testified as follows:
22	DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. FISCHER:
23	Q. Yes. Please state your name.
24	A. Curtis Blanc.
25	Q. Are you the same Curtis Blanc that Apparix

EVIDENTIARY HEARING VOL. 15 ER-2010-0355 & 0356 01-19-2011

1 appeared yesterday and sponsored testimony on overview 2 issues? 3 I am. Α. 4 Does some of your testimony, which I 0. 5 think is included in Exhibit -- KCP&L Exhibits 7, 8 6 and 9, discuss Iatan-related issues? 7 It does. Α. MR. FISCHER: Judge, I would tender the 8 9 witness to be crossed on Iatan-related issues. 10 JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right. Mr. Fischer, 11 thank you. Let me again try to speed things up. 12 Ms. Ott, you'll have cross? 13 MS. OTT: Yes. JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right. Mr. Mills? 14 15 MR. MILLS: I have no cross. 16 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Mr. Schwarz. 17 else? All right. Mr. Schwarz, when you're ready, 18 sir. 19 CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. SCHWARZ: 20 Mr. Blanc, good morning, sir. Q. 21 Good morning. Α. 22 Are the costs for the Iatan unit 1 0. project final and complete as we sit here today? 23 I would say nearly 100 percent. 24 25 Archibald would be a witness that would be able to

give you -- I don't know if down to the penny, but 1 2 down to the dollar what has been incurred versus 3 what's to be incurred. 4 What I can tell you is that the 5 control -- the current estimate to complete that we 6 provided was \$484 million and we believe we'll come in 7 under that. But as far as the details of how much under we anticipate to do that, Mr. Archibald can give 8 vou that number. But the answer to my question then is no? 10 Ο. 11 As we approach the second birthday of the in-service of Iatan unit 1, the calculation of the cost is not 12 13 100 percent complete? 14 Α. I would say it's nearly 100 percent 15 complete. That's a no? 16 Q. 17 My answer --Α. 18 It's not complete, is it? 0. 19 No. it's near--Α. 20 MR. FISCHER: Asked and answered. MR. SCHWARZ: Thank you, Judge. I'm 21 22 sorry. I'm sorry. JUDGE PRIDGIN: That's all right. 23 24 BY MR. SCHWARZ: And what about Iatan unit 2 costs? 25 Q.

those completes as -- as we sit here today?

A. No.

1.2

- Q. So is it fair to say that all of the parties to this case, as well as the Commission, at some point in the future to finally establish costs to be included in rate-base for these two projects will have to be considering both Iatan unit 1 and Iatan unit 2 in the future?
- A. I'd say the Commission addressed that as part of our last rate case. And in the procedural schedules as things have gone along, I think they've drawn pretty clear demarcations. In this case, for example, the true-up date is December 31st, 2010 and so any costs incurred prior to that are included and to be resolved as part of this case. But to your point, any cost incurred after December 31st, 2010, will have to be addressed at a later time.
- Q. Thank you. So that all parties will have to address at least a very small part of Iatan 1 and probably a bigger part of Iatan 2 in the future?
- A. Any costs incurred after December 31st, 22 2010.
 - Q. Thank you. What's your understanding of the prudence definition as it's being applied in this case to the costs incurred for the construction

projects at Iatan 1 and Iatan 2?

1

12

13

14

15

16

17

18 l

19

20

21

22

23

24

- 2 I'm not here to testify as a Sure. 3 lawyer, but I think as has been explained, that 4 ultimately the company has the burden of proof to show 5 that its rates are just and reasonable. However, I believe as the Wolf Creek Supreme Court decision talks 6 7 about in the context of construction prudence audit, that the other parties have to raise a serious doubt 8 9 that an expenditure is imprudent before the company is put in the position of having to prove that -- that 10 no, that expenditure was prudent. 11
 - Q. And what is the standard that will be employed when -- when gauging whether the costs and the activities which cause them are prudent or not prudent?
 - A. Yeah, I would defer to Dr. Nielsen on that. He is our prudence expert and has a lot of experience in that area.
 - Q. You have no opinion? You don't know what the prudence standard is?
 - A. Well, I think it's a -- as described by Dr. Nielsen in his testimony it's what a reasonable person would do knowing what they knew at the time the decision was made and so it's really kind of a two-part analysis. First, you have to look at was

- there a decision or action that was imprudent based on 1 2 that standard. And then step two, you have to 3 quantify if there was any impact on the project from that decision or act. 4
 - So for a -- a decision or -- or process that occurred in the year say 2006 or 2007, an action by the Commission in 2011 would have no bearing on the prudence or imprudence of a decision in that time frame?

6

7

8

10

11

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

- I'm not sure what you mean by "action by the Commission" at this time.
- 12 Any action by the Commission in 2011 0. cannot affect the circumstances of the decision in 13 2006 or 2007? 14
 - The company should be judged based Α. No. upon what it knew at the time the decision was made.
 - very good. So the impact on shareholders 0. of a Commission disallowance in this case has -- has no relevance or materiality to decisions taken in 2006 and 2007? .
- Well, I can't speak for how the Α. Commission makes its decisions, but I believe they are in the position of having to balance interests between the shareholders and the customers. So is that relevant to their decision making? Absolutely. 25

have to balance that interest. But does it go to your question what the prudence standard is? It doesn't impact what the prudence standard is, but it is an interest they have to balance.

Q. Thank you. Let's assume a hypothetical

that it is decided that La Cygne will not be retrofitted. Assume further that the Commission makes some prudence disallowance in -- both on Iatan 1 and Iatan 2 in this case. Are we okay? At the -- at the -- in the -- strike that.

In the decision-making process once the decision not to retrofit La Cygne has been made, would KCPL still consider building a new plant?

A. Yeah, we discussed this yesterday. And first, just to clarify, there are no costs associated with La Cygne retrofit in this case. But as we discussed yesterday, our modeling shows a need for that capacity. And whether that capacity is met by retrofitting La Cygne, building something else, entering into a power purchase agreement, the option of spending nothing isn't available to the company.

So your question is if I know if we would build something if we didn't retrofit La Cygne? I don't know the answer to that. I know we would have to address that need for capacity in some manner.

