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STATE OF MISSOURI

2

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

4

Evidentiary Hearing

5

April 2, 2014

6

Jefferson City, Missouri

7

Volume 7

8

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10 In the Matter of the Application)
of Union Electric Company d/b/a)
11 Ameren Missouri For Permission) File No.
and Approval and a Certificate) EA-2012-0281
12 of Public Convenience and)
Necessity Authorizing it to)
13 Construct, Install, Own, Operate,)
Maintain and Otherwise Control)
14 and Manage a Utility Waste)
Landfill and Related Facilities)
15 at its Labadie Energy Center.)
16

MORRIS L. WOODRUFF, presiding,

17

CHIEF REGULATORY LAW JUDGE

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ROBERT S. KENNEY, Chairman,

STEPHEN M. STOLL,

19

WILLIAM P. KENNEY,

DANIEL Y. HALL,

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COMMISSIONERS.

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

2 (WHEREUPON, the evidentiary hearing began at
3 8:30 a.m.)

4 JUDGE WOODRUFF: We're back today for one
5 more witness, Mr. Gass, but before we went on the record
6 there was a discussion indicating that Mr. Norris wanted
7 to take the stand again, so we'll bring Mr. Norris up.

8 Good morning, sir, and you are still under
9 oath from yesterday.

10 JUDGE WOODRUFF: You may inquire.

11 CHARLES G. NORRIS, P.G. testified as follows:

12 ADDITIONAL TESTIMONY BY MS. LIPELES:

13 Q. Mr. Norris, do you have anything to add to
14 your testimony?

15 Mr. Norris -- I'm sorry. I wasn't on.

16 Do you -- I understand that you want to
17 correct something that you said yesterday. Could you
18 please do so.

19 A. Yes, at least something I may have said
20 yesterday. I'm not sure. But when I woke up this
21 morning, I have an uneasy feeling that I may have
22 misstated something at the end of my testimony last --
23 yesterday.

24 When I was discussing the flow within the
25 alluvial aquifer, as characterized by Ameren's

1 engineers, I was discussing the fact that for the
2 southern monitoring wells, they interpreted the
3 aggregate flow direction over the course of a year,
4 considering all of the individual flow measurements, as
5 being toward the bluffs instead of toward the river,
6 and that is correct.

7 I think I may have also said that that flow
8 direction was to the east southeast. It's to the east
9 southeast during the most severe movements of the --
10 during the course of the year, but the aggregate over
11 the course of the year is still toward the bluffs but
12 it's to the north northeast, not the east southeast.

13 And because I gave a specific direction I
14 wanted to make sure that -- that I had the right
15 direction in the record and I don't know that -- I don't
16 know that I did.

17 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Okay. Anyone wish to
18 cross-examine based on that clarification?

19 MR. TRIPP: Yes, Your Honor.

20 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Go ahead.

21 CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. TRIPP:

22 Q. Isn't it true, Mr. Norris, that the flow goes
23 south southeast during high flood conditions or high
24 water conditions?

25 A. During the summer months that's when the east

1 southeast direction -- compass directions, correct.

2 Q. But the general flow is toward the river?

3 A. No, not for the southern -- not for the
4 southern wells.

5 MR. TRIPP: All right. Thank you.

6 JUDGE WOODRUFF: All right.

7 Any Commission, questions for this witness?

8 I'll clarify --

9 COMMISSIONER KEENEY: Since I have no idea
10 what he's talking about --

11 JUDGE WOODRUFF: I'll explain. Before -- as
12 you were coming down, Mr. Norris indicated that he may
13 have misstated something in his testimony yesterday and
14 he wanted to come back on the stand to clarify that.

15 COMMISSIONER KEENEY: No problem.

16 JUDGE WOODRUFF: And it was about the flow of
17 the water in the aquifer, in the alluvial aquifer.

18 COMMISSIONER KEENEY: No questions. Thank
19 you.

20 COMMISSIONER STOLL: No questions.

21 JUDGE WOODRUFF: All right.

22 Then you may step down.

23 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

24 JUDGE WOODRUFF: And then we're ready for
25 Mr. Gass.

1 Please raise your right hand and I'll swear
2 you in.

3 (Witness sworn/affirm.)

4 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Thank you.

5 TYLER E. GASS testified as follows:

6 DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. TRIPP:

7 **Q. Sir, would you introduce yourself for the**
8 **record?**

9 A. My name is Tyler E. Gass.

10 **Q. And, sir, what do you do?**

11 A. I'm a hydrogeologist.

12 **Q. And are you the same Tyler Gass that caused**
13 **to be prepared for filing in this action surrebuttal**
14 **testimony that we've labeled as Exhibit No. 10, sur-**
15 **surrebuttal testimony we've labeled as Exhibit 11 and**
16 **supplemental testimony we've labeled as Exhibit 12?**

17 A. Yes.

18 **Q. And is that testimony true and correct to the**
19 **best of your belief and knowledge?**

20 A. Yes, it is.

21 **Q. Mr. Gass, if I were to ask you those same**
22 **questions that are in your prefiled testimony today,**
23 **would your answers be the same?**

24 A. Yes, they would.

25 MR. TRIPP: Your Honor, we move into evidence

1 Exhibits 10, 11 and 12.

2 JUDGE WOODRUFF: 10, 11 and 12 have been
3 offered.

4 Any objections to their receipt?

5 Hearing none they will be received.

6 (AMEREN MISSOURI EXHIBIT NOS. 10 THROUGH 12
7 WERE RECEIVED INTO EVIDENCE.)

8 MR. TRIPP: I tender the witness for
9 cross-examination.

10 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Okay.

11 And for cross we begin with Staff.

12 MR. WILLIAMS: No questions.

13 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Public Counsel.

14 MR. MILLS: I have no questions.

15 JUDGE WOODRUFF: LEO and Sierra Club.

16 MS. HUBERTZ: Yes, we have some questions.

17 I'm going to move up here if that's okay.

18 JUDGE WOODRUFF: That would be great.

19 CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MS. HUBERTZ:

20 Q. Good morning, Mr. Gass. My name is Liz
21 Hubertz, and I represent LEO and the Sierra Club, the
22 intervenors in this case.

23 A. Good morning.

24 Q. Just to clear one thing up right out of the
25 way, are you licensed as a professional geologist in

1 **Missouri?**

2 A. No, I'm not.

3 Q. Okay. Are you're licensed as a professional
4 **engineer in Missouri either, are you?**

5 A. No, I'm not.

6 Q. Okay. I just wanted to clear that up.

7 Now, you had agreed with the question in your
8 **surrebuttal testimony, and that's at page 6, lines 4**
9 **through 10 if you'd like to follow along, that Ameren**
10 **has proposed an effective groundwater monitoring network**
11 **with a sufficient number of upgradient monitoring wells**
12 **to prevent identification of changes in groundwater**
13 **quality in the vicinity of the UWL, utility waste**
14 **landfill.**

15 Do you see where that testimony is?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Okay. And is that your testimony today?

18 A. Yes, it is.

19 Q. Okay. And the purpose of a monitoring well
20 **network is to provide early detection of any chemical**
21 **compounds that could potentially migrate into the**
22 **groundwater?**

23 A. The purpose of the detection monitoring
24 **system is to detect early.**

25 Q. And is that the type of monitoring well

1 **system that rings the utility waste landfill at Labadie?**

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Okay. Thank you.

4 And there's no equivalent groundwater
5 **monitoring or detection network in place that would**
6 **permit identification of changes of groundwater --**
7 **groundwater quality in the vicinity of the existing coal**
8 **ash ponds at the Labadie plant?**

9 A. There is no specific system that was designed
10 to do that around the coal ash ponds.

11 Q. Okay. So it's not like there is wells that
12 **ring the ponds the way there are at the proposed**
13 **landfill site?**

14 A. That's correct.

15 Q. Are there any upgradient groundwater wells in
16 the vicinity of the existing ash ponds that would permit
17 **identification of changes in groundwater quality?**

18 A. Could you rephrase that?

19 Q. Well, that's -- yeah.

20 Are there any upgradient wells from the
21 **existing ash ponds?**

22 A. No, there are not.

23 Q. Okay. Do you consider the -- you refer to
24 **three bedrock monitoring wells in your sur-surrebuttal**
25 **testimony at page 2, line 6. They're described as being**

1 upgradient from the ash ponds I believe. Why don't you
2 take a look.

3 A. What page was referenced?

4 Q. I had sur-surrebuttall, page 2 on -- let me
5 check.

6 Yeah, three bedrock monitoring wells.

7 A. Yes. And I -- I believe it states that they
8 are upgradient of the UWL.

9 Q. Okay. Are they also upgradient of the ash
10 ponds, if you know?

11 A. They're not directly upgradient of the ash
12 ponds.

13 Q. Okay. Thank you.

14 Well, are they -- are they downgradient of
15 the ash ponds?

16 A. No, they're not.

17 Q. Okay. Is the proposed landfill site
18 downgradient of the ash ponds?

19 A. At -- at certain times of the year they
20 appear to be, based on the groundwater flow data, the
21 ash ponds would be down-- upgradient of the landfill.

22 Q. Thank you.

23 Okay. I think you started to answer this,
24 but are there any wells downgradient of the ash ponds
25 that could detect chemical compounds that could

1 potentially migrate from the ash ponds?

2 A. Yes, there are wells that were installed
3 along the west edge of the UWL that could potentially
4 encounter groundwater coming from beneath the ash land--
5 ash ponds.

6 Q. Okay. And at page 12 of your surrebuttal
7 testimony, lines 14 to 15, you had stated -- and I'm
8 sort of paraphrasing -- that the results of two separate
9 rounds of sampling from the 28 monitoring wells
10 installed by Ameren that ring the proposed UWL site are
11 indicating that there has been no impact to the UWL area
12 from the ash ponds over the last 40 years.

13 Do you see where that is?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Okay. The rounds of sampling at the wells --
16 when you mention the wells along the less-- west edge of
17 the proposed landfill site, are those wells sampled
18 during the two rounds of monitoring from the
19 28 monitoring wells?

20 A. Yes, they were.

21 Q. Okay. And I believe results of the
22 monitoring were found in Schedule 13 that was attached
23 to Lisa Bradley's testimony. And I have a copy of it if
24 you don't have that with you. I don't think it was
25 attached to your testimony. But you refer to it there

1 on page 14.

2 I say that with confidence. It may be
3 misplaced.

4 No. Here we go.

5 MS. HUBERTZ: May I approach?

6 JUDGE WOODRUFF: You may.

7 MS. HUBERTZ: I'm not going to have the --
8 it's already . . .

9 BY MS. HUBERTZ:

10 Q. This was attached to Lisa Bradley's prefiled
11 testimony, so it's already in evidence.

12 Okay. And if you can turn to the -- it's
13 Table 2 and it's, like, the third from the -- it's the
14 page that's third from the end.

15 Okay. And just before I get into this, you
16 didn't do any independent testing of the groundwater at
17 the Labadie plant site, did you?

18 A. No, I haven't.

19 Q. Or the proposed landfill site. Right?

20 A. No.

21 Q. Okay. All right. So Table 1 I believe
22 depicts the first round of sampling that was done by
23 Gredell and Reitz & Jens. Looking at that do you agree?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Okay. And so Table 2 shows that at 11 out of

1 the 29 wells exceeded the EPA's regional screening level
2 for arsenic and an additional 8 exceeded both EPA's
3 maximum contaminant level and the regional screening
4 level for arsenic.

5 And I'm sorry to make you count in public,
6 but that's -- that's the numbers that I came up with.

7 So 11 in green and an additional 8 in blue?

8 A. Is there a question?

9 Q. Yes. I was asking if you could agree with
10 that.

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Okay. Thank you.

13 And is arsenic one of the chemical compounds
14 found in coal ash?

15 A. Yes, it is.

16 Q. Now I'll flip ahead and take a look at
17 Table 3, the next table in this exhibit, and this is the
18 August -- results of the August 2013 round of sampling
19 at the same wells.

20 And in the arsenic column 14 out of 29 wells
21 exceeded either EPA's regional screening levels or both
22 the regional and maximum contaminant levels.

23 Does that appear to be correct?

24 A. That appears to be correct --

25 Q. Okay.

1 A. -- but there is not necessarily a correlation
2 between these arsenic levels and either the ash ponds or
3 the proposed UWL.

4 Q. Well, right now I was just asking if that was
5 correct, so it is.

6 Okay. And just to be -- these are shallow
7 wells, the wells that we're talking about on this --
8 that were sampled as part of this groundwater -- two
9 rounds of groundwater monitoring?

10 A. That's correct.

11 Q. And by shallow, as I understand it, that
12 means that the water table was sampled at depths of less
13 than twelve feet?

14 A. That's not correct.

15 Q. Okay. What depths were they sampled?

16 A. These wells were typically screened between
17 16 and 25 feet.

18 Q. Okay. And do you know where they were
19 sampled? Were they sampled at the screen level or were
20 they sampled higher?

21 A. I'm not sure what depth they took the sample,
22 but it would not really matter because they purge the
23 wells of water that is stagnant, bring in freshwater in
24 through the screened interval.

25 So whether you're sampling above the screen,

1 which is quite common or within the screen interval, it
2 is still water coming in from the aquifer adjacent to
3 the screened interval.

4 Q. Okay. All right. Now, you had also
5 testified about Ameren's -- in your supplemental
6 testimony at page 3, line 11, about Ameren's addition of
7 seven groundwater monitoring wells to the revised
8 construction permit application.