1	Q. But at the at the time that your
2	you're making that decision, going forward the one
3	of the options that KCPL would have to reasonably
4	consider at that time would be the addition of
5	company-owned generation; is that correct?
6	A. Yeah. We would and we have considered
7	that. That's part of our modeling, is not
8	retrofitting and building something else. That's part
9	of the modeling that has occurred.
10	Q. Okay. Is it is it your understanding
11	of the prudence analysis that the that there is
12	some kind of hold-harmless zone that prudence will not
13	be examined if a project is 5 percent over budget or
14	10 percent over budget or are are one question
15	at a time. Sorry.
16	MR. SCHWARZ: Sorry, Charlie.
17	THE WITNESS: I don't know if there's any
18	kind of hold-harmless zone. But in what is in Dan
19	Meyer's testimony you can look at as kind of a zone of
20	what you would expect a project to ultimately cost if
21	you look at how much it had been engineered when a
22	particular budget was developed.
23	Like in this case, our control budget
24	estimate, the project was 25 to 30 percent engineered
25	at the time. And Dan Meyer will tell you their

EVIDENTIARY HEARING VOL. 15 ER-2010-0355 & 0356 01-19-2011

industry standards that your expectation would be 1 2 5 percent below or 15 percent above based on that 3 level of engineering. But I -- does that create a hold-harmless zone? I don't have an opinion about 4 5 that. 6 MR. SCHWARZ: Thank you. I think that's 7 all I have. 8 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Mr. Schwarz, thank you. 9 Ms. Ott? 10 CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MS. OTT: 11 Q. Good morning. 12 Α. Good morning. So you just testified that you're not 13 Q. offering testimony as an attorney? 14 15 That's correct. Α. 16 Okay. Are you an expert on prudence 0. 17 reviews? No, I am not. That's Dan Meyer and 18 Α. 19 Dr. Nielsen. 20 Are you an expert on financial audits? Q. 21 I am not an auditor or profess to be Α. No. 22 an expert in auditing. 23 Do you have any formal training in 0. 24 project management? 25 No. Other than coursework as an Α.

1 undergraduate in operations management and that was 2 certainly an aspect of the course. I don't profess to 3 be an expert, but I have taken classes in that regard. Do you have formal training in project 4 0. 5 cost management? 6 No, I do not. Our cost experts are Dan Α. 7 Meyer and Forrest Archibald. 8 How about project integration? Q. 9 Α. No. 10 Q. How about project scope management? 11 No, I am not a construction person. Α. 12 Project time management? Q. 13 Other than the operations management Α. generally, we discussed early that coursework in 14 15 business school, no. And that -- and what year would that have 16 Q. 17 been in? 18 I graduated undergrad in 1996. Α. 19 Q. How about project quality management? 20 Just general management coursework Α. No. 21 that would have addressed that at that time. 22 Any formal training in project 0. 23 procurement management? Not specifically to procurement. 24 25 Steve Jones for our witnesses.

And how about project risk management? 1 Q. 2 Α. Other than general management coursework 3 that certainly addressed that, no. And you're not claiming to be an expert 4 Q. 5 in cost engineering? 6 No. That's Forrest Archibald and Dan 7 Meyer. 8 Could you agree with me that a person Q. that is not an expert in the subject area has a 10 significant probability of making inaccurate 11 statements? 12 I would agree with the statements made by Α. 13 Mr. Hatfield in his opening that a Commission does have to look at --14 15 Okay. Q. 16 -- what an expert is saying. Α. 17 So are you agreeing with my statement 0. that I just made or not? That if you're not an expert 18 19 in a subject area, you have a high probability -- or 20 you have a probability of making inaccurate 21 statements? 22 MR. FISCHER: Calls for speculation. I'll let him -- I'll 23 JUDGE PRIDGIN: 24 overrule and let him answer if he knows. 25 THE WITNESS: Yeah, I don't know.

1	don't think it necessarily means it increases the
2	likelihood of being inaccurate, but I think it goes to
3	the credibility of the evidence and the Commission
4	should consider it.
5	BY MS. OTT:
6	Q. Did you draft your testimony?
7	A. I did.
8	Q. Did you have anyone review it?
9	A. Yes.
10	Q. Who reviewed your testimony?
11	A. We have a normal process where the
12	regulatory department reviews testimony, as does
13	counsel.
14	Q. So if your testimony is not being offered
15	as an attorney or an expert for prudence reviews or
16	audits, what is your testimony being offered for?
17	A. I think as it clearly indicates on the
18	first page, it goes to the policy basically and
19	describes our interactions with the Staff, how we
20	understood the audit to be proceeding and then our
21	observations over time of how the audit was actually
22	proceeding.
23	Q. So you're just presenting your view on
24	the policy of the Iatan projects?
25	Δ As well as summarizing the company's

position.

- Q. Okay. I'd like to direct you to page 2
 of your surre-- or your rebuttal testimony. You
 mention that KCPL strongly disagrees with Staff's
 17 acts or decisions that we have classified as
 imprudent. But then later you state that the primary
 purpose behind your testimony is related to the cost
 overruns; is that correct?
 - A. That's correct.
- Q. So you're not specifically addressing the 11 17 acts or imprudents?
 - A. Well, there are a couple -- if you'll read my testimony, there are a handful of those I do address. The prim-- as the testimony you just summarized says the primary point is to identify or to explain the unidentified cost overruns, but there are a handful of the specific 17 that I do address.
 - Q. Okay. Then starting on line 6 you state that, Although KCP&L strenuously disagrees with Staff's recommended disallowance, Staff appears to have attempted to follow the requisite two-step process for a prudence review; first, to identify an imprudent act or -- or decision; and second, to quantify any impact that an act or decision has on the cost project.

1	Do you see that?
2	A. I do.
3	Q. Okay. When you use the term "requisite,:
4	are you using the do you mean required or
5	A. I do.
6	Q. Okay. Could you elaborate on what Staff
7	is required to do and what regulation, law or
8	Commission order requires the Staff to conform with
9	this two-step process?
10	A. I explain the two-step process there and
11	I also explained it just a moment ago in response to a
12	question from counsel from MRA.
13	Q. But where does that come from?
14	A. It's two places. The Wolf Creek order
15	and then, as I understood it, the Commission's order
16	to the Staff in the 0089 case. The order
17	April 15th, 2009 order regarding the audit where the
18	Staff was ordered to provide a specific rationale for
19	each and every disallowance recommended.
20	Q. Now, is the Commission bound by this
21	two-step process?
22	A. The Commission itself?
23	Q. Yes.
24	A. I believe under the Wolf Creek decision,
25	it would be. And then under its own order, that's the

way it instructed its Staff to conduct its audit. 1 2 Are Commission decisions binding? Q. 3 But the Missouri Supreme Court Α. No. decision in Wolf Creek would be. 4 5 Q. Have you ever performed a prudence review? 6 7 No, I have not. Α. 8 Have you ever performed a construction 0. 9 audit? 10 No, I have not. Α. 11 Are you aware of any outside independent 0. authority that controls the methodology for conducting 12 13 a prudence review? As I said before, I think the Missouri 14 15 Supreme Court's Wolf Creek decision dictates how it's to be done, at least in Missouri. 16 17 Are you aware of any outside independent authority that specifies a requisite two-step process 18 19 for a prudence review? 20 The Wolf Creek decision I just 21 referenced. 22 Are there any other decisions or outside 0. 23 sources? 24 That's the only one I'm aware of or the Α. 25 only one that comes to mind at the moment.

Q. Now, are you aware if the KCC made any adjustments to Kansas City Power and Light's Iatan project because they lacked carefulness, caution, attentiveness and good judgment?

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

10

11

19

20

- A. The -- I don't recall the specific rationale, but the KCC did find -- following the two-step analysis we're talking about, they did identify two decisions they concluded were imprudent and then quantified the impact of those decisions.
- Q. And what were those two? Are you -- do you remember what those two were?
- A. I do. They are two -- they pertain to
 our decision to hire specialty welders and share the
 expense of that with Alstom. That's WSI Welding. And
 Brent Davis can speak to I guess the construction
 reasons for doing that. And then the other is the
 incremental expense of a temporary auxiliary boiler
 that was added during startup of unit 2.
 - Q. Now, lets go to page 3 of your rebuttal. You use this term "plug." Where did this term come from?
- A. It's one we standardly use. I believe
 Mr. Featherstone used it on the stand yesterday to
 describe -- basically it's an -- the term used in
 these regulatory proceedings for an unsupported

1 number, a guess. And yeah, Mr. Featherstone used it 2 yesterday in his testimony and used it largely in the 3 same context as I used it here. Okay. Before you heard Mr. Featherstone 4 Ο. 5 use that term, where did you get that term from? In prior rate case proceedings. It's 6 7 not -- it's not an unusual term. But is it usually used to discuss cost 8 Ο. 9 overruns? It's usually used in terms of an 10 unsupported number, a -- a plug. I think it speaks 11 12 for itself. 13 So are you attempting to rename Staff's Q. adjustment that Staff refers to as the net 14 unidentified and unexplained cost overruns as a plug? 15 Yeah, I think that's what my testimony --16 Α. exactly what my testimony describes. My testimony 17 describes a Staff's net unidentified, unexplained cost 18 19 overrun adjustment as a plug because it's not 20 supported. 21 ο. Do you believe ratepayers should pay for 22 unidentified, unexplained cost overruns? 23 Unless they've been shown to be Α. 24 imprudent, yes.

So when a presumption of imprudence is --

25

Q.

is made, doesn't the company then have to come back and then show that the action was not imprudent?

- A. I think the word in the Wolf Creek order is serious doubt. When a party raises serious doubt about a particular expenditure, that the company has to demonstrate that that expenditure was prudent.
- Q. So when a party has raised serious doubt about the unidentified, unexplained costs, do you think the ratepayers should have to pay for those?
- A. I guess first I would say that a serious doubt has not been raised. It's simply --
 - Q. I said if.

- A. -- the result of subtraction.
- Q. If there has been serious doubt raised, should ratepayers have to pay those costs if the party has not shown that it has been?
- A. I'd say that would only be the first part. That would be the threshold -- and Mr. Hatfield went through this in his opening statement, but if that -- if the burden did shift, the company has put on evidence showing that those cost overruns were prudently incurred. And if the Commission concludes that they were prudently incurred, the company should get to recover them.
 - Q. Okay. Where has the company identified

and explained the cost overruns?

A. We've identified and explained the cost overruns in a lot of different ways. And Mr. Archibald and Mr. Meyer are the experts in this area, but as described earlier in the mini opening, each of the reforecasts — that's probably the easiest place to start because by definition, the reforecasts showed a deviation from the control budget estimate, the definitive estimate which is what — how the regulatory plan defines a cost overrun.

And in each of those reforecasts, there were binders of material that identified and explained each deviation from the control budget estimate. And then we came down and met with the Staff and the other parties after each of those reforecasts to go over that, explain that, answer any questions.

And in addition to that, there's the change orders, the purchase orders, the contingency logs. All of those explain -- identify and explain cost overruns above the control budget estimate.

- Q. So are you saying you have to have all of that information and be able to use all of those documents to identify and explain the cost overruns?
- A. I'm saying we have a cost control system and I explained that in my testimony. And then the

1 mechanics of walking through particular questions I would have to leave to Mr. Archibald and Mr. Meyer. 2 But yes, if you look at those documents -- and in the 3 4 instance of the reforecast binders, we're not talking 5 about a mammoth amount of documents. We're talking several binders. But, yeah, you would have to look at 6 7 several binders of material to identify and explain each of the cost overruns. 8 9 Have those binders been provided to 0. Staff? 10 11 Yes, they have. Α. 12 Q. Do you know when they were provided to 13 Staff? 14 It would have been very shortly after Α. each of the reforecasts. As soon as they were 15 available following the reforecasts. 16 17 Are those a part of a data request or 0. were they just voluntarily given to Staff? 18 19 I don't know that for sure, but I would Α. assume they would have been in response to a data 20 21 request. 22 Now, did you say that the control budget Q. 23 was 25 to 35 percent engineered back in December of 24 '06? 25 That's right. When we developed the Α.

control budget estimate, the project was roughly 25 to 30 percent engineered.