9 Do you remember that?

10 A. Could you read -- please, repeat the page and
11 line number.

12 Q. Sure. It's page 3, line 11, but I don't
13 think there's actually line numbers in this one.

14 A. Nor do I have line numbers on mine.

15 Q. Okay. I think I just counted the lines, so
16 it's kind of, like, almost halfway down the page.

17 You were talking about the addition of seven
18 groundwater monitoring wells to the revised construction
19 permit application?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Okay. And this included the addition of
22 three deep wells, if you recall?

23 A. That's correct.

24 Q. Okay. And you testified -- and this is at
25 page 5 near the top, that the three deep wells were

1 added on the theory -- and I understand you don't agree
2 with the theory -- that contaminants may migrate
3 vertically down and evade detection by the other
4 28 wells. Is that correct?

5 A. My understanding in reviewing the Andrew
6 Engineering reports basically was the deep wells were in
7 part to -- were basically requested to define the
8 vertical hydraulic gradients of the area.

9 Q. Okay. Had the vertical hydraulic gradients
10 been defined before?

11 A. Not directly. In an environment such as this
12 where you have primarily during the course of the year a
13 gaining stream -- and a gaining stream is a stream in
14 which groundwater contributes, so it's called a gaining
15 stream because groundwater is flowing into it -- that
16 gradients in these areas -- if you look at textbooks,
17 almost every textbook has a classic river valley
18 scenario, and they all have a slight upward gradient as
19 groundwater flows in towards the river.

20 Q. Okay. I think we'll get to that in a minute,
21 but let me ask you first here: It is -- is it pos--
22 is it at least a possibility -- is the downward
23 migration of contaminants into the water table at least
24 a possibility in this setting?

25 A. No.

1 Q. Not at all?

2 A. Not at all.

3 Q. Okay. And you had testified earlier -- at
4 your supplemental testimony, page 5, you had said that
5 the horizontal conductivity of the aquifer is one or two
6 orders of magnitude greater than the vertical
7 conductivity of the aquifer. Is that right?

8 A. That's correct.

9 Q. Okay. And -- but you had also said earlier
10 in your sur-surrebuttal testimony, page 4, line 5, that
11 the aquifer's ability to transmit water within the
12 aquifer is 10 to 100 times the -- its ability to
13 transmit water vertically. Is that correct?

14 A. I'm not following you because I'm not going
15 through it, but let me -- let me clarify, because both
16 reports should have said the same thing, that -- that
17 the ability to transmit water horizontally in an
18 alluvial aquifer with this type of sediment is typically
19 10 to 100 times the capability of the formation to
20 transmit a fluid vertically. So the preferential flow
21 tends to be horizontal.

22 Q. Okay. And in order to figure out horizontal
23 flow, you need to multiply horizontal gradient by
24 horizontal conductivity to get horizontal flow. Is that
25 correct?

1 A. In lay terms that -- that will pass.

2 Q. Okay. Well, that's the -- believe me, they
3 had to dumb it down for me, so I appreciate that.

4 So you need to know the horizontal
5 conductivity, which is what you were just talking about,
6 right, with the -- that's the 10 to 100 times greater
7 than the vertical conductivity?

8 A. That's correct.

9 Q. Okay. And then you also need to know the
10 horizontal gradient because you're going to multiply the
11 gradient by the conductivity in order to get the flow.
12 Is that right?

13 A. That's correct.

14 Q. And there may be -- there may be some other
15 things in there, and it's much more complicated than
16 people like me understand but I wanted to get the basic
17 concept there.

18 And the same is true for vertical flow.
19 Correct? You multiply vertical conductivity by
20 vertical -- I'm sorry -- vertical gradient by vertical
21 conductivity and you get vertical flow. Is that
22 correct?

23 A. That's correct.

24 Q. And then you can sort of plot the results of
25 the two, so it's like horizontal movement over 10 or

1 over 100, vertical movement down, you know, 1 or 10, and
2 then you've got a line like that -- I'm sorry. I'm
3 indicating because I don't know any better way of doing
4 it.

5 A. Would you like me to explain hydraulic
6 gradient?

7 Q. Probably not. You can tell -- your lawyer
8 can ask you to explain it, but for right now I'm just
9 trying to -- as I understand it, it's sort of like
10 plotting things on an X, Y basis.

11 You have horizontal, you have vertical and
12 from that you can determine where the water flows?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Okay. All right. Do we know the horizontal
15 gradient in the aquifer beneath the Labadie plant or the
16 proposed landfill site?

17 A. We know the horizontal gradient, the average
18 annual horizontal gradient.

19 Q. It's going to vary from month to month?

20 A. It does vary from month to month.

21 Q. And do we know the vertical gradient?

22 A. No, we do not know the vertical gradient.

23 Q. So -- okay. So we have -- we can multiply --
24 do the first one then. We know horizontal gradient
25 because that's been measured. We know horizontal

1 conductivity, or at least based on -- you -- you feel
2 confident about horizontal conductivity. So we can
3 figure out horizontal flow. Right?

4 A. Right. We have -- we've actually -- Ameren
5 has done -- when they put in the original 100
6 piezometers, many of them were tested for hydraulic
7 conductivity values throughout the area, so that's
8 the -- the average of those was what was used to
9 determine a representative hydraulic conductivity.

10 Q. Okay. And that makes sense.

11 And so we don't know vertical gradient,
12 right, and we sort of know vertical conductivity because
13 you said it's 10 to 100 times less than ver-- than
14 horizontal conductivity. Is that right?

15 A. That's correct.

16 Q. Okay. So we can call that -- I guess call
17 that an estimate. Has it been measured?

18 A. No, but it's -- typically -- it's
19 representative. Again, it's hydrogeology 101 and --

20 Q. Right. And that's -- in this kind of --
21 because conductivity varies under conditions. Right?

22 I mean, the conditions of the soil through
23 which the water is moving, you can have different
24 conductivity levels?

25 A. I'm not sure I'm understanding you or you're

1 explaining it correctly.

2 Q. I know. It may have been dumbed down a
3 little bit too much.

4 But my understanding is as soil conditions
5 vary, like the difference between sandy soil and soil
6 with, like, shale or clay in it, the conductivity also
7 varies; it's just harder for water to move through some
8 soils?

9 A. That's correct. In an alluvial formations of
10 this nature, hydraulic -- the materials tend to be
11 heterogeneous. They vary both with horizontal lateral
12 distance and they vary with vertical distance. So no
13 one point is a lone representative of what the hydraulic
14 conductivity would be.

15 Q. Okay. So when you're -- you're basing --
16 you're guessing -- guessing is not right. You're
17 estimating the vertical conductivity because you know
18 what it's like in this kind of soil and this kind of
19 aquifer?

20 A. In this particular situation, if I were
21 designing a groundwater monitoring network for this site
22 for a detection groundwater monitoring network, I would
23 not be concerned at this point in time with the vertical
24 hydraulic conductivity.

25 And back in the late 1970s I actually

1 assisted EPA in writing the guidance document for
2 groundwater monitoring around RCRA facilities, both
3 dealing with detection and assessment monitoring.

4 And all that we looked at in that point in
5 time was putting in wells in proximity to where we
6 thought we'd be most likely to encounter groundwater
7 contamination if a release occurred at a RCRA facility.
8 And that is what was done here. That's consistent with
9 the MDNR regulations.

10 Q. I under-- and that's based on the horizontal
11 flow. Correct?

12 A. It's based on the horizontal flow.

13 Q. Okay. And the vertical flow, one part, the
14 gradient hasn't been measured and we can estimate what
15 the vertical conductivity is but we would have to put a
16 question mark as to what the vertical flow actually is
17 at this site?

18 A. We don't have quantification of a vertical
19 gradient at this site.

20 Q. Okay. Now, you've testified that the bottoms
21 of the shallow monitoring wells were at 16 to 25 feet.
22 Correct?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And I think they were sampled higher but you
25 don't think that that matters, so I'm not going to go

1 **into a detailed description of where the intake tubing**
2 **actually was at each of these wells, but that's --**

3 A. You have to understand the sampling
4 procedures. You purge the well of several volumes of
5 groundwater before sampling it, so that the water you
6 pull in is fresh and representative of the aquifer in
7 the vicinity of the intake portion of the well.

8 You don't want to sample too deep and
9 sometimes you don't want to sample within the well
10 screen because you may get fine materials.

11 So whether you sample in the well screen or
12 sample above the well screen isn't really relative. The
13 water in the column within the well, from the top of the
14 water table surface in that well down to the screen at
15 the point you sample is hemogenous.

16 Q. Okay. And you obviously can't sample water
17 that is below the water of the well, below the bottom of
18 the screened area, because the well doesn't go down that
19 far?

20 A. That's correct.

21 Q. That's -- I know. That's -- I think that I
22 have dumbed this down so much that you are having
23 trouble answering my questions but that's okay.

24 So I'm going to take your figures about
25 the mov-- the conductivity being 10 times -- 10 to 100

1 times greater in a horizontal direction than it is in a
2 vertical direction.

3 So for those of us who are not good at math,
4 that means that it moves 100 feet in a horizontal
5 direction and moves one foot in a vertical direction.
6 Is that correct?

7 A. That's very good.

8 Q. And then you have a thousand feet, it's ten
9 feet. Correct?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Okay. And we can just do all of these
12 numbers. So if it's 1,600 feet, 16 --

13 A. But you're -- you're -- you're forgetting a
14 component of the equation, which is what is the
15 gradient.

16 Q. Well, but we don't know what the vertical
17 gradient is.

18 A. Well, we could assume in this type of
19 environment that it's going to be an upward gradient.

20 Q. Okay. That's your -- we don't know. It
21 hasn't been measured. That's -- your guess is that it's
22 going to head up rather than down?

23 A. Based on the many sites I've worked, in
24 alluvial systems, near rivers and streams, and based on
25 almost every textbook we could open up, this is the

1 scenario you're going to find.

2 Q. Okay. It's heading up and not down?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Do you know how far the closest point of the
5 unlined ash pond is to the monitoring well that is
6 closest to the -- the monitoring wells that ring the
7 proposed landfill site is to the -- let me start over.
8 That's a horrible question.

9 All right. The nearest point of the existing
10 ash ponds and the nearest monitoring well of the
11 29 monitoring wells that ring the proposed ash pond
12 site.

13 MS. LIPELES: Proposed landfill site.

14 MS. HUBERTZ: What?

15 MS. LIPELES: Proposed landfill site.

16 MS. HUBERTZ: Proposed landfill site. I'm
17 sorry.

18 THE WITNESS: If I understand your question,
19 you're asking me what is the distance between the
20 unlined ash impoundment. Is that correct?

21 BY MS. HUBERTZ:

22 Q. Correct.

23 A. And the closest monitoring well?

24 Q. Yes.

25 A. I actually haven't measured it, but I'd say

1 it's probably 1,500 to 2,000 feet perhaps.

2 MS. HUBERTZ: I think I came up with over
3 2,000 but that's probably in that neighborhood. Okay.

4 Actually, I believe that's all I have.

5 No. It's not all I have. Hold on.

6 I had to meet with my lawyers.

7 BY MS. HUBERTZ:

8 Q. As I understand it, the mon-- the
9 29 monitoring wells were using low-flow techniques which
10 draw water from a precise interval in the screen. Is
11 that your under-- so the wells weren't purged. They
12 were drawn in this low-flow technique. They're measured
13 at a precise point. Is that your understanding?

14 A. At my age I don't want to challenge my
15 memory, but I was told they used a low-flow technique
16 but the wells were purged before sampling.

17 Q. Okay. If they weren't purged, would that
18 change your testimony?

19 A. If they did a low-flow technique and they
20 sampled within the screen interval, it would not change
21 my testimony.

22 Q. Okay. If they sampled above the screen
23 level, would it?

24 A. It depends on how far above, but ordinarily
25 it's not -- again, it's a function of the process of how

1 much water was removed during a sampling process even if
2 they used the low-flow technique.

3 Q. Okay. And returning to the discussion of
4 gradients, which I admit is not my strength here.

5 All right. As I understand it, you said that
6 the gradient would be upward within the alluvial aquifer
7 around the area of the ash ponds. Is that correct?

8 A. For most of the year, yes.

9 Q. Okay. Now, as I understand it, water flows
10 downgradient to the river and that's the -- and that's
11 the direction that most of the alluvial aquifer is
12 going. The river -- the water under the river might be
13 flowing up but the water above the river is going to be
14 flowing down because the water wants to get to the
15 river.

16 So is that -- am I being correct in that?

17 A. If I could explain, if I may.

18 Q. Okay. This may help.

19 A. All right. We -- we start with groundwater
20 in the Ozark aquifer system, which is basically --

21 Q. The bedrock aquifer?

22 A. -- the bedrock, if that -- that pleases the
23 court.

24 The bedrock aquifer system and the water
25 levels in the bedrock aquifer system are higher than is

1 flowing down and begins to come up as it approaches the
2 stream.

3 In the alluvial formation primarily -- in
4 this type of environment you'll primarily see horizontal
5 flow with the shallow horizontal gradient. And, again,
6 as it approaches the stream, the flow lines begin to
7 curve upward in towards the stream.

8 So to say that it's just flowing down, the
9 surface would be in a downward direction, but at depths
10 you would see it migrating out.

11 And a great example of this would be when I
12 was a teaching assistant, I took my students out to a
13 stream -- actually -- well, I don't know whether you'd
14 call it a stream or a creek. It was about 20 feet wide.

15 And the challenge was to put a pipe in the
16 ground -- it was a four-inch pipe -- and the water table
17 was very shallow adjacent to the stream, and you measure
18 the water table in there from the depth of the -- the
19 top of the pipe to the water level, and then you do the
20 same thing -- a similar situation, because the rock --
21 the pipe is right adjacent to the stream.

22 And it's equal. And I said -- I asked them
23 to say, is the water level -- what happens when we drive
24 this pipe down three feet into the ground?