- Q. Can you have a definitive estimate when the pro-- when the engineering of a project is only 25 to 35 percent complete?
- A. Dan Meyer has extensive testimony on that. He's the expert. I would defer to him on that.
 - Q. Do you have an opinion on it?
- A. I think it was appropriate for a control budget estimate and that estimate accurately reflected what we thought the project would cost based on what we knew at the time.
- Q. What's your definition of definitive estimate?
 - A. For purposes of the regulatory

 planning -- again, Dan Meyer is the expert for
 industry, but from my perspective, it's regulatory

 plan. It would be the budget that basically we would
 be -- we would track to. And that's what the cost
 control system was designed around.

And that's why in the cost report that was put on the overhead earlier, the left-hand column was always the control budget estimate. That never changed. With each reforecast over the past several years when that report was provided, that left-hand

column was always the control budget estimate. That never changed.

- Q. Okay. Let's go to page 5 of your rebuttal. Is it your testimony that Staff never provided KCPL with notice that it was going to evaluate the cost overruns prior to November 3rd, 2010?
- A. That Staff wasn't going to evaluate the cost overruns? It was always our understanding that Staff would evaluate all the costs, including the cost overruns.
- Q. Okay. But you're saying that you didn't know prior to November 3rd, 2010, that they were addressing the cost overruns.
- A. No. What changed November 3rd, 2010 with Staff's audit report is that was the first time that Staff asserted that it was going to seek to disallow the -- this unidentified -- the cost overruns, so to speak.

And once you subtract out what they
looked at so they wouldn't double count, that was the
first time that they'd made it known to us or the
Commission that their position was because they didn't
believe the cost control system did what it was
supposed to do, that they were going to disallow those

costs. That's the first time that appeared.

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

- Q. So you weren't aware prior to that that Staff was considering disallowing those costs?
- A. No. The earlier reports basically just said that they were -- certainly questioned our cost control system. But when you read those reports, it was in the context of why Staff's audit wasn't done as of that time.

9 And then I believe going back to the December 31st, 2009 report, they explained that's why 10 they were going to have to take an alternative 11 12 approach. They just suggested it -- they were going to have to do their audit differently than they 13 originally anticipated based on how the cost control 14 15 system was working. But they -- they had never suggested that disallowance was the appropriate 16 17 remedy.

- Q. But would you agree that Staff had said that the inclusion of those costs was not -- also not the appropriate remedy at that time?
- A. I believe the language was something that they couldn't recommend inclusion or something to that effect. But that is a -- a far cry from seeking a disallowance.
 - Q. What's the difference? If they weren't

going to include the cost at that point, didn't that mean they could possibly disallow the cost?

3

- A. Consistent with Staff's prior statements in the earlier report, we took that to mean what they -- an extension of what they had said before, that the audit was taking them longer because they were getting something different than they thought they were going to get and that they were having to seek alternative methods. But we read it to mean as they weren't done yet, not that the remedy would be disallowance.
- Q. Are you aware of a meeting with Staff to discuss those issues? Did Staff ask for a meeting?
- A. To discuss -- I'm sorry. You'll have to be more specific.
- Q. The potential disallowance for cost overruns.
- A. We've had many meetings with Staff to discuss the cost control system and cost overruns, which is what it's intended to measure. Yeah, we've had many meetings with Staff about that.
- Q. In particular, the December 31st, 2009 report, did Staff ask for a meeting? Are you aware of Staff asking for a meeting with KCPL to discuss the report?

1	A. Yes. And Mr. Hyneman discusses that in
2	his I believe his surrebuttal testimony. And those
3	meetings did occur. What I believe it's a data
4	request Mr. Hyneman is referring to. And he
5	basically I don't remember if it was a data request
6	or letter now, but it's in Mr. Hyneman's testimony.
7	But it basically said the request was
8	give us your positions in response to the Staff audit
9	report. And our response was we're still formulating
10	our literal position statements for the hearing, but
11	we would be happy to meet with you to discuss the
12	audit report. And those meetings did take place. We
13	discussed the sorry cost control system. We
14	discussed the cost control system and the audit report
1.5	many times.
16	Q. So when did that meeting occur when you
17	specifically discussed the December 31st, 2009 audit
18	report?
19	A. There have been a a series of
20	meetings. And Mr. Hatfield put up a slide and I've
21	got the same information he provided there. There's
22	been literally dozens of meetings to
23	Q. But
24	A discuss the
25	Q a meeting that specifically addressed

the December 31st, 2009 -- I understand you have quarterly meetings, but I'm talking about a meeting just to address the December 31st, 2009 audit report.

- A. I'm not sure we ever discussed the specifics of the audit report, but what we did discuss was the unidentified costs and then explained to Staff on numerous occasions how the cost control system identified and explained so that that -- that plug wouldn't be necessary.
- Q. Now, are you aware of KCPL and GMO's initial response to Staff's report regarding the construction audit and prudence review?
- 13 A. Sorry. There have been several reports
 14 over --
 - Q. Well, I'm going to hand you this one.
- 16 A. Thank you. Thank you.
 - Q. I'm going to direct you to page 5. Now here -- are you on page 5? It would be the first paragraph, full paragraph, first sentence.
 - A. Of similar concern paragraph?
 - Q. Yes. In here you state that Staff unilaterally proposes that approximately 60 million and sorry if I get I don't think this is an HC document of the Iatan AQCS cost will be examined in conjunction with Staff's audit of Iatan 2. So here

weren't you aware that Staff was examining and going 1 2 to potentially disallow these costs? It -- consistent with my prior answer, we 3 Α. 4 took this to mean and continue to take it to mean that 5 Staff just didn't believe it was done yet. Not that it would seek to disallow based on unexplained or 6 7 unidentified costs, but that their review wasn't finished yet. And this was actually led up to 8 9 April 2010 hearings that we talked about earlier. 10 And again in that -- regarding that 0. April 2010 hearings, KCPL asked the Commission to rule 11 12 on its cost control system. 13 we did. Α. 14 So if you weren't concerned about Staff Q. potentially evaluating these costs -- the cost control 15 system, why would you have the Commission rule on it 16 back in April in a non-contested case? 17 18 We were concerned that Staff was alleging 19 we had violated a provision of the agreement. that concerned us a great deal and continues to. 20 21 So you were concerned that Staff was 0.

A. No. Not at that time and that's not what I said. What I said is we were concerned that Staff was allegedly we were violating a provision of the

22

23

24

25

going to disallow?

agreement. We took that very seriously.

- Q. So if you weren't concerned that Staff was going to potentially disallow cost overruns, why would you be concerned about your cost control system?
- A. Because they were alleging we violated an agreement, a contract. And we take that very seriously.
 - Q. So because --
- A. We didn't know what Staff would ultimately do.
- Q. But were you seeking protection in case -- to prevent Staff from making a disallowance?
- A. Like I said, we didn't know what Staff would do. We were protecting ourselves from what we believed to be an unfair, unsupported allegation that we violated a commitment in an agreement.
- Q. So are you saying you weren't concerned that costs could be potentially disallowed for violating the stipulation and agreement?
- A. We didn't know Staff would do that until the November 3rd, 2010 audit report. But did we think that maybe they might? I don't recall if those conversations took place or not. But I can tell you this was in response to Staff alleging we violated the agreement and we didn't think that was correct and we

wanted a chance to clear the record.

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

- Q. Also, in the December -- I mean

 April 2010 hearing, KCPL asked the Commission to order

 Staff to cease its audit activity on the Iatan

 project. Do you remember that?
- A. Yeah. We believed it should terminate as part of last year's rate case.
- Q. But why would you ask that outside of a general -- in a non-contested case?
- A. Well, we didn't know until then that Staff was planning to just continue its audit of Iatan 1 what appeared to be, from our perspective, indefinitely. So we wanted guidance from the Commission when is this audit is going to end.
- Q. But didn't you just testify with

 Mr. Schwarz earlier that Iatan is nearly closed on its
 book? So it's not today fully closed so --
- 18 That topic -- that topic was discussed in Α. great length in the April 2010 hearings with a 19 distinction being doing an invoice, true-up type of 20 audit for expenditures, as I discussed with 21 22 Mr. Schwarz, incurred after some true-up date versus a 23 construction audit prudence review which could and should be concluded in advance of that. That was, I 24 25 would say, the bulk of the discussion in those April

2010 hearings.

- Q. So is it -- do you have an opinion whether or not a construction audit and a prudence review are independent of each other?
- A. I really don't. The -- Dr. Nielsen is the expert there. What was the subject of the April 2010 hearings and what I was just testifying to doesn't necessarily parse those two words, but rather looks at if you can look at the prudence of the decisions and make a determination if a decision was prudent and then later on true-up -- if there are any late invoices that roll in after the true-up date or something like that, you could look at those and true that up. And that -- that's what we talked about back in April of 2010.
- Q. So do you think that a construction audit and a prudence review could be separate? You could do them independent -- well, do you think -- let me strike that.

Let's go to page 9 of your rebuttal.

Around line 12 you indicate that the purpose of KCPL's cost tracking system was to manage the cost of the project. So if the system manages the cost of the project, how does the system identify and explain the cost?

- 1 I think simply it does both. And again, Α. 2 Forrest Archibald and Dan Meyer are the experts in this area, but we put a project -- a cost control 3 4 system in place to manage the cost of the project to 5 ensure it came in at the best price it could. I mean that's -- that's the point of a cost control system. 6 7 But an aspect of that was identifying and explaining cost overruns. So it did both I quess is the simple 8 answer to your question. 10 And then you state on the same page 0. 11 further down that no other utility construction 12 project has been required to have a similar cost
 - further down that no other utility construction project has been required to have a similar cost control system in place as KCPL has for the Iatan projects.

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

Are you aware of any other utility construction project that has language in the stipulation and agreement such as the paragraph Q in KCPL's stipulation and agreement?

- A. I'm not. And as I said, we took that commitment very seriously and we met it.
- Q. So no other company has the same stipulation Q in a stipulation and agreement regarding their construction projects?
 - A. Not that I'm aware of.
 - Q. Thank you. Now, on page 10 in the top,

lines 1 through 3, you state, The Staff has reached 1 2 out to other utilities recommending KCPL's cost 3 control system. what is the basis for that statement? 4 5 Α. The basis for that statement are conversations I had with Tim Rush where he was 6 approached by counsel for Ameren. And his impression 7 from those conversations with the counsel for Ameren 8 was that Staff had reached out to Ameren to adopt a 9 cost control system similar to ours and to talk to us 10 11 about that. Did you do any discovery to verify that 12 Q. 13 statement that Mr. Rush gave to you? 14 Α. I'm not sure what would be required. 15 didn't guestion the voracity of what Mr. Rush was saying. I had no basis to believe that it wasn't 16 17 entirely true and completely accurate. 18 Ο. So you didn't do any --19 Did I ask --Α. 20 -- follow up with Staff? 0. Did I -- I didn't ask Ameren or Staff if 21 Α. 22 those conversations took place. Now, is it possible that other utilities 23 Q. 24 could have asked Staff what was wrong with KCPL's cost 25 control system so they could avoid similar problems?

A. I have no idea. Is it theoretically possible? Sure. But I have no idea.

- Q. Now, if another utility were to confront Staff and ask them about your cost control system, do you believe Staff would give the details of your cost control system out without seeking your permission?
- A. Numbers-wise would absolutely be HC. If they wanted to talk about, okay, what was this cost, what was that cost -- but how the system operated, there's nothing confidential or proprietary about that.
- Q. Is your cost control system highly confidential?
- A. The -- the process? I don't think there's anything confidential about the process itself. Its contents would certainly be -- there are aspects of that that could be confidential, but the process itself isn't confidential.
- Q. So the document that explains your cost control system, is that highly confidential?
- A. I'm not familiar enough with the contents of the document to know what kind of details it gets into, but I would say that the process itself is not confidential.
- Q. Now, I think it's been discussed through

openings and with the Commissioners that, you know, you -- you agreed to stipulation Q in your stipulation and agreement.