25 And most of them said it would still be the

1 same. Some of them said it would drop. Some of them
2 said it would go up.

3 Well, in reality, in a gaining stream
4 situation, where groundwater is flowing into the stream,
5 as you drive it down -- it doesn't have to be directly
6 in the stream because I didn't feel like getting wet.

7 Driving the pipe down adjacent to the river,
8 we saw the water level rise in the pipe above the level
9 of the stream.

10 The reason being that you keep on
11 encountering higher and higher hydraulic head because
12 that water wants to push up into the stream.

13 **Q. Okay. I think that I understand.**

14 **And you consider the existing ash ponds to be**
15 **adjacent to the river?**

16 A. I didn't say they were adjacent to the river.
17 I'm just giving an example because --

18 **Q. Okay. I'm just trying to clear -- you're**
19 **saying that is what is going on at the existing ash**
20 **ponds, though. Is that your testimony?**

21 A. I believe the flow -- I'll state that the
22 flow is horizontal at the existing ash ponds.

23 **Q. Okay. But you're saying that it becomes**
24 **positively vertical as it approaches the river?**

25 A. It doesn't become vertical. There's a

1 vertical component --

2 Q. Okay.

3 A. -- a small vertical component as you begin
4 to approach the river.

5 So you have -- have your overriding
6 horizontal component. That's clear. But as you
7 approach the river --

8 MR. WILLIAMS: If I may --

9 MS. HUBERTZ: This has been -- yeah, this has
10 been introduced --

11 MR. WILLIAMS: This is Exhibit 1000, 1000.

12 MS. HUBERTZ: -- before and I may have to
13 take a closer look at it, but I'll let you --

14 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Just so the record is clear,
15 the counsel for Staff handed Exhibit 1000 to the --

16 MS. HUBERTZ: It was a Commission exhibit.

17 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Yes.

18 THE WITNESS: And this -- this is almost a
19 textbook diagram. This is what you would find.

20 Most of your flow is -- is horizontal as
21 you're moving from the bluffs to the river. As you get
22 close to the river, not necessarily beneath the river,
23 but as you begin to get close to the river, there is
24 going to be a small component of vertical flow; that is,
25 the heads will want -- are going to want to push the

1 water upwards.

2 Part of that is resisted by just the simple
3 fact that the hy-- the horizontal hydraulic conductivity
4 is much higher than the vertical hydraulic conductivity,
5 but the tendency, the potential, is that the flow is
6 going to be upward into -- towards the stream as you
7 approach the stream.

8 BY MS. HUBERTZ:

9 Q. Okay. And is that represented by those
10 two -- there are two little arrows towards the
11 right-hand side of the yellow level in this cross-
12 section that are right next to and right -- or sort of
13 right below the Missouri River there.

14 Is that what you're referring to when you say
15 this is a textbook example?

16 A. It's a -- yes, that's -- well, I'm
17 actually -- I mean, this is not the best representation
18 but it's a reasonable representation. Yes, that's what
19 I'm referring to.

20 Q. Okay. And the monitoring wells are further
21 back towards the bluff from that area on this map.
22 Correct?

23 A. The monitoring wells are further back towards
24 the facility.

25 Q. And not in the area where the upward arrow is

1 **that we just talked about?**

2 A. That is purely -- this is a model for
3 convenience, a person such as yourself, but if I were
4 looking -- if you looked --

5 Q. **I am going to try not to be offended at that.**

6 A. Please don't.

7 You -- you tried to simplify it. I'm really
8 trying to be -- I'm not --

9 Q. **No. I understand. It's just that you said**
10 **that this map was a textbook representation --**

11 A. It is a text--

12 Q. **-- and if it's not, that's okay.**

13 A. Okay.

14 Q. **We can close it and go home right now. So**
15 **that's --**

16 A. So let me -- let me try to explain it.

17 If -- if you go to the point -- and I don't
18 know if the Commissioners have this in front of them.

19 If you go to the point where you see MW-1 and
20 P-1 printed on the land surface, and if you -- you see
21 an arrow there that is primarily horizontal, I would
22 opine that that would actually be slightly up at that
23 particular point in time.

24 Q. **Okay. So it's not shown that way on this map**
25 **but you think it's close enough to the river that it**

1 **would be up?**

2 A. Yes. And you're also seeing it in the
3 bedrock occurring in that particular issue. If we're
4 going to be specific about the arrows, you know, you
5 begin to get that upward movement. The bedrock goes
6 from just flowing horizontally to slightly moving
7 upward.

8 Q. Okay. But no one has taken measurements to
9 know whether that's true. Correct?

10 A. That's -- that's correct.

11 Q. Okay. So we don't actually know what the
12 vertical flow is because we need to know the gradient
13 and the conductivity. Correct?

14 A. Right.

15 MS. LIPELES: Okay. That's it. Thank you.
16 That's all I have.

17 JUDGE WOODRUFF: All right.

18 Questions from the bench.

19 Mr. Chairman.

20 QUESTIONS BY CHAIRMAN KENNEY:

21 Q. Good morning, Mr. Gass.

22 A. Good morning.

23 Q. So a person such as myself who has been using
24 this map all week, so if there is something wrong with
25 it, I'm in trouble because it's been right propped up

1 here.

2 Let me just ask you a few questions
3 about -- I'm going to turn to your supplemental
4 testimony --

5 A. Sure.

6 Q. -- which was your last piece of testimony,
7 the January 2014, and I want to look on page 2 and ask
8 you about your conclusions.

9 These are the same conclusions I think you
10 rendered in your rebuttal testimony, your surrebuttal
11 testimony, and you rendered them again in light of the
12 amended CPA, but they remain the same. Correct?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. So let me -- I want to ask you first a
15 separate question.

16 To the extent that there are elevated levels
17 of arsenic, is it your opinion -- and this was noted on
18 those three tables where the arsenic levels were
19 elevated. You had a conversation with counsel about
20 that at the beginning of your testimony. Do you
21 remember?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Is it your opinion that that's not due to any
24 contamination caused by the existing ash impoundments?

25 A. That's correct, because of the distribution

1 where those elevated levels appear. So you'd expect it
2 to be -- all of them to show up closest to that area,
3 the wells that are nearest to the ash ponds, but you
4 don't see that distribution. It tends to be variable.

5 So it's my opinion that this is
6 characteristic of natural groundwater because of the
7 geochemistry or possibly some of the influences of
8 arsenic that may be present in the Missouri River.

9 **Q. From what source though?**

10 A. Agricultural sources.

11 **Q. Because it's elevated, right, so it's more --**
12 **it's more than background level?**

13 A. It's elevated.

14 **Q. And so it's more than background level?**

15 A. No. It's -- it's -- in the alluvial system
16 those are the background wells. Some of the wells where
17 we have -- most of them are not -- most of them -- there
18 is no set pattern is what I'm trying to say, I guess is
19 the best way of saying it.

20 You find some on the west side of the
21 proposed footprint of the landfill. You find some on
22 the east side. You find some up on the north side.

23 **Q. So it's your opinion that it's either**
24 **background levels, naturally occurring arsenic or**
25 **agricultural sources?**

1 A. Potentially agricultural sources I'm sure.

2 Q. How confident are you in that opinion?

3 A. I'm -- I'm more confident that it's
4 background levels than agricultural sources, but, you
5 know, I've dealt with areas where arsenic has been used
6 pervasively in pesticides, and very often we have high
7 concentrations in groundwater in alluvial systems in
8 those areas.

9 Q. Did Ameren take any additional steps to
10 isolate the source of that arsenic?

11 A. Not that I'm aware of.

12 Q. Okay. So now let me look at your
13 conclusions, and if you look at the top of page 3, your
14 four bullet points there.

15 And the third bullet point says that the
16 design of the proposed utility waste landfill
17 essentially isolates the coal combustion products from
18 the effects of high groundwater levels or flood waters.

19 I want to restate it in a way that I
20 understand and you tell me if I'm correct.

21 Are you saying that even if there is a flood,
22 that the CCPs would not cause any kind of groundwater
23 contamination because of the design of the utility waste
24 landfill?

25 A. In reference to the utility waste landfill,

1 yes. It's -- and I think I perhaps explain this best in
2 my surrebuttal report, the original surrebuttal report,
3 where essentially you have a liner system that far
4 exceeds regulatory requirements.

5 **Q. Right.**

6 A. So it's -- it's basically the liner system
7 both composite -- the plastic liner is twice what is
8 required in thickness, and the clay liner is 100 times
9 less permeable than it's required by regulation.

10 **Q. So you have the plastic composite and then**
11 **you have the clay below that?**

12 A. Right.

13 **Q. So you're saying that even in a flood that**
14 **state-of-the-art technology would prevent contamination?**

15 A. That's correct.

16 **Q. Now, is it your hydrogeologic opinion that**
17 **contaminants cannot migrate vertically? Is that a more**
18 **simplified way of saying what you guys were saying**
19 **earlier?**

20 A. And there are cases where it does. So we
21 have compounds that are pulled dense and equally as
22 phase liquids, that are so dense they sink through the
23 water table even against hydraulic gradient. So there
24 can be vertical migrations of compounds in certain
25 environments.

1 **Q. Like heavy metals? What would that be?**

2 A. It would -- it tends to be compounds like
3 solvents, chlorinated solvents, for example. The
4 density of them could be up to twice the density of
5 water. They tend to sink.

6 PCB's com-- you probably all have heard of
7 polychlorinated biphenyls. They are heavier than water
8 and tend to sink through water. So that if you poured
9 them into a glass, you would watch it just sink to the
10 bottom of the glass.

11 So those -- under those circumstances you
12 would have a condition where it would migrate downward.

13 **Q. But the contaminants that we typically**
14 **associated with coal combustion residues or coal**
15 **combustion products those would not migrate vertically?**

16 A. Not typically. They dissolve, and at the
17 concentrations they dissolve, then they continue -- they
18 would not create a dense plume.

19 **Q. So you also opined that the addi-- so Ameren**
20 **installs seven additional groundwater wells, monitoring**
21 **wells, at the suggestion of Andrews Engineering. Right?**

22 A. That's correct.

23 **Q. Three shallow and four deep or four**
24 **shallow --**

25 A. I believe it's four deep -- four shallow and

1 three deep.

2 Q. And you say those are unnecessary?

3 A. I don't think they dramatically changed
4 anything. I mean, it's always nice to have additional
5 points of data, but from the standpoint of improving the
6 effectiveness of the tech (phonetic sp.) groundwater
7 contamination, I don't believe they added to the
8 existing -- the preexisting system.

9 Q. All right. Now I want to ask you some
10 questions about your experience in cases that you've
11 testified in and how much you're charging for your
12 services and those kinds of questions.

13 A. Okay.

14 Q. I expect you were deposed and some of these
15 questions may have been asked of you but I don't know so
16 I'm going to find out.

17 So I want to look at your surrebuttal
18 testimony, which is where I believe your CV is and a
19 list of cases that you've worked on, representative and
20 relevant experiences.

21 Starting on -- it's Exhibit 8 of your
22 surrebuttal testimony. Right? Do you got it?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And there are about 19 cases that are listed
25 there, if I counted them correctly, representative

1 litigation support activities, and there's a RCRA
2 compliance program and then there's a list of some
3 additional cases, but there are about 19 cases listed
4 there.

5 And I think you said that is a representative
6 sampling of cases. How many cases have you provided
7 litigation support activities in total, if you could
8 estimate?

9 A. I probably would assume four or five times
10 that amount.

11 Q. Okay. So it's substantially more than that
12 list there?

13 A. That's correct.

14 Q. And then of those 19 cases that are listed,
15 if I was correct in my reading, none of them were on
16 behalf of environmental organizations, is that correct,
17 or were there any?

18 A. There were three cases where I either
19 represented individuals who were harmed --

20 Q. Okay.

21 A. -- or represented a class action lawsuit
22 against the utility company --

23 Q. Okay.

24 A. -- and a town that was looking into whether
25 or not their landfill had contaminated their groundwater

1 supply.

2 Q. And then of the -- five times 20 would be,
3 like, 100 cases. Of the 100 cases, or approximately,
4 how many times have you testified for utilities versus a
5 group like Sierra Club, if you could just estimate?

6 A. Yeah. I would say I probably had the
7 opportunity to work for independent groups such as LEO
8 or working for a town that may have been impacted by a
9 system or an individual probably three to five times.

10 Q. Out of the total 100?

11 A. Out of the total 100.

12 Q. And then I'm assuming you don't work for
13 free, so what do you -- what did you charge Ameren to
14 prepare your three pieces of testimony?

15 A. \$365 an hour.

16 Q. And are -- do you charge the same rate to
17 appear here at hearing or is that more?

18 A. No. It's the same rate.

19 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: All right. Well, I
20 appreciate your time and expertise, and I don't have any
21 additional questions. Thank you.

22 THE WITNESS: You're welcome.

23 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Commissioner Stoll.

24 COMMISSIONER STOLL: Mr. Gass, thank you for
25 your testimony and I have no questions, but I wanted to

1 say that I did appreciate the review of some of the
2 concepts that I learned in the geology class that I took
3 at the University of Missouri-Columbia as an
4 undergraduate and very much appreciated that. Thank
5 you.

6 THE WITNESS: You're welcome.

7 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Commissioner Kenney.

8 COMMISSIONER KENNEY: I have no questions.
9 Thank you, Mr. Gass.

10 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Commissioner Hall.

11 COMMISSIONER HALL: Just a few.

12 QUESTIONS BY COMMISSIONER HALL:

13 Q. Good morning.

14 A. Good morning.

15 Q. I note in your surrebuttal testimony on
16 page 6, and -- and I think you even alluded to this or
17 said it expressly a couple times this morning, lines 10
18 and 11.