- A. We signed the regulatory plan and there are a lot of commitments in the regulatory plan.
- Q. And through that regulatory plan you've received favorable treatment, such as 150 million in regulatory amortizations. That's correct?
- A. I would say we received -- especially with respect to the additional amortizations, we received the cash we needed to protect our credit rating, which all the parties, all the signatories to the regulatory plan agreed was a benefit to us and our customers.
- Q. I'm going to ask you a hypothetical question. If -- and it goes to contract. And I know you're not here testifying as a lawyer, but in your non-lawyer role, if a party to a contract fails to comply with it, should that party suffer the consequences for failing to live up to their end of the bargain?
- A. Sure. If a party is shown to breach a contract, they're held accountable for that. But what the appropriate remedy is a key point for the decision maker. To turn your hypothetical into what we're

1 seeing here --2 I didn't -- I didn't -- I don't need to Q. 3 go into that part. Thank you. That wasn't what my question was. 4 When did KCPL first contact Staff to 5 6 discuss cost overruns? 7 I'm trying to think, because we met with Α. the Staff on a quarterly basis. My recollection was 8 that it was around the timing of the initial 10 reforecast and leading up to the reforecast. The 11 reforecast was finalized in April of 2008 and that 12 process took several months. So it would have been in 13 advance of that. So I would say late 2007, early 2008. 14 15 Now, are you aware if Staff had to Q. contact KCPL to discuss significant cost changes being 16 17 planned before KCPL contacted Staff? No, that's not my recollection. I'm 18 Α. 19 aware of the February 2008 letter from Mr. Dottheim, 20 but my recollection is conversations were taking place and that that letter wasn't focused on that particular 21 22 issue. 23 But that was an issue addressed in 0. Mr. Dottheim's February 28th letter? 24 25 I don't have a copy in front of me and Α.

1 it's, like we said, a 2008 letter. 2 Well, I'll hand you a copy. ο. 3 Thank you. Α. Now, can you take a moment to review that 4 0. 5 letter and let me know if that is the topic being addressed? 6 7 I have the letter and Mr. Dottheim Α. Yes. enumerates six topics in the first paragraph that the 8 Staff wants to talk about. 10 Q. Okay. Why don't you read what those six 11 topics are? 12 Sure. Number one is the actual practice Α. 13 respecting and content of notification of the signatory parties of change factors or circumstances 14 15 relating to the adequacy and reasonableness of KCP&L's resource plan; two, the decision to construct and 16 build Iatan 2 without completion of substantial 17 engineering design; three, the status of the 18 19 construction schedule and definitive cost estimate for the completion of the Iatan 2 and 1 projects; four, 20 the cost and schedule controls that have resulted in 21 the expected cost and schedule of the Iatan 2 and 1 22 23 projects being unknown at this time; five, the notification process related to KCPL's decision to 24

defer the La Cygne 1 scrubber and baghouse; and six,

the notification process related to KCPL's decision 1 2 that it would not proceed with the additional 100 megawatts of wind generation facilities in 2008. 3 So can you agree that the cost controls 4 0. were going to be discussed in this meeting Mr. Dottheim was requesting? 6 7 I don't see any of these related Α. specifically to the -- the cost control system. 8 If anything, there's one that talks about the -- the 10 control budget estimate and the reforecast process 11 that was -- was beginning. 12 Now, if you go to the third page of the Q. 13 document, maybe that will -- the boldface that says, Cost control process for construction expenditures, 14 15 does that state that the cost -- KCPL must develop and have a cost control system in place that identifies 16 17 and explains cost overruns? 18 Α. Sure. He quotes that paragraph Q we've 19 been talking about. 20 So that was going to be a subject Q. Yes. matter in this meeting that Staff was requesting? 21 I mean I -- I think it is part of 22 Yeah. Α. 23 the control budget estimate and the reforecasting.

Now, were you a participant in that

don't -- yeah, it's part of the process.

24

25

Q.

1 meeting? I'm trying to recall because there were a 2 3 lot of the meetings around this time frame just given the status of -- as Mr. Dottheim mentions in his 4 5 letter, the 2008 wind project and the status of what we call phase 2 of La Cygne. So there were a series 6 7 of meetings that occurred after this. I attended many of them, but I can't swear today that I attended every 8 9 single one. Okay. Now, does the Kansas City Power 10 Q. and Light regulatory plan require it to notify the 11 12 Staff and other parties in writing of significant 13 changes? 14 If there's a change in the resource plan, Α. 15 yes. So if there's only a significant change 16 0. 17 within the resource plan? 18 Α. Yes. 19 How did KCPL do this? Q. 20 Yeah, we were in constant conversation. Α. 21 There are two examples that came up during a process 22 and one the Commission opened a special proceeding to 23 look into one. And the two examples that were perhaps

changes to the resource plan and there were

differences of opinion about that.

24

The first is the 2008 wind project. That project was not required under the regulatory plan, it was not part of the resource plan. We had a commitment to evaluate whether to do it and so we -- we evaluated whether to do it, we shared that evaluation with the Staff and the other parties.

25 l

We shared our decision not to do it and there were parties that took a position at the time that that was a change of the resource plan. And then that ultimately was a separate proceeding before the Commission. But our position is it didn't change the resource plan because the 2008 wind project was never part of it.

The second example is La Cygne. The environmental retrofit of La Cygne 1 was to be in two phases; the first being the SCR, which has been done; the second was the scrubber and baghouse. And that has yet to be done and has been a conversation and I answered questions about that yesterday.

And in our mind, that wasn't a change in the resource plan because we still intend to do that project and what we explained to the parties along the way is what we were seeing in the marketplace wouldn't permit us to do it in the time line set out in the regulatory plan. But the resource plan didn't change

because we still intended to do it.

Q. Let's go to page 13 of your rebuttal on lines 1 through 4. You state that KCPL explained how Staff could use the system to identify and explain costs in excess of the control budget estimate. Would that result in Staff -- in -- let me see.

How could Staff use your system to identify -- to be able to track these cost overruns?

A. Sure. As I explained earlier, the mechanics of how you would walk through that I'm going to leave to Forrest Archibald. He's our expert in that area. But we had a series of meetings with Staff and at each of those meetings, they would ask Mr. Archibald, How do I track this, and then he would explain the columns they have to look at, the documents they have to look at. And that would typically be followed up with, Okay, then how do I track that and the same process. I don't recall Mr. Archibald ever not being able to answer one of those questions.

- Q. So then are you saying that Mr. Archibald would have been the person at KCPL that would have used the cost control system to give Staff a complete analysis on how they could perform that evaluation?
 - A. I'm saying Mr. Archibald explained to

them many times how it could be done and answered 1 their questions as to how it could be done, as did Dan Meyer. So those two together.

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

- Have you ever seen a complete analysis Q. identifying all the cost overruns that KCPL is seeking to include in rates?
- In my mind, the K-Report that we call Α. it -- the cost report that we've provided on a quarterly basis and then starting in 2010 on a monthly basis, the cost report does just that.
- Q. So it's your testimony that the K-Report is where somebody would go to find all the cost overruns and they would be identified and explained within that K-Report?
- Yeah. K-Report is one piece of paper. Α. It simplifies a very complex project. It can't -that one piece of paper can't explain everything, but what it does do is it walks you from the control budget estimate December 2006 on left side all the way across the reforecasts, accruals, expenditures so what we've spent to date and gives you a pretty clear summary, in my mind, of where the project is from a cost overrun perspective.

But does that one piece of paper identify and explain everything? No. I don't think one piece

of paper could.

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

- Okay. If it -- the K-Report doesn't Q. identify and explain, then what does it really explain to somebody reviewing the K-Report?
- Again, these are better questions for Mr. Archibald and Mr. Meyer. But I would say the K-Report identifies them and then the supporting documentation explains it.
- So what supporting documentation then Q. explains the K-Report?
- Α. Sure. In response to one of my first questions, the change orders, the purchase orders, the contingency logs and then the reforecast binders are probably the simplest, most concise place they exist. But again I would defer the mechanics of walking through that to Mr. Meyer and Mr. Archibald.
- Now, would you think that would be an 0. easy process to have to go and look at a K-Report and then somehow go and find and identify a change order, a contingency log, a purchase order in a reforecast binder to identify one specific item of a cost overrun?
- I wouldn't expect auditing a five-year Α. project of this complexity and scale to be easy, so I 25 guess that was never my expectation.

Do you know when KCPL allowed Staff to 1 Q. 2 start auditing Iatan 2? 3 Α. I guess it depends what you mean by 4 audit. The guarterly reports we began providing in 5 the first quarter of 2006 contained information about Iatan 2, what costs we'd incurred as of then, what was 6 going on at the project. So I would say KCP&L wasn't 7 in a position to allow or not allow Staff to do 8 anything, but we began providing information about Iatan 2 at the inception of the project. 10 Now, you were an attorney back in the '89 11 Q. 12 and '90 rate cases? 13 That's correct. Α. 14 were you involved in any objections to Ο. data requests when Staff was seeking to obtain 15 specific information on Iatan 2? 16 17 Yes, I was. And once Staff explained why they needed it, we provided it. We initially thought 18 that Iatan 2 wasn't relevant because we weren't 19 seeking Iatan 2 dollars in that rate case, but Staff 20 21 explained why they needed it and we began providing 22 it. 23 And that -- when was that? Was that 0. 24 after the close of the rate case? I don't recall that. 25 Α. I'm sorry.

- And when did the '89 and '90 rate case 1 Q. 2 end? 3 I guess I'm pausing because there -- I Α. 4 mean, there was the Report and Order and it has the 5 date, but we continued to receive data requests in the '89 case some -- for some period after that. 6 guess it depends what you mean by "end." In a lot of 7 respects, it never did. I think audit work just 8 continued into the 259 case and then into this case, but that the Commission had a Report and Order and 10 rates went into effect so it just depends what you 11 12 mean by "end." 13 So would the objections to the data request for information on Iatan 2 happen after 14 parties entered into a stipulation and agreement to 15 resolve that case or --16 17 Yeah. As I said before, I just don't recall when in that process that that conversation 18 with Staff occurred. 19 Do you know who at KCPL decided during 20 0. that rate case to not -- that that information was 21
 - A. Yeah. I remember there being a discussion among many people. And the question, just as we just talked about, was how was that relevant to

22

23

24

25

irrelevant?

this rate case? We're not seeking to recover any of 1 2 those dollars and so that was the basis for it. And 3 then when Staff explained why they needed it, we said, Okay, here it is. 4 was that information not relevant to the Ο. 6 Iatan 2 audit or the common plant audit? 7 And that was exactly what Staff Α. No. explained. Staff explained why they needed it and we 8 provided it. 10 0. So it never occurred to you when Staff 11 was auditing the Iatan 1, that they would need 12 information related to Iatan 2? With all the information we were 13 No. providing in the quarterly reports and meeting with 14 Staff on a quarterly basis, as far as the -- the 15 technical confines of the 0089 rate case, we didn't 16 17 see Iatan 2 as relevant. But as I said, when Staff explained why they needed that information, we 18 19 provided it. 20 Do you know what date KCPL decided to let Q. 21 Staff audit Iatan 2? 22 Again, we were never in a position to Α. let. allow, not allow Staff to do anything, but I 23 24 think you're asking me the same question again, if I

remember when that conversation occurred where they

1 explained what they needed and we began providing it.
2 And as I said before, I don't remember the date of
3 that.
4 Q. Now, when you're discussing these
5 quarterly meetings, Staff isn't issuing data requests

during those meetings, are they?

- A. We frequently have take-aways that we treat as informal data requests. We'll go over the quarterly report, provide updates and they'll answer questions. And we treat those questions as informal data requests, absolutely. That happens frequently.
- Q. So were you providing the information in those quarterly reports -- quarterly meetings on Iatan 2?
- 15 A. Yes.

6

7

8

10

11

12

13

14

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

- Q. Were you providing documentation?
- A. Yes. I don't recall ever telling Staff they couldn't have information related to Iatan 2 that they asked for as part of those quarterly meetings. I don't recall that ever occurring.
- Q. So you were willing to give them information within the quarterly meetings, but you were not willing to give them information within the context of the '89 and '90 rate cases?
- 25 A. For the reasons I just described. We

understand the audit and review process to be part of the quarterly report and that would certainly include Iatan 2 and did within the confines of the 0089 rate case where no recovery associated with Iatan 2 was an issue, we didn't think that was relevant. But when Staff explained why they needed the information, we provided it.

Q. Now, as a former practicing attorney, these quarterly meetings, if they were informal data requests, wouldn't it be a better practice to have a formal data request and something in writing to memorialize the information you are seeking for disputes going forward?