19 You say Ameren Missouri's proposed detection
20 groundwater monitoring network meets or exceeds all
21 regulatory requirements. Is that correct?

22 A. That's correct.

23 Q. So I assume from that that you are generally
24 familiar with DNR regulations concerning utility waste
25 landfills?

1 A. That's correct.

2 Q. Okay. Well, my questions relate to the
3 monitoring, the testing -- that may be redundant -- and
4 the reporting to DNR.

5 What -- what are the DNR requirements for
6 reports of this monitoring program?

7 A. I believe they require quarterly monitoring
8 be performed and that a report containing the data that
9 is generated submitted to them.

10 Q. And are those -- are those requirements also
11 applicable for the existing ash ponds?

12 A. No.

13 Q. Why is that?

14 A. Currently there don't appear to be any
15 regulatory requirements in terms of monitoring around
16 ash impoundments.

17 Q. That seems odd to me. Does that seem odd to
18 you?

19 A. It does seem odd to me.

20 Q. So the only testing that's been done by
21 Ameren on the existing ash ponds was related to this
22 proceeding?

23 A. The -- and that was specifically related to
24 the utility waste landfill and not the ash ponds.

25 Q. Correct.

1 A. That's correct.

2 COMMISSIONER HALL: Okay. I have no further
3 questions. Thank you.

4 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Mr. Gass, I just have a
5 question.

6 QUESTIONS BY JUDGE WOODRUFF:

7 **Q. I'm trying to understand more about your**
8 **testimony, and I'm concerned about the -- you indicated**
9 **that water from the bedrock aquifer would flow up into**
10 **the -- into the river, the Missouri River. Does that**
11 **essentially merge with the alluvial aquifer at that**
12 **point?**

13 A. There's -- and MDNR basically agrees with
14 this. They look upon -- the alluvial aquifer and the
15 bedrock aquifer is two separate systems, a relatively
16 significant change in how quickly water will be
17 transmitted through the alluvium versus the bedrock
18 aquifer which transmits water at a much lower rate.
19 And -- but it does ultimately -- the bedroom aquifer
20 ultimately discharges to the river.

21 **Q. Okay. And what is -- you indicated that**
22 **water from the bedrock aquifer would move upgradient**
23 **into the river. Is that right?**

24 A. Yes. I think you're -- you're understanding
25 what I'm saying, but the flow actually begins to migrate

1 upward.

2 Q. Right. And what is the mechanism? Why does
3 it -- why does it move upward?

4 A. Well, you have -- if -- and again, I'm
5 lacking something to draw with.

6 We used to use in laboratory and hydrogeology
7 a -- kind of a glass U-tube. You may remember them from
8 chemistry days.

9 And if I pour water in the high side, the
10 water is going to drop down until it comes up equal to
11 the water on the -- the other side. So it wants to
12 equilibrate.

13 Well, the water levels in the bluffs and in
14 the Ozark aquifer are higher than that of the river, so
15 they're going to migrate through the rock and ultimately
16 discharge to the river, because they have really no
17 place to go because they're dealing with a similar
18 situation from the north side of the Missouri River.

19 Q. Okay.

20 A. So the discharge point for the bedrock system
21 is the river.

22 Q. So it's just the water pressure from up on
23 the bluffs pushes it up into the river?

24 A. That's correct.

25 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Okay. Thank you. That

1 helps me understand it.

2 Then we'll move on to recross based on
3 questions from the bench, beginning with Staff.

4 MR. WILLIAMS: No questions.

5 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Public Counsel.

6 MR. MILLS: No questions.

7 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Sierra Club.

8 MS. HUBERTZ: I just have a couple.

9 RECROSS-EXAMINATION BY MS. HUBERTZ:

10 Q. I think you've already testified to this, but
11 I just wanted to make sure.

12 There are no upgradient shallow wells drilled
13 in the vicinity of the ash ponds, are there?

14 A. That's correct.

15 Q. Okay. So -- and upgradient wells are
16 commonly used to detect the background levels -- the
17 background quality of the water before it hits a
18 contamination source?

19 A. Or before it penetrates an area where there's
20 a potential for contamination, not necessarily where it
21 hits the source.

22 Q. Okay. But that's the idea; that would be
23 background?

24 A. That's correct.

25 Q. Okay. And you had talked also about the

1 utility waste landfill being floodproof and -- which I
2 understand about the liner, but my understanding is also
3 that when water hits the surface of coal ash, the water
4 becomes contaminated. So when it rains, coal ash
5 particles mix with the water and become leachate. Is
6 that correct?

7 A. There is some leachate generated. I should
8 also point out, coal ash of the nature that is disposed
9 of at these sites, I've actually used in groundwater
10 remediation programs to tie up metals and organic
11 compounds from migrating any further.

12 So there is some leachate generated. That's
13 why there are leachate collection systems.

14 Q. Right.

15 A. But for the most part it tends to be
16 relatively inert.

17 Q. Okay. So if they got extremely flooded, are
18 you saying that no leachate -- no additional leachate
19 would form and it would just stay inert because
20 that's --

21 A. Well, if I understand your question
22 correctly, you have your liner system -- and, again,
23 it's a liner system that far exceeds existing State
24 requirements -- and it isolates -- that liner system is
25 essentially isolating the ash material from surrounding

1 groundwater or surface waters.

2 Q. And one of the reasons for removal of the
3 leachate is so that it doesn't build up and put pressure
4 on the inside of the liner system. Correct?

5 A. One of the -- it isn't on the inside of the
6 liner system. It's basically you have to convey it away
7 somehow and that's why you have a leachate collection
8 system.

9 Q. But otherwise it would just sit there in the
10 bottom of the landfill?

11 A. Right.

12 Q. Okay. As more rain -- as more rain fell,
13 more water would collect because it's not going out of
14 the liner. Right?

15 A. Well, to some extent there would be
16 evaporation, so you would have to examine how much
17 evaporation versus how much --

18 Q. I know. I'm dumbing it done but that's
19 the -- okay.

20 THE COURT REPORTER: I'm sorry. The end you
21 said, so you would have to examine how much?

22 THE WITNESS: Evaporation is occurring, so
23 that if -- very often in an area like this you may get
24 40 some odd inches of rainfall a year. You may have an
25 evaporation rate of 15 inches of moisture a year.

1 MS. HUBERTZ: Okay. That's all I have for
2 you. Thank you.

3 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

4 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Redirect.

5 REDIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. TRIPP:

6 Q. Mr. Gass, you were asked questions regarding
7 whether or not -- or about the wells that are on
8 westernmost portion of that UWL footprint and their
9 relationship to the existing ash ponds. Do you recall
10 those questions?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And I think you were asked about the impact
13 that we see or don't see in those existing groundwater
14 monitoring wells from the ash ponds.

15 Could you explain to us especially with
16 regard to those west wells what your determination is as
17 a hydrogeologist and looking at the results there and
18 whether they'd be indicative of contamination from an
19 ash pond?

20 A. Based on the concentrations and distribution
21 of high arsenic, high manganese, high total dissolved
22 solids, you'd expect the highest concentrations, if
23 there were -- being if those wells on the western side
24 of the proposed utility waste landfill were being
25 affected, you would expect to see the highest

1 concentrations along that western and northwestern edge.

2 And you don't see a set pattern. You see a
3 widely distributed pattern. And over 40 years of time
4 given the amount of variation that occurs on an annual
5 basis with the flow directions, you'd expect that
6 wells, if they were going to be impacted, they would
7 primarily be impacted in those areas closest to the ash
8 ponds and you'd have less concentration and no
9 concentration further away.

10 And some of the wells that would have some of
11 the higher concentrations of arsenic or manganese are
12 actually on the eastern side of the proposed landfill
13 footprint.

14 Q. So when we look at Schedule 13 of Lisa
15 Bradley's testimony, and particularly Tables 2 and 3
16 that have the groundwater monitoring results, just
17 because there is an exceedance of arsenic or some other
18 constituent from coal ash that is in that nearest
19 monitoring well, that alone in and of itself, is that
20 sufficient to draw a conclusion that there's an
21 influence from the ash ponds?

22 A. No, it's not.

23 Q. You were asked about the addition of the
24 three deep wells and the four shallow wells as a result
25 of Andrews Engineering review. Do you recall those

1 **questions?**

2 A. Yes.

3 **Q. And there was -- and I think you've talked**
4 **about this somewhat, but you said there was not a**
5 **possibility of a downward migration of contaminants.**
6 **Why is that?**

7 A. Generally environments like this, again,
8 the -- the gradients tend to be primarily horizontal.
9 The preferential flow because of differences in between
10 horizontal hydraulic conductivity or the ability to
11 transmit to water horizontally both -- both -- versus
12 vertically is so much higher that the primary flow is
13 going to be horizontal and close to the surface.

14 **Q. So when we talk about the fact that we don't**
15 **know with any specificity what the vertical gradient is**
16 **of the alluvial aquifer, does that change your opinion**
17 **about whether or not those additional wells were needed?**

18 A. No. I guess the best way of describing it,
19 I've described -- I did my first monitoring well
20 installation and design of a monitoring well
21 installation back in 1973.

22 That in those situations I would expect it to
23 remain -- be relatively shallow. I would have actually
24 designed a system for this site in the same way I've
25 designed hundreds of other monitoring well systems for

1 detection monitoring.

2 Q. One of the questions about vertical gradient,
3 and particularly with regard to where you would find ash
4 contaminants that's been raised is the question of
5 whether, for example, a heavy rainfall would drive down
6 contaminants from the ash pond down below where these
7 monitoring wells would be able to detect them. Do you
8 agree with that?

9 A. No, I don't.

10 Q. Why not?

11 A. It doesn't occur. The rainfall is migrating
12 through the soil so slowly that there's no push down and
13 there is time for the water to diffuse -- the compounds
14 to diffuse throughout the entire water column.

15 Q. And just as a clarification point, when you
16 were talking about your work with the EPA and the fact
17 that you weren't concerned with really vertical
18 conductivity but more so horizontal conductivity in
19 these types of situations, you mentioned RCRA?

20 A. Right.

21 Q. What is that?

22 A. Resource Conservation and Recovery Act.

23 Q. And it applies to?

24 A. It applies to solid waste disposal sites,
25 which is Subpart D, and hazardous waste, Subpart C.

1 Q. And I'm sorry. My notes are a little bit not
2 in order, so this relates to something we've already
3 talked about.

4 But you were asked about the distance of the
5 nearest groundwater monitoring well to the unlined ash
6 pond, and I think you estimated 15 to 2,000 -- 1,500 to
7 2,000 feet. Ms. Hubertz's may be more than 2,000, but
8 somewhere in that range.

9 Does the fact that it's that far away in any
10 way call into question your opinion that those
11 monitoring wells are not showing an influence of
12 contamination from the ash pond?

13 A. Given the 40-year time interval that has
14 occurred since the original ash pond went into place,
15 you'd expect anything that would be emanating from the
16 ash pond to pretty much have extended beyond even that
17 point.

18 And as you move further and further away from
19 the ash pond, the contaminants spread laterally outward,
20 as well as downgradient.

21 So these wells would be -- have a high
22 likelihood of being able to detect any contamination
23 that may be migrating from the ash ponds.

24 Q. With regard to the addition of the four
25 shallow wells that Ameren agreed to do, I think -- do

1 **you recall, first of all, what the thinking behind this**
2 **was at least from Andrews' viewpoint as to why those**
3 **were necessary?**

4 A. Andrews brought up a concern related to the
5 type of tear that -- or the length of a tear that would
6 occur in a liner system.

7 And they felt that the 100-foot interval that
8 was originally used in the -- in the initial modeling
9 may be -- optimistic is the wrong term, but they thought
10 it would be too large and that a -- perhaps a smaller
11 tear would be more representative.

12 And it's -- to some extent I could understand
13 their concerns about the length of the tear in the
14 plastic liner, but once -- if you did have a tear of
15 that nature in a plastic liner, once it reached the
16 surface of the clay -- and this is basically impermeable
17 clay -- that it would spread laterally over the clay.
18 So it would spread out over a much greater distance.

19 So even if you had a one-foot or a five-foot
20 tear in a plastic liner, what ultimately would spread
21 out across the clay would be in the tens if not hundreds
22 of feet.

23 Q. Assuming, you know -- assuming Andrews'
24 theory that there was a likelihood of -- a more
25 likelihood of a five-foot tear in the liner system, and

1 we're talking about the HPDE liner and even the clay
2 liner, can you think of any scenario where you would
3 have an instance of a five-foot tear in that entire
4 liner system?

5 A. So you're referring to a five-foot tear at
6 the same location through the plas-- through the HPDE
7 liner and the clay --

8 Q. Yes.

9 A. -- if I got the question correct?

10 The only thing I can think of is if you had a
11 small meteorite penetrate through both at that same
12 location.

13 Q. But under natural conditions?

14 A. I -- I really can't think of anything that
15 would simultaneously cause both to fail at that
16 particular location.

17 Q. And again, I apologize. This is a little bit
18 out of order, but we were talking earlier and you were
19 asked questions about the influence of those ash ponds
20 on the alluvial aquifer, whether the contamination was
21 present and whether the monitoring wells would catch it.

22 Yesterday we heard Mr. Norris talk about a
23 comparison of the testing results from the bedrock
24 aquifers from the bluffs and a comparison with the
25 levels, for example, of arsenic in the alluvial aquifer.

1 **In your opinion as a hydrogeologist is that a**
2 **comparison that is helpful in understanding whether or**
3 **not there is influence of the ash ponds?**

4 A. No, it's not, because the -- the groundwater
5 moving through any formation is affected by the
6 geochemistry of a formation.