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

A. Well, perhaps it could have been a better process, but for our purposes when I say we treated it as an informal data request, those were frequently ran through our Casework system and so that documentation, in large part, would exist.

But also I would preface that, and many times it was they asked for information and that information was provided in a subsequent meeting or conversation. So I can't say that every piece of information that they asked for and that we provided in response would be captured in Caseworks.

Q. Now, on page 13, line 10, you state that,

1 No list exists nor could KCPL easily create one for 2 Staff.

So if this list that you're referring to is so hard to create, how do you expect Staff to be able to create one by going through KCPL's cost control system?

A. Sure. I would go back to the earlier answer to the question about the K-Report. The K-Report itself, I don't see how it ever could -- one piece of paper, the K-Report, explain and identify -- identify and explain every cost overrun. It was our understanding that that was not the intent of the commitment.

The intent of the commitment was to design a system -- that's the word there and in the heading it says process -- and we certainly did that. But consolidating that down -- I think the K-Report does it about as well it could be done, but consolidating down to a single list, document that identifies and explains something fairly complicated, I don't think that's reasonable and not what we agreed to or what the regulatory plan says.

- Q. Do you think that information could be easily put into a report?
- 25 A. I would say that the quarterly reports do

do that in large part. Attached to the back of every quarterly report is a K-Report for that quarter. And then within the text of the quarterly report is the issues we were facing at that time. So that would -- that's certainly another part of the story.

Q. Now, does that K-Report address contingencies?

6

7

8

9

10

11

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

- A. Contingencies are listed on the K-Report.
- Q. But that K-Report doesn't explain the costs charged to the contingencies. It just provides a number. Correct?
- A. Correct. As I mentioned before, it's a summary and you have to go to the back-up documentation. And in response to that question, that would be the contingency logs. But again, the details of how to get to A to B are really better questions for Mr. Archibald.
 - Q. Now, would KCP&L have the ability to create a report to -- to comply with the stipulation and agreement?
 - A. First, we did comply. The system complies with our commitments under the regulatory plan. Could we sit down and try and go through -- I guess, frankly, again that's a better question for Dan Meyer and Forrest Archibald. Based on my

understanding, I'm not sure how such a -- a list, so to speak, has been created. And we've had conversations about that.

And at one time we believed Staff was going to tell us what they thought such a list would look like, but we never got that information from Staff. We asked Staff what that list would look like and we haven't gotten that.

- Q. But could KCPL produce the report?
- A. I don't see how from my perspective, but again, that's a better question for Forrest Archibald and Dan Meyer.
 - Q. Okay. But through your testimony -- but if you can't do it, how do you expect Staff to do it?
 - A. Well, what I'm saying that would -- I don't see how we could do is a single document, a piece of paper, a list that Staff asks for in a data request that identifies and explains everything.
 - That -- that's the part I don't think we can do. Our cost control system does identify and explain cost overruns, which was our commitment and we met that.
 - Q. Does it -- can you produce a report though? I'm not asking for a single list. I'm asking for a report that would identify and explain.

MR. FISCHER: Asked and answered.

EVIDENTIARY HEARING VOL. 15 ER-2010-0355 & 0356 01-19-2011

1 MS. OTT: It's a yes or no question. 2 JUDGE PRIDGIN: I'll overrule. THE WITNESS: I think we've done that 3 4 from our perspective. I think the --5 BY MS. OTT: Where's this report then? 6 Ο. I would say it's the reforecast binders. 7 Α. If you want a single report, confined set of documents 8 that does that, it's the reforecast binders. 9 Do the reforecast binders track costs to 10 0. 11 the control budget estimate? 12 Α. Yeah. The reforecast, by definition, was setting what we thought the cost would be as compared 13 to the control budget estimate, absolutely. 14 15 Let's go to page 14 where you discuss 0. Staff Data Request 970. 16 MR. FISCHER: I'm sorry, Counsel. 17 What 18 page? 19 MS. OTT: Fourteen. 20 MR. FISCHER: Thank you. 21 BY MS. OTT: 22 Now, you're discussing the timing of Data Q. 23 Request 970. Did it ever occur to you that Staff was performing an audit quality control feature to ensure 24 25 that we had all the facts to support our opinions and

findings? That we were just doing an extra follow-up 1 2 and maybe that is why the timing of it to you seemed unreasonable? 3 I only know the words of the data request 4 5 itself. I have no idea what was in Staff's mind when 6 they issued it. 7 Has KCPL complained about Staff's Q. inability to complete its construction audit in the 8 time frame that KCPL believes is satisfactory? I don't know that I would use the word 10 "complain," but that was something we asked to be 11 12 addressed in the April 2010 hearings. As I mentioned before, we were being left with the impression that 13 the audits would go on indefinitely and we didn't 14 15 think that was reasonable. Has KCPL received all the audit reports 16 ο. 17 on -- on time from Staff as ordered? I don't really -- I don't want to quibble 18 Α.

A. I don't really -- I don't want to quibble about it. Some may have been filed after midnight, but we received the three audit reports: August '09 -- or no, sorry, December 31st, '09; August 2010; and then November 2010.

19

20

21

22

Q. Now, when the operations division here at the Public Service Commission was the lead on a construction audit, did KCPL ever fear that the audits would not be complete?

A. I guess we didn't fear they wouldn't be complete until they weren't. So I guess it -- from our perspective, it -- timing-wise it didn't enter our minds that the operations or services division who was in charge, we didn't -- we didn't have a concern about the audits not being complete until they weren't. Who was doing them didn't factor into that.

- Q. Do you know if anyone from Staff has testified that the utilities operations have had their scope of work restricted or their opinions altered?
- A. That did come out in the April hearings and it was a surprise to us. And then according to the testimony, a surprise to Staff as well. I believe Mr. Schallenberg testified that he wasn't aware that the procedure had changed either.

And from our perspective, it doesn't matter to us who's in charge of the audit as long as it gets done in a timely manner. And I would agree with Mr. Featherstone's testimony from yesterday that the point is that the way an audit should be done and the way it has been done in the past is that those two groups have to work very closely together. That was Mr. Featherstone's testimony and I agree with that wholeheartedly, but that's not what we've experienced