7 So as you go from one type of formation
8 materials, such as bedrock to an alluvial aquifer
9 system, their base -- they're characteristic of the rock
10 that makes up the aquifer.

11 So you're leaving the bedrock aquifer, which
12 is sand, stones and limestone, and moving into an
13 alluvial aquifer system which basically consists of
14 particles that were derived from upstream in Missouri --
15 you know, upstream the Missouri River. There's no
16 direct geochemical comparison between the two.

17 So to compare water quality in the bedrock
18 aquifer as being equivalent under natural conditions to
19 the alluvial aquifer, it's just something that would
20 ordinarily not be done by a hydrogeologist.

21 **Q. Mr. Gass, at the end of Ms. Hubertz's**
22 **questions she was asking you about the leachate**
23 **collection system and posing a scenario where there**
24 **would be rain.**

25 **In your view is the leachate collection**

1 **system as designed for this utility waste landfill going**
2 **to be challenged or going to be deficient in any way**
3 **with regard to the ability for it to collect leachate**
4 **from even rain?**

5 A. That's probably a question better posed to
6 the engineers than -- than a hydrogeologist, but at
7 least from what I read and -- and understand having
8 worked with engineers, it appears to be appropriate.

9 MR. TRIPP: I don't have any other questions.

10 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Okay.

11 And, Mr. Gass, you can step down.

12 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

13 JUDGE WOODRUFF: And I believe that's all of
14 the testimony for today -- or for this hearing.

15 I'm just looking through my schedule of
16 exhibits. It looks like everything has been marked and
17 received.

18 The procedural schedule indicated briefs
19 would be filed on -- initial briefs filed on
20 April 30th and reply briefs following on May 21st.

21 I'll go ahead and expedite the transcripts so
22 that it will be ready for a week from today,
23 April 9th.

24 There is one other thing I want to take up,
25 or actually a couple things.

1 Staff on March 26th had filed a notice
2 request that the Commission take administrative notice
3 of a couple documents. I believe those documents were
4 ultimately offered as exhibits in this hearing, so we
5 don't need to worry about the taking administrative
6 notice of it.

7 Is that correct, Mr. Williams?

8 MR. WILLIAMS: I believe we did that on the
9 first day of the hearing.

10 JUDGE WOODRUFF: We did.

11 And the other thing I wanted to bring up was
12 the stipulations that were filed on March 25th, which is
13 a stipulation of 17 facts agreed to by all of the
14 parties, I'm thinking we probably want to mark that as
15 an exhibit so that it's easier to refer to.

16 Mr. Williams, do you want to mark it as a
17 Staff exhibit? Is that all right?

18 MR. WILLIAMS: However the Commission wants
19 to handle it is fine with me.

20 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Let's call it Staff
21 Exhibit -- your next one.

22 MR. TRIPP: 108.

23 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Yes, 108.

24 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Mr. Williams, do you have a
25 copy of that we can give to the court reporter?

1 MR. WILLIAMS: I believe I do.

2 MR. LOWERY: I do if you don't.

3 Yeah, I've got it.

4 MR. WILLIAMS: If you have it handy, that
5 would be great.

6 JUDGE WOODRUFF: And that will be received
7 into evidence, Exhibit 108.

8 (STAFF EXHIBIT NO. 108 WAS MARKED FOR
9 IDENTIFICATION BY THE COURT REPORTER AND RECEIVED INTO
10 EVIDENCE.)

11 JUDGE WOODRUFF: Anything else we need to
12 take care off while we're on the record?

13 Hearing nothing then, we are adjourned.

14 Thank you.

15 WHEREUPON, the evidentiary hearing concluded
16 at 9:40 a.m.

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1	I N D E X	
2		PAGE
3	INTERVENORS' EVIDENCE:	
4	CHARLES G. NORRIS, P.G.	
	Additional Testimony by Ms. Lipeles	588:11
5	cross-Examination by Mr. Tripp	589:21
6		
	AMEREN MISSOURI COMPANY'S EVIDENCE:	
7		
	TYLER E. GASS	
8	Direct Examination by Mr. Tripp	591:6
	Cross-Examination by Ms. Hubertz	592:19
9	Questions by Chairman Kenney	618:20
	Questions by Commissioner Hall	627:12
10	Questions by Judge Woodruff	629:6
	Recross-Examination by Ms. Hubertz	631:9
11	Redirect Examination by Mr. Tripp	634:5
12		
13		
14		
15		
16		
17		
18		
19		
20		
21		
22		
23		
24		
25		

1 EXHIBITS INDEX

2 AMEREN MISSOURI COMPANY'S EXHIBITS

3 MARKED REC'D

4 EXHIBIT NO. 10

Surrebuttal Testimony of Tyler E. Gass 592:6

5

EXHIBIT NO. 11

6 Sur-Surrebuttal Testimony of Tyler E.

Gass 592:6

7

EXHIBIT NO. 12

8 Supplemental Testimony of Tyler E. Gass 592:6

9

STAFF'S EXHIBITS

10

11 MARKED REC'D

12 EXHIBIT NO. 108

Stipulations 644:8644:8

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
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22
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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

I, Patricia A. Stewart, RMR, RPR, CCR, a
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Patricia A. Stewart
CCR No. 401

A	alluvial 588:25 590:17 602:18 606:9 609:24 612:6,11 613:3 620:15 621:7 629:11,14 636:16 640:20 640:25 641:8 641:13,19 alluvium 629:17 amended 619:12 Ameren 586:11 587:2 592:6 593:9 596:10 605:4 621:9 623:19 626:13 627:19 628:21 638:25 645:6 646:2 Ameren's 588:25 600:5,6 amount 625:10 635:4 Andrew 601:5 Andrews 623:21 635:25 639:2,4 639:23 annual 604:18 635:4 answer 595:23 answering 608:23 answers 591:23 apologize 640:17 appear 595:20 598:23 620:1 626:17 628:14 APPEARANC... 587:1 appears 598:24 642:8 647:5 applicable 628:11 application 586:10 600:8 600:19 applies 637:23	637:24 appreciate 603:3 626:20 627:1 appreciated 627:4 approach 597:5 615:4,7 616:7 approaches 613:1,6 614:24 appropriate 642:8 Approval 586:11 approximately 626:3 April 586:6 642:20,23 aquifer 588:25 590:17,17 600:2 602:5,7 602:12,18 604:15 606:19 608:6 612:6,11 612:20,21,24 612:25 629:9 629:11,14,15 629:18,19,22 630:14 636:16 640:20,25 641:8,10,11,13 641:18,19 aquifers 640:24 aquifer's 602:11 area 596:11 601:8 605:7 608:18 612:7 616:21,25 620:2 631:19 633:23 areas 601:16 621:5,8 635:7 arrow 616:25 617:21 arrows 616:10 618:4 arsenic 598:2,4 598:13,20 599:2 619:17	619:18 620:8 620:24 621:5 621:10 634:21 635:11,17 640:25 ash 594:8,10,16 594:21 595:1,9 595:11,15,18 595:21,24 596:1,4,5,12 598:14 599:2 610:5,10,11,20 612:7 614:14 614:19,22 619:24 620:3 628:11,16,21 628:24 631:13 632:3,4,25 634:9,14,19 635:7,18,21 637:3,6 638:5 638:12,14,16 638:19,23 640:19 641:3 asked 613:22 624:15 634:6 634:12 635:23 638:4 640:19 asking 598:9 599:4 610:19 641:22 assessment 607:3 assistant 613:12 assisted 607:1 associated 623:14 assume 609:18 625:9 627:23 assuming 626:12 639:23,23 attached 596:22 596:25 597:10 attorney 587:3,3 587:9,10 647:11 August 598:18 598:18	Authorizing 586:12 average 604:17 605:8 aware 621:11 a.m 588:3 644:16
			B	
			back 588:4 590:14 606:25 616:21,23 636:21 background 620:12,14,16 620:24 621:4 631:16,17,23 base 641:9 based 589:18 595:20 605:1 607:10,12 609:23,24 631:2 634:20 basic 603:16 basically 601:6,7 612:20 622:6 629:13 633:6 639:16 641:13 basing 606:15 basis 604:10 635:5 bedrock 594:24 595:6 612:21 612:22,24,25 618:3,5 629:9 629:15,17,22 630:20 640:23 641:8,11,17 bedroom 629:19 began 588:2 beginning 619:20 631:3 begins 613:1 629:25 behalf 625:16 belief 591:19 believe 595:1,7 596:21 597:21	

603:2 611:4 614:21 623:25 624:7,18 628:7 642:13 643:3,8 644:1 bench 618:18 631:3 beneath 596:4 604:15 615:22 best 591:19 616:17 620:19 622:1 636:18 647:6 better 604:3 642:5 beyond 638:16 biphenyls 623:7 bit 606:3 638:1 640:17 blue 598:7 bluff 616:21 bluffs 589:5,11 615:21 630:13 630:23 640:24 bottom 608:17 623:10 633:10 bottoms 607:20 Boulevard 586:24 Box 587:5,13,18 587:22 Bradley's 596:23 597:10 635:15 briefs 642:18,19 642:20 bring 588:7 599:23 643:11 Brookings 587:13 brought 639:4 build 633:3 bullet 621:14,15	643:20 called 601:14 Campus 587:13 capability 602:19 care 644:12 case 592:22 cases 622:20 624:10,19,24 625:3,3,6,6,14 625:18 626:3,3 cash 632:8 catch 640:21 cause 621:22 640:15 caused 591:12 619:24 CCPs 621:22 CCR 586:23 647:3,18 Center 586:15 certain 595:19 622:24 Certificate 586:11 647:1 Certified 587:10 587:11,11 647:4 certify 647:5 Chairman 586:18 618:19 618:20 626:19 645:9 challenge 611:14 613:15 challenged 642:2 change 611:18,20 629:16 636:16 changed 624:3 changes 593:12 594:6,17 characteristic 620:6 641:9 characterized 588:25 charge 626:13,16 charging 624:11 CHARLES	588:11 645:4 check 595:5 chemical 593:20 595:25 598:13 chemistry 630:8 CHIEF 586:17 chlorinated 623:3 circumstances 623:11 City 586:7,24 587:18,23 clarification 589:18 637:15 clarify 590:8,14 602:15 class 625:21 627:2 classic 601:17 clay 606:6 622:8 622:11 639:16 639:17,17,21 640:1,7 clear 592:24 593:6 614:18 615:6,14 close 615:22,23 617:14,25 636:13 closer 615:13 closest 610:4,6 610:23 620:2 635:7 Club 587:8 592:15,21 626:5 631:7 coal 594:7,10 598:14 621:17 623:14,14 632:3,4,8 635:18 collect 633:13 642:3 collection 632:13 633:7 641:23 641:25 Columbia 587:5	column 598:20 608:13 637:14 com 623:6 combustion 621:17 623:14 623:15 come 590:14 613:1 comes 630:10 coming 590:12 596:4 600:2 Commission 586:2 587:21 590:7 615:16 643:2,18 Commissioner 590:9,15,18,20 626:23,24 627:7,8,10,11 627:12 629:2 645:9 Commissioners 586:20 617:18 common 600:1 commonly 631:16 company 586:10 625:22 COMPANY'S 645:6 646:2 compare 641:17 comparison 640:23,24 641:2,16 compass 590:1 compliance 625:2 complicated 603:15 component 609:14 615:1,3 615:6,24 composite 622:7 622:10 compounds 593:21 595:25 598:13 622:21	622:24 623:2 632:11 637:13 concentration 635:8,9 concentrations 621:7 623:17 634:20,22 635:1,11 concept 603:17 concepts 627:2 concern 639:4 concerned 606:23 629:8 637:17 concerning 627:24 concerns 639:13 concluded 644:15 conclusion 635:20 conclusions 619:8,9 621:13 condition 623:12 conditions 589:23,24 605:21,22 606:4 640:13 641:18 conductivity 602:5,7,24 603:5,7,11,19 603:21 605:1,2 605:7,9,12,14 605:21,24 606:6,14,17,24 607:15 608:25 616:3,4 618:13 636:10 637:18 637:18 confidence 597:2 confident 605:2 621:2,3 Conservation 637:22 consider 594:23 614:14
C				
C 588:1 637:25 call 605:16,16 613:14 638:10				

considering 589:4	606:9 607:11 607:22 608:20	curve 613:7 CV 624:18	595:25 631:16 637:7 638:22	DNR 627:24 628:4,5
consistent 607:8	609:6,9 610:20		detection 593:20	document 607:1
consists 641:13	610:22 612:7	<hr/> D <hr/>	593:23 594:5	documents 643:3 643:3
constituent 635:18	612:16 616:22	D 588:1 637:25 645:1	601:3 606:22	doing 604:3
Construct 586:13	618:9,10,13	DANIEL 586:19	607:3 627:19 637:1	downgradient 595:14,18,24 612:10 638:20
construction 600:8,18	619:12,25	data 595:20 624:5 628:8	determination 634:16	downward 601:22 613:9 623:12 636:5
containing 628:8	621:20 622:15	day 643:9	determine 604:12 605:9	dramatically 624:3
contaminant 598:3,22	623:22 625:13	days 630:8	diagram 615:19	draw 611:10 630:5 635:20
contaminants 601:2,23	625:15,16	dealing 607:3 630:17	difference 606:5	drawn 611:12
622:17 623:13	627:21,22	dealt 621:5	differences 636:9	drilled 631:12
636:5 637:4,6	628:1,25 629:1	deep 600:22,25 601:6 608:8	different 605:23	drive 587:13 613:23 614:5 637:5
638:19	630:24 631:14	623:23,25 624:1 635:24	diffuse 637:13,14	Driving 614:7
contaminated 625:25 632:4	631:24 632:6	deficient 642:2	direct 591:6 641:16 645:8	drop 614:1 630:10
contamination 607:7 619:24	633:4 640:9 643:7	defined 601:7	direction 589:3,8 589:13,15 590:1 609:1,2,5 609:5 612:11 613:9	due 619:23
621:23 622:14	correctly 606:1 624:25 632:22	dense 622:21,22 623:18	directions 590:1 635:5	dumb 603:3
624:7 631:18	correlation 599:1	density 623:4,4	directly 595:11 601:11 614:5	dumbed 606:2 608:22
631:20 634:18	counsel 587:16 587:17,22	depends 611:24	discharge 630:16 630:20	dumbing 633:18
638:12,22	592:13 615:15	depicts 597:22	discharges 629:20	d/b/a 586:10
640:20	619:19 631:5 647:8,11	deposed 624:14	discussing 588:24 589:1	
continue 623:17	count 598:5	depth 599:21 613:18	discussion 588:6 612:3	<hr/> E <hr/>
contributes 601:14	counted 600:15 624:25	depths 599:12,15 613:9	disposal 637:24	E 588:1,1 591:5,9 645:1,7 646:4,6 646:8
Control 586:13	couple 627:17 631:8 642:25 643:3	Deputy 587:22	disposed 632:8	earlier 602:3,9 622:19 640:18
convenience 586:12 617:3	course 589:3,10 589:11 601:12	derived 641:14	dissolve 623:16 623:17	early 593:20,24
conversation 619:19	court 612:23 633:20 643:25 644:9 647:4	described 594:25 636:19	dissolved 634:21	easier 643:15
convey 633:6	CPA 619:12	describing 636:18	distance 606:12	east 589:8,8,12 589:25 620:22
copy 596:23 643:25	create 623:18	description 608:1	606:12 610:19 638:4 639:18	eastern 635:12
correct 588:17 589:6 590:1 591:18 594:14	creek 613:14	design 621:16,23 636:20	distributed 635:3	EA-2012-0281 586:11
598:23,24	cross 592:11 616:11	designed 594:9 636:24,25 642:1	distribution 619:25 620:4 634:20	edge 596:3,16 635:1
599:5,10,14	cross-examinat... 589:21 592:9 592:19 645:5,8	designing 606:21		effective 593:10
600:23 601:4	cross-examine 589:18	detailed 608:1		
602:8,13,25	Currently 628:14	detect 593:24		
603:8,13,19,22				
603:23 605:15				

effectiveness 624:6	630:12	exhibits 592:1	feet 599:13,17	618:12 629:9
effects 621:18	equivalent 594:4	642:16 643:4	607:21 609:4,8	629:25 635:5
either 593:4	641:18	646:1,2,9	609:9,12 611:1	636:9,12
598:21 599:2	especially 634:15	existing 594:7,16	613:14,24	flowing 601:15
620:23 625:18	essentially	594:21 610:9	638:7 639:22	612:13,14
ejhubertz@wu...	621:17 622:3	614:14,19,22	fell 633:12	613:1,8 614:4
587:15	629:11 632:25	619:24 624:8	felt 639:7	618:6
Electric 586:10	estimate 605:17	628:11,21	figure 602:22	flows 601:19
elevated 619:16	607:14 625:8	632:23 634:9	605:3	604:12 612:9
619:19 620:1	626:5	634:13	figures 608:24	fluid 602:20
620:11,13	estimated 638:6	expect 620:1	File 586:11	follow 593:9
ELIZABETH	estimating	624:14 634:22	filed 642:19,19	following 602:14
587:10	606:17	634:25 635:5	643:1,12	642:20
emanating	evade 601:3	636:22 638:15	filing 591:13	follows 588:11
638:15	evaporation	expedite 642:21	financially	591:5
employed 647:8	633:16,17,22	experience	647:12	foot 609:5
647:11	633:25	624:10	find 610:1	footprint 620:21
employee 647:11	evidence 591:25	experiences	615:19 620:20	634:8 635:13
encounter 596:4	592:7 597:11	624:20	620:21,22	foregoing 647:6
607:6	644:7,10 645:3	expertise 626:20	624:16 637:3	forgetting 609:13
encountering	645:6	explain 590:11	fine 608:10	form 632:19
614:11	evidentiary	604:5,8 612:17	643:19	formation
Energy 586:15	586:5 588:2	617:16 622:1	first 597:22	602:19 613:3
engineer 593:4	644:15	634:15	601:21 604:24	641:5,6,7
Engineering	Examination	explaining 606:1	619:14 636:19	formations 606:9
601:6 623:21	591:6 634:5	expressly 627:17	639:1 643:9	found 596:22
635:25	645:8,11	extended 638:16	five 625:9 626:2	598:14
engineers 589:1	examine 633:16	extent 619:16	626:9	four 621:14
642:6,8	633:21	633:15 639:12	five-foot 639:19	623:23,23,25
entire 637:14	example 613:11	extremely 632:17	639:25 640:3,5	623:25 625:9
640:3	614:17 616:15		flip 598:16	635:24 638:24
environment	623:3 637:5	F	flood 589:23	four-inch 613:16
601:11 609:19	640:25	facilities 586:14	621:18,21	free 626:13
613:4	exceedance	607:2	622:13	fresh 608:6
environmental	635:17	facility 607:7	flooded 632:17	freshwater
587:8 625:16	exceeded 598:1,2	616:24	floodproof 632:1	599:23
environments	598:21	fact 589:1 616:3	flow 588:24	front 617:18
622:25 636:7	exceeds 622:4	636:14 637:16	589:3,4,7,22	function 611:25
EPA 607:1	627:20 632:23	638:9	590:2,16	further 616:20
637:16	exhibit 591:14,15	facts 643:13	595:20 602:20	616:23 629:2
EPA's 598:1,2,21	591:16 592:6	fail 640:15	602:23,24	632:11 635:9
equal 613:22	598:17 615:11	familiar 627:24	603:11,18,21	638:18,18
630:10	615:15,16	far 608:19 610:4	605:3 607:11	647:10
equally 622:21	624:21 643:15	611:24 622:3	607:12,13,16	
equation 609:14	643:17,21	632:23 638:9	613:5,6 614:21	G
equilibrate	644:7,8 646:4,5	feel 605:1 614:6	614:22 615:20	G 588:1,11 645:4
	646:7,12	feeling 588:21	615:24 616:5	gaining 601:13

601:13,14 614:3 Gass 588:5 590:25 591:5,9 591:12,21 592:20 618:21 626:24 627:9 629:4 634:6 641:21 642:11 645:7 646:4,6,8 general 590:2 generally 627:23 636:7 generated 628:9 632:7,12 geochemical 641:16 geochemistry 620:7 641:6 geologist 592:25 geology 627:2 getting 614:6 GILES 587:10 give 643:25 given 635:4 638:13 giving 614:17 glass 623:9,10 630:7 go 589:20 597:4 607:25 608:18 614:2 617:14 617:17,19 630:17 641:7 642:21 goes 589:22 618:5 going 592:17 597:7 602:14 603:10 604:19 607:25 608:24 609:19,22 610:1 612:12 612:13 614:19 615:24,25 616:6 617:5 618:4 619:3	624:16 630:10 630:15 633:13 635:6 636:13 642:1,2 good 588:8 592:20,23 609:3,7 618:21 618:22 627:13 627:14 gradient 601:18 602:23 603:10 603:11,20 604:6,15,17,18 604:21,22,24 605:11 607:14 607:19 609:15 609:17,19 612:6 613:5 618:12 622:23 636:15 637:2 gradients 601:8,9 601:16 612:4 636:8 great 592:18 613:11 644:5 greater 602:6 603:6 609:1 639:18 Gredell 597:23 green 598:7 ground 613:16 613:24 groundwater 593:10,12,22 594:4,6,7,15,17 595:20 596:4 597:16 599:8,9 600:7,18 601:14,15,19 606:21,22 607:2,6 608:5 612:19 614:4 620:6 621:7,18 621:22 623:20 624:6 625:25 627:20 632:9 633:1 634:13	635:16 638:5 641:4 group 626:5 groups 626:7 guess 605:16 609:21 620:18 636:18 guessing 606:16 606:16 guidance 607:1 guys 622:18 <hr/> H <hr/> halfway 600:16 Hall 586:19 627:10,11,12 629:2 645:9 hand 591:1 handed 615:15 handle 643:19 handy 644:4 happens 613:23 harder 606:7 harmed 625:19 hazardous 637:25 head 609:22 614:11 heading 610:2 heads 615:25 heard 623:6 640:22 hearing 586:5 588:2 592:5 626:17 642:14 643:4,9 644:13 644:15 647:10 heavier 623:7 heavy 623:1 637:5 help 612:18 helpful 641:2 helps 631:1 hemogenous 608:15 heterogeneous 606:11	high 589:23,23 621:6,18 630:9 634:21,21,21 638:21 higher 599:20 607:24 612:25 614:11,11 616:4 630:14 635:11 636:12 highest 634:22 634:25 hits 631:17,21 632:3 Hold 611:5 home 617:14 Honor 589:19 591:25 horizontal 602:5 602:21,22,23 602:24,24 603:4,10,25 604:11,14,17 604:18,24,25 605:2,3,14 606:11 607:10 607:12 609:1,4 613:4,5 614:22 615:6,20 616:3 617:21 636:8 636:10,13 637:18 horizontally 602:17 618:6 636:11 horrible 610:8 hour 626:15 HOWARD 587:10 HPDE 640:1,6 Hubertz 587:10 592:16,19,21 597:5,7,9 610:14,16,21 611:2,7 615:9 615:12,16 616:8 631:8,9 634:1 645:8,10	Hubertz's 638:7 641:21 hundreds 636:25 639:21 hy 616:3 hydraulic 601:8 601:9 604:5 605:6,9 606:10 606:13,24 614:11 616:3,4 622:23 636:10 hydrogeologic 622:16 hydrogeologist 591:11 634:17 641:1,20 642:6 hydrogeology 605:19 630:6 <hr/> I <hr/> idea 590:9 631:22 identification 593:12 594:6 594:17 644:9 IEC 587:12 impact 596:11 634:12 impacted 626:8 635:6,7 impermeable 639:16 impoundment 610:20 impoundments 619:24 628:16 improving 624:5 inches 633:24,25 included 600:21 independent 597:16 626:7 INDEX 646:1 indicated 590:12 629:8,21 642:18 indicating 588:6 596:11 604:3
---	---	---	---	--

indicative 634:18	Judge 586:17	L	level 598:1,3,4	little 606:3
individual 589:4	588:4,10	L 586:16	599:19 611:23	616:10 638:1
626:9	589:17,20	Labadie 586:15	613:19,23	640:17
individuals	590:6,11,16,21	587:8 594:1,8	614:8,8 616:11	Liz 592:20
625:19	590:24 591:4	597:17 604:15	620:12,14	LLP 587:4
inert 632:16,19	592:2,10,13,15	labeled 591:14	levels 598:21,22	location 640:6,12
influence 635:21	592:18 597:6	591:15,16	599:2 605:24	640:16
638:11 640:19	615:14,17	laboratory 630:6	612:25 619:16	lone 606:13
641:3	618:17 626:23	lacking 630:5	619:18 620:1	look 595:2
influences 620:7	627:7,10 629:4	land 596:4	620:24 621:4	598:16 601:16
initial 639:8	629:6 630:25	617:20	621:18 630:13	615:13 619:7
642:19	631:5,7 634:4	landfill 586:14	631:16 640:25	621:12,13
inquire 588:10	642:10,13	593:14 594:1	Lewis 587:4,17	624:17 629:14
inside 633:4,5	643:10,20,23	594:13 595:17	lewis.mills@de...	635:14
Install 586:13	643:24 644:6	595:21 596:17	587:19	looked 607:4
installation	644:11 645:10	597:19 604:16	licensed 592:25	617:4
636:20,21		610:7,13,15,16	593:3	looking 597:23
installed 596:2	K	620:21 621:16	light 619:11	617:4 625:24
596:10	KEENEY 590:9	621:24,25	likelihood 638:22	634:17 642:15
installs 623:20	590:15,18	625:25 628:24	639:24,25	looks 642:16
instance 640:3	keep 614:10	632:1 633:10	limestone 641:12	Louis 587:12,14
intake 608:1,7	Kenney 586:18	634:24 635:12	line 594:25 600:6	lower 629:18
interested 647:12	586:19 618:20	642:1	600:11,12,13	LOWERY 587:3
interpreted	626:19 627:7,8	landfills 627:25	600:14 602:10	644:2
589:2	645:9	large 639:10	604:2	lowery@smith...
interval 599:24	kind 600:16	late 606:25	liner 622:3,6,7,8	587:6
600:1,3 611:10	605:20 606:18	lateral 606:11	632:2,22,23,24	low-flow 611:9
611:20 638:13	606:18 621:22	laterally 638:19	633:4,6,14	611:12,15,19
639:7	630:7	639:17	639:6,14,15,20	612:2
intervenors	kinds 624:12	Law 586:17	639:25 640:1,2	M
592:22 645:3	know 589:15,16	587:3,3,9,10,10	640:4,7	M 586:18
introduce 591:7	595:10 599:18	587:11,11,12	lines 593:8 596:7	magnitude 602:6
introduced	603:4,9 604:1,3	lawsuit 625:21	600:15 613:6	Maintain 586:13
615:10	604:14,17,21	lawyer 604:7	627:17	Manage 586:14
isolate 621:10	604:22,24,25	lawyers 611:6	Lipeles 587:9	manganese
isolates 621:17	605:11,12	lay 603:1	588:12 610:13	634:21 635:11
632:24	606:2,17	leachate 632:5,7	610:15 618:15	map 616:21
isolating 632:25	608:21 609:16	632:12,13,18	645:4	617:10,24
issue 618:3	609:20 610:4	632:18 633:3,7	liquids 622:22	618:24
	613:13 617:18	641:22,25	Lisa 596:23	March 643:1,12
J	618:4,9,11,12	642:3	597:10 635:14	mark 607:16
January 619:7	621:5 624:15	learned 627:2	list 624:19 625:2	643:14,16
Jefferson 586:7	633:18 636:15	leaving 641:11	625:12	marked 642:16
586:24 587:18	639:23 641:15	length 639:5,13	listed 624:24	644:8 646:3,11
587:23	knowledge	LEO 592:15,21	625:3,14	material 632:25
Jens 597:23	591:19	626:7	litigation 586:23	materials 606:10
JIM 587:3		Let's 643:20	625:1,7	

608:10 641:8 math 609:3 matter 586:10 599:22 matters 607:25 maximum 598:3 598:22 MAXINE 587:9 MDNR 607:9 629:13 mean 605:22 616:17 624:4 means 599:12 609:4 measure 613:17 measured 604:25 605:17 607:14 609:21 610:25 611:12 measurements 589:4 618:8 mechanism 630:2 meet 611:6 meets 627:20 memory 611:15 mention 596:16 mentioned 637:19 merge 629:11 metals 623:1 632:10 meteorite 640:11 MICHAEL 587:3 Midwest 586:23 migrate 593:21 596:1 601:2 622:17 623:12 623:15 629:25 630:15 migrating 613:10 632:11 637:11 638:23 migration 601:23 636:5 migrations	622:24 Mills 587:17 592:14 631:6 mine 600:14 minute 601:20 misplaced 597:3 Missouri 586:1,7 586:11,24 587:2,5,14,18 587:21,23 592:6 593:1,4 616:13 620:8 629:10 630:18 641:14,15 645:6 646:2 647:4 Missouri's 627:19 Missouri-Colu... 627:3 misstated 588:22 590:13 mix 632:5 model 617:2 modeling 639:8 moisture 633:25 mon 611:8 monitoring 589:2 593:10 593:11,19,23 593:25 594:5 594:24 595:6 596:9,18,19,22 599:9 600:7,18 606:21,22 607:2,3,21 610:5,6,10,11 610:23 611:9 616:20,23 623:20 627:20 628:3,6,7,15 634:14 635:16 635:19 636:19 636:20,25 637:1,7 638:5 638:11 640:21 month 604:19,19	604:20,20 months 589:25 morning 588:8 588:21 592:20 592:23 618:21 618:22 627:13 627:14,17 MORRIS 586:16 mov 608:25 move 591:25 592:17 606:7 629:22 630:3 631:2 638:18 movement 603:25 604:1 618:5 movements 589:9 moves 609:4,5 moving 605:23 615:21 618:6 641:5,12 multiply 602:23 603:10,19 604:23 MW-1 617:19 <hr/> N <hr/> N 588:1 645:1 name 591:9 592:20 Nathan 587:22 nathan.william... 587:24 natural 620:6 640:13 641:18 naturally 620:24 nature 606:10 632:8 639:15 near 600:25 609:24 nearest 610:9,10 620:3 635:18 638:5 necessarily 599:1 615:22 631:20 necessary 639:3	Necessity 586:12 need 602:23 603:4,9 618:12 643:5 644:11 needed 636:17 neighborhood 611:3 neither 647:8 network 593:10 593:20 594:5 606:21,22 627:20 nice 624:4 Norris 588:6,7 588:11,13,15 589:22 590:12 640:22 645:4 north 589:12 620:22 630:18 northeast 589:12 northwestern 635:1 NOS 592:6 note 627:15 noted 619:17 notes 638:1 notice 643:1,2,6 number 593:11 600:11 numbers 598:6 600:13,14 609:12 <hr/> O <hr/> O 587:5,18,22 588:1 oath 588:9 objections 592:4 obviously 608:16 occur 637:11 639:6 occurred 607:7 638:14 occurring 618:3 620:24 633:22 occurs 635:4 odd 628:17,17,19	633:24 offended 617:5 offered 592:3 643:4 OFFICE 587:16 okay 589:17 592:10,17 593:3,6,17,19 594:3,11,23 595:9,13,17,23 596:6,15,21 597:12,15,21 597:25 598:12 598:25 599:6 599:15,18 600:4,15,21,24 601:9,20 602:3 602:9,22 603:2 603:9 604:14 604:23 605:10 605:16 606:15 607:13,20 608:16,23 609:11,20 610:2 611:3,17 611:22 612:3,9 612:18 614:13 614:18,23 615:2 616:9,20 617:12,13,24 618:8,11,15 621:12 624:13 625:11,20,23 628:2 629:2,21 630:19,25 631:15,22,25 632:17 633:12 633:19 634:1 642:10 once 639:14,15 one-foot 639:19 open 609:25 Operate 586:13 opine 617:22 opined 623:19 opinion 619:17 619:23 620:5
---	---	---	---	---

620:23 621:2 622:16 636:16 638:10 641:1 opportunity 626:7 optimistic 639:9 order 602:22 603:11 638:2 640:18 orders 602:6 ordinarily 611:24 641:20 organic 632:10 ORGANIZAT... 587:8 organizations 625:16 original 605:5 622:2 638:14 originally 639:8 outcome 647:13 outward 638:19 overriding 615:5 Ozark 612:20 630:14	618:3 640:16 particularly 635:15 637:3 parties 643:14 647:9,12 pass 603:1 Patricia 586:22 647:3,17 pattern 620:18 635:2,3 PCB's 623:6 penetrate 640:11 penetrates 631:19 people 603:16 performed 628:8 permeable 622:9 Permission 586:11 permit 594:6,16 600:8,19 person 617:3 618:23 pervasively 621:6 pesticides 621:6 phase 622:22 phonetic 624:6 piece 619:6 pieces 626:14 piezometers 605:6 pipe 613:15,16 613:19,21,24 614:7,8 place 594:5 630:17 638:14 plant 594:8 597:17 604:15 plas 640:6 plastic 622:7,10 639:14,15,20 please 588:18 591:1 600:10 617:6 pleases 612:22 plot 603:24	plotting 604:10 plume 623:18 point 606:13,23 607:4 608:15 610:4,9 611:13 617:17,19,23 621:15 629:12 630:20 632:8 637:15 638:17 points 621:14 624:5 polychlorinated 623:7 pond 610:5,11 634:19 637:6 638:6,12,14,16 638:19 ponds 594:8,10 594:12,16,21 595:1,10,12,15 595:18,21,24 596:1,5,12 599:2 610:10 612:7 614:14 614:20,22 620:3 628:11 628:21,24 631:13 634:9 634:14 635:8 635:21 638:23 640:19 641:3 portion 608:7 634:8 pos 601:21 posed 642:5 posing 641:23 positively 614:24 possibility 601:22,24 636:5 possibly 620:7 potential 616:5 631:20 potentially 593:21 596:1,3 621:1 pour 630:9	poured 623:8 precise 611:10,13 preexisting 624:8 preferential 602:20 636:9 prefiled 591:22 597:10 prepare 626:14 prepared 591:13 present 620:8 640:21 presiding 586:16 pressure 630:22 633:3 pretty 638:16 prevent 593:12 622:14 primarily 601:12 613:3,4 617:21 635:7 636:8 primary 636:12 printed 617:20 probably 604:7 611:1,3 623:6 625:9 626:6,9 642:5 643:14 problem 590:15 procedural 642:18 procedures 608:4 proceeding 628:22 PROCEEDIN... 586:3 process 611:25 612:1 products 621:17 623:15 professional 592:25 593:3 program 625:2 628:6 programs 632:10 proposed 593:10 594:12 595:17 596:10,17	597:19 599:3 604:16 610:7 610:11,13,15 610:16 620:21 621:16 627:19 634:24 635:12 propped 618:25 provide 593:20 provided 625:6 proximity 607:5 public 586:2,12 587:16,21 592:13 598:5 631:5 pull 608:6 pulled 622:21 purely 617:2 purge 599:22 608:4 purged 611:11 611:16,17 purpose 593:19 593:23 push 614:12 615:25 637:12 pushes 630:23 put 605:5 607:15 613:15 633:3 putting 607:5 P-1 617:20 P.G 588:11 645:4
<hr/> P <hr/> P 586:19 587:5 587:18,22 588:1 page 593:8 594:25 595:3,4 596:6 597:1,14 600:6,10,12,16 600:25 602:4 602:10 619:7 621:13 627:16 645:2 paraphrasing 596:8 part 599:8 601:7 607:13 616:2 632:15 particles 632:5 641:14 particular 606:20 617:23				<hr/> Q <hr/> quality 593:13 594:7,17 631:17 641:17 quantification 607:18 quarterly 628:7 question 593:7 598:8 607:16 610:8,18 619:15 629:5 632:21 637:4 638:10 640:9 642:5 questions 590:7

590:18,20 591:22 592:12 592:14,16 608:23 618:18 618:20 619:2 624:10,12,15 626:21,25 627:8,12 628:2 629:3,6 631:3,4 631:6 634:6,10 636:1 637:2 640:19 641:22 642:9 645:9,9 645:10 quickly 629:16 quite 600:1	recall 600:22 634:9 635:25 639:1 receipt 592:4 received 592:5,7 642:17 644:6,9 record 588:5 589:15 591:8 615:14 644:12 Recovery 637:22 recross 631:2 Recross-Exami... 631:9 645:10 REC'D 646:3,11 Redirect 634:4,5 645:11 reduced 647:7 redundant 628:3 refer 594:23 596:25 643:15 reference 621:25 referenced 595:3 referring 616:14 616:19 640:5 regard 634:16 637:3 638:24 642:3 regarding 634:6 regional 598:1,3 598:21,22 regulation 622:9 regulations 607:9 627:24 regulatory 586:17 622:4 627:21 628:15 Reitz 597:23 relate 628:2 related 586:14 628:21,23 639:4 647:8 relates 638:2 relationship 634:9 relative 608:12 647:10 relatively 629:15	632:16 636:23 release 607:7 relevant 624:20 remain 619:12 636:23 remediation 632:10 remember 600:9 619:21 630:7 removal 633:2 removed 612:1 rendered 619:10 619:11 repeat 600:10 rephrase 594:18 reply 642:20 report 622:2,2 628:8 REPORTED 586:21 reporter 633:20 643:25 644:9 647:1,4 reporting 628:4 reports 601:6 602:16 628:6 represent 592:21 representation 616:17,18 617:10 representative 605:9,19 606:13 608:6 624:19,25 625:5 639:11 represented 616:9 625:19 625:21 request 643:2 requested 601:7 require 628:7 required 622:8,9 requirements 622:4 627:21 628:5,10,15 632:24 residues 623:14	resisted 616:2 Resource 637:22 restate 621:19 result 635:24 results 596:8,21 598:18 603:24 634:17 635:16 640:23 returning 612:3 review 627:1 635:25 reviewing 601:5 revised 600:7,18 right 589:14 590:5,6,21 591:1 592:24 597:19,21 599:4 600:4 602:7 603:6,12 604:8,14 605:3 605:4,12,14,20 605:21 606:16 610:9 612:5,19 613:21 616:12 616:12,13 617:14 618:14 618:17,25 620:11 622:5 622:12 623:21 624:9,22 626:19 629:23 630:2 632:14 633:11,14 637:20 643:17 right-hand 616:11 ring 594:12 596:10 610:6 610:11 rings 594:1 rise 614:8 river 589:5 590:2 601:17,19 612:10,12,12 612:13,15 614:7,15,16,24 615:4,7,21,22	615:22,23 616:13 617:25 620:8 629:10 629:10,20,23 630:14,16,18 630:21,23 641:15 rivers 609:24 RMR 586:23 647:3 ROBERT 586:18 rock 613:20 630:15 641:9 round 597:22 598:18 rounds 596:9,15 596:18 599:9 RPR 586:23 647:3 Rule 587:10,11 587:11
R R 587:3 588:1 rain 633:12,12 641:24 642:4 rainfall 633:24 637:5,11 rains 632:4 raise 591:1 raised 637:4 range 638:8 rate 626:16,18 629:18 633:25 RCRA 607:2,7 625:1 637:19 reached 639:15 read 600:10 642:7 reading 625:15 ready 590:24 642:22 reality 614:3 really 599:22 608:12 617:7 630:16 637:17 640:14 reason 614:10 reasonable 616:18 reasons 633:2 rebuttal 619:10				S S 586:18 587:4 588:1 sample 599:21 608:8,9,11,12 608:15,16 sampled 596:17 599:8,12,15,19 599:19,20 607:24 611:20 611:22 sampling 596:9 596:15 597:22 598:18 599:25 608:3,5 611:16 612:1 625:6 sand 641:12 sandy 606:5 saw 614:8 saying 614:19,23 620:19 621:21 622:13,18,18 629:25 632:18 says 621:15 scenario 601:18

610:1 640:2 641:23 schedule 596:22 635:14 642:15 642:18 School 587:12 screen 599:19,25 600:1 608:10 608:11,12,14 611:10,20,22 screened 599:16 599:24 600:3 608:18 screening 598:1 598:3,21 section 616:12 sediment 602:18 see 593:15 596:13 613:4 613:10 617:19 617:20 620:4 634:13,13,25 635:2,2 seeing 618:2 Senior 587:17 sense 605:10 separate 596:8 619:15 629:15 SERVICE 586:2 587:21 services 586:23 624:12 set 620:18 635:2 setting 601:24 seven 600:7,17 623:20 severe 589:9 shale 606:6 shallow 599:6,11 607:21 613:5 613:17 623:23 623:24,25 631:12 635:24 636:23 638:25 show 620:2 showing 638:11 shown 617:24	shows 597:25 side 616:11 620:20,22,22 630:9,11,18 634:23 635:12 Sierra 587:8 592:15,21 626:5 631:7 significant 629:16 similar 613:20 630:17 simple 616:2 simplified 622:18 simplify 617:7 simultaneously 640:15 sink 622:22 623:5,8,9 sir 588:8 591:7 591:10 sit 633:9 site 594:13 595:17 596:10 596:17 597:17 597:19 604:16 606:21 607:17 607:19 610:7 610:12,13,15 610:16 636:24 sites 609:23 632:9 637:24 situation 606:20 613:20 614:4 630:18 situations 636:22 637:19 SLATER 587:11 slight 601:18 slightly 617:22 618:6 slowly 637:12 small 615:3,24 640:11 smaller 639:10 Smith 587:4 soil 605:22 606:4	606:5,5,18 637:12 soils 606:8 solid 637:24 solids 634:22 solvents 623:3,3 somewhat 636:4 sorry 588:15 598:5 603:20 604:2 610:17 633:20 638:1 sort 596:8 603:24 604:9 605:12 616:12 source 620:9 621:10 631:18 631:21 sources 620:10 620:25 621:1,4 south 589:23 southeast 589:8,9 589:12,23 590:1 southern 589:2 590:3,4 sp 624:6 specific 589:13 594:9 618:4 specifically 628:23 specificity 636:15 spread 638:19 639:17,18,20 St 587:12,14 Staff 587:21,22 592:11 615:15 631:3 643:1,17 643:20 644:8 STAFF'S 646:9 stagnant 599:23 stand 588:7 590:14 standpoint 624:5 start 610:7 612:19 started 595:23	Starting 624:21 state 586:1 614:21 632:23 647:4 stated 596:7 states 595:7 state-of-the-art 622:14 stay 632:19 step 590:22 642:11 STEPHEN 586:18 steps 621:9 Stewart 586:22 647:3,17 stipulation 643:13 stipulations 643:12 646:12 Stoll 586:18 590:20 626:23 626:24 stones 641:12 stream 601:13,13 601:13,15 613:2,6,7,13,14 613:17,21 614:3,4,6,9,12 616:6,7 streams 609:24 Street 587:4 strength 612:4 Student 587:10 587:11,11 students 613:12 submitted 628:9 Subpart 637:25 637:25 substantially 625:11 sufficient 593:11 635:20 suggestion 623:21 Suite 586:24 summer 589:25	supplemental 591:16 600:5 602:4 619:3 646:8 supply 626:1 support 625:1,7 sur 591:14 sure 588:20 589:14 599:21 600:12 605:25 619:5 621:1 631:11 surface 608:14 613:9 617:20 632:3 633:1 636:13 639:16 surrebuttal 591:13,15 593:8 596:6 619:10 622:2,2 624:17,22 627:15 646:4 surrounding 632:25 sur-surrebuttal 594:24 595:4 602:10 646:6 swear 591:1 sworn/affirm 591:3 SYDNEY 587:11 system 593:24 594:1,9 612:20 612:24,25 620:15 622:3,6 624:8 626:9 630:20 632:22 632:23,24 633:4,6,8 636:24 639:6 639:25 640:4 641:9,13,23 642:1 systems 609:24 621:7 629:15 632:13 636:25
---	---	---	---	---

T	tens 639:21	639:24	626:2,4,9	tubing 608:1
table 597:13,21	term 639:9	thereto 647:12	627:17	turn 597:12
597:25 598:17	terms 603:1	they'd 634:18	today 588:4	619:3
598:17 599:12	628:15	thickness 622:8	591:22 593:17	twelve 599:13
601:23 608:14	tested 605:6	thing 592:24	642:14,22	twice 622:7 623:4
613:16,18	testified 588:11	602:16 613:20	told 611:15	two 596:8,18
622:23	591:5 600:5,24	640:10 642:24	TONSFELDT	599:8 602:5
tables 619:18	602:3 607:20	643:11	587:11	603:25 616:10
635:15	624:11 626:4	things 603:15	top 600:25	616:10 629:15
take 588:7 595:2	631:10	604:10 642:25	608:13 613:19	641:16
598:16 608:24	testimony 588:12	think 589:7	621:13	Tyler 591:5,9,12
615:13 621:9	588:14,22	595:23 596:24	total 625:7	645:7 646:4,6,8
642:24 643:2	590:13 591:14	600:13,15	626:10,11	type 593:25
644:12	591:15,16,18	601:20 607:24	634:21	602:18 609:18
taken 618:8	591:22 593:8	607:25 608:21	town 625:24	613:4 639:5
647:6,10	593:15,17	611:2 614:13	626:8	641:7
talk 636:14	594:25 596:7	617:25 619:9	transcript 586:3	types 637:19
640:22	596:23,25	622:1 624:3	647:6	typewriting
talked 617:1	597:11 600:6	625:5 627:16	transcripts	647:7
631:25 636:3	602:4,10	629:24 631:10	642:21	typically 599:16
638:3	611:18,21	634:12 636:3	transmit 602:11	602:18 605:18
talking 590:10	614:20 619:4,6	638:6,25 640:2	602:13,17,20	623:13,16
599:7 600:17	619:10,11,20	640:10,14	636:11	
603:5 637:16	624:18,22	thinking 639:1	transmits 629:18	U
640:1,18	626:14,25	643:14	transmitted	ultimately
TAMARA	627:15 629:8	third 597:13,14	629:17	629:19,20
587:11	635:15 642:14	621:15	tried 617:7	630:15 639:20
teaching 613:12	645:4 646:4,6,8	thought 607:6	Tripp 587:3	643:4
tear 639:5,5,11	647:5	639:9	589:19,21	undergraduate
639:13,14,20	testing 597:16	thousand 609:8	590:5 591:6,25	627:4
639:25 640:3,5	628:3,20	three 594:24	592:8 634:5	understand
tech 624:6	640:23	595:6 600:22	642:9 643:22	588:16 599:11
technique 611:12	text 617:11	600:25 613:24	645:5,8	601:1 603:16
611:15,19	textbook 601:17	619:18 623:23	tripp@smithle...	604:9 608:3
612:2	609:25 615:19	624:1 625:18	587:7	610:18 611:8
techniques 611:9	616:15 617:10	626:9,14	Tripp634:5	612:5,9 614:13
technology	textbooks 601:16	635:24	645:11	617:9 621:20
622:14	thank 590:5,18	tie 632:10	trouble 608:23	629:7 631:1
tell 604:7 621:20	590:23 591:4	time 606:23	618:25	632:2,21
ten 609:8	594:3 595:13	607:5 617:23	true 589:22	639:12 642:7
tend 606:10	595:22 598:12	626:20 635:3	591:18 603:18	understanding
623:5,8 636:8	618:15 626:21	637:13 638:13	618:9	601:5 605:25
tendency 616:5	626:24 627:4,9	times 595:19	Truman 586:24	606:4 611:13
tender 592:8	629:3 630:25	602:12,19	try 617:5,16	629:24 632:2
tends 602:21	634:2,3 642:12	603:6 605:13	trying 604:9	641:2
620:4 623:2	644:14	608:25 609:1	614:18 617:8	uneasy 588:21
632:15	theory 601:1,2	622:8 625:9	620:18 629:7	Union 586:10

University 587:12 627:3 unlined 610:5,20 638:5 unnecessary 624:2 upgradient 593:11 594:15 594:20 595:1,8 595:9,11,21 629:22 631:12 631:15 upstream 641:14 641:15 upward 601:18 609:19 612:6 613:7 616:6,25 618:5,7 630:1,3 upwards 616:1 use 630:6 utilities 626:4 utility 586:14 593:13 594:1 621:16,23,25 625:22 627:24 628:24 632:1 634:24 642:1 UWL 593:13 595:8 596:3,10 596:11 599:3 634:8 U-tube 630:7	602:6 603:7,18 603:19,20,20 603:20,21 604:1,11,21,22 605:11,12 606:12,17,23 607:13,15,16 607:18 609:2,5 609:16 614:24 614:25 615:1,3 615:24 616:4 618:12 622:24 636:15 637:2 637:17 vertically 601:3 602:13,20 622:17 623:15 636:12 vicinity 593:13 594:7,16 608:7 631:13 view 641:25 viewpoint 639:2 Volume 586:8 volumes 608:4	621:16,23,25 627:24 628:24 632:1 634:24 637:24,25 642:1 watch 623:9 water 589:24 590:17 599:12 599:23 600:2 601:23 602:11 602:13,17 604:12 605:23 606:7 608:5,13 608:14,16,17 611:10 612:1,9 612:12,13,14 612:24 613:16 613:18,19,23 614:8,12 616:1 622:23 623:5,7 623:8 629:9,16 629:18,22 630:9,10,11,13 630:22 631:17 632:3,3,5 633:13 636:11 637:13,14 641:17 waters 621:18 633:1 way 592:25 594:12 604:3 617:24 620:19 621:19 622:18 636:18,24 638:10 642:2 week 618:24 642:22 welcome 626:22 627:6 wells 589:2 590:4 593:11 594:11 594:15,20,24 595:6,24 596:2 596:9,15,16,17 596:19 598:1 598:19,20	599:7,7,16,23 600:7,18,22,25 601:4,6 607:5 607:21 608:2 610:6,11 611:9 611:11,16 616:20,23 620:3,16,16 623:20,21 631:12,15 634:7,14,16,23 635:6,10,24,24 636:17 637:7 638:11,21,25 640:21 went 588:5 638:14 weren't 611:11 611:17 637:17 west 586:24 596:3,16 620:20 634:16 western 634:23 635:1 westernmost 634:8 wet 614:6 we'll 588:7 601:20 631:2 we're 588:4 590:24 599:7 618:3 640:1 644:12 we've 591:14,15 591:16 605:4 638:2 wide 613:14 widely 635:3 WILLIAM 586:19 Williams 587:22 592:12 615:8 615:11 631:4 643:7,8,16,18 643:24 644:1,4 wish 589:17 witness 588:5	590:7,23 591:3 592:8 610:18 615:18 626:22 627:6 633:22 634:3 642:12 woke 588:20 Woodruff 586:16 588:4,10 589:17,20 590:6,11,16,21 590:24 591:4 592:2,10,13,15 592:18 597:6 615:14,17 618:17 626:23 627:7,10 629:4 629:6 630:25 631:5,7 634:4 642:10,13 643:10,20,23 643:24 644:6 644:11 645:10 work 626:7,12 637:16 worked 609:23 624:19 642:8 working 626:8 worry 643:5 writing 607:1 wrong 618:24 639:9
V				X
valley 601:17 values 605:7 variable 620:4 variation 635:4 varies 605:21 606:7 vary 604:19,20 606:5,11,12 ver 605:13 versus 626:4 629:17 633:17 636:11 vertical 601:8,9	want 588:16 608:8,9 611:14 615:25,25 619:7,14 621:19 624:9 624:17 642:24 643:14,16 wanted 588:6 589:14 590:14 593:6 603:16 626:25 631:11 643:11 wants 612:14 614:12 630:11 643:18 Washington 587:12 wasn't 588:15 waste 586:14 593:13 594:1			X 604:10 645:1
				Y
				Y 586:19 604:10 yeah 594:19 595:6 615:9 626:6 644:3 year 589:3,10,11 595:19 601:12 612:8 633:24 633:25 years 596:12 635:3 yellow 616:11

yesterday 588:9 588:17,20,23 590:13 640:22	609:12 17 643:13 19 624:24 625:3 625:14 1970s 606:25 1973 636:21	602:10 573 586:25 587:6 587:19,23 588:11 645:4 589:21 645:5 591:6 645:8 592:19 645:8 592:6 646:4,6,8		
\$ \$365 626:15				
1	2	6		
1 597:21 604:1 1,500 611:1 638:6 1,600 609:12 10 591:14 592:1 592:2,6 593:9 602:12,19 603:6,25 604:1 605:13 608:25 608:25 627:17 646:4 100 602:12,19 603:6 604:1 605:5,13 608:25 609:4 622:8 626:3,3 626:10,11 100-foot 639:7 1000 615:11,11 615:15 101 605:19 108 643:22,23 644:7,8 646:12 11 591:15 592:1 592:2 597:25 598:7 600:6,12 627:18 646:5 111 587:4 1120 587:13 12 591:16 592:1 592:2,6 596:6 646:7 13 587:10,11,11 596:22 635:14 14 596:7 597:1 598:20 15 596:7 633:25 638:6 16 599:17 607:21	2 586:6 594:25 595:4 597:13 597:25 619:7 635:15 2,000 611:1,3 638:6,7,7 20 613:14 626:2 2013 598:18 2014 586:6 619:7 207 586:24 21st 642:20 2230 587:18 25 599:17 607:21 25th 643:12 26th 643:1 28 596:9,19 601:4 29 598:1,20 610:11 611:9	6 593:8 594:25 627:16 618:20 645:9 627:12 645:9 629:6 645:10 631:9 645:10 63130-4899 587:14 636-7551 586:25 644:8644:8 646:12 65101 586:24 65102 587:18,23 65201 587:5		
	3	7		
	3 598:17 600:6 600:12 621:13 635:15 30th 642:20 314 587:14 3432 586:24 360 587:22	7 586:8 751-5558 587:19 751-8702 587:23		
	4	8		
	4 593:8 602:10 40 596:12 633:24 635:3 40-year 638:13 401 586:23 647:18 443-3141 587:6	8 598:2,7 624:21 8:30 588:3		
	5	9		
	5 600:25 602:4	9th 587:4 642:23 9:40 644:16 918 587:5 935-5837 587:14		