1 BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION STATE OF MISSOURI 2 3 4 TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS 5 ARBITRATION MEETING February 3, 2006 6 7 Jefferson City, Missouri 8 Volume 1 9 10 Petition of Socket Telecom, LLC for) 11Compulsory Arbitration of
Interconnection Agreements with)) Case No. TO-2006-0299 12 CenturyTel of Missouri LLC and Spectra) Communications, LLC Pursuant to Section) 13 252(b)(1) of the Telecommunications Act) of 1996) 14 15 16 KENNARD L. JONES, 17 REGULATORY LAW JUDGE. 18 REPORTED BY: 19 TRACY L. THORPE, CSR, CCR MIDWEST LITIGATION SERVICES 20 21 22 23 24 25

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PROCEEDINGS 1 JUDGE JONES: We're here for the matter of the 2 3 petition of Socket Telecom, LLC for compulsory arbitration of 4 interconnection agreements with CenturyTel of Missouri, LLC 5 and Spectra Communications, LLC pursuant to Section 252(b)(1) 6 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. This is Case 7 No. TO-2006-0299. 8 My name is Kennard Jones. I've been appointed 9 the arbitrator in this matter. First, I'm going to introduce my advisory staff present here, Natelle Dietrich, Mike 10 Scheperle, Adam McKinnie and Larry Henderson. 11 12 At this time, I'll take entries of appearance 13 beginning with Socket. MR. LUMLEY: Thank you, Judge. This is Carl 14 Lumley calling from St. Louis. I'm with the Curtis, Heinz law 15 firm. My address is 130 South Bemiston, suite 200, Clayton, 16 Missouri 63105 and we're representing Socket Telecom in this 17 18 matter. Also on the line is Bill Magness, and I'll let 19 20 him make his entry and note for the arbitrator that we have a 21 petition for entry pending. And I understand present in the 22 hearing room is Socket representative Matthew Kohly. 23 MR. MAGNESS: Yes, good morning, your Honor. My name is Bill Magness. I'm with the law firm of Casey, 24 25 Gentz and Magness. My address is 98 San Jacinto Boulevard,

2 JUDGE JONES: Thank you. 3 And for CenturyTel. 4 MR. DORITY: Thank you, Judge. Let the record 5 reflect Larry W. Dority with Fischer and Dority, PC. Our 6 address is 101 Madison, suite 400, Jefferson City, Missouri 7 65101. 8 Also participating today are outside counsel 9 from the state of Texas. And we, too, your Honor, have petitions for leave to appear pending at this point. That 10 would be David F. Brown with the Hughes and Luce, LLP firm. 11 David is located at 111 Congress Avenue, suite 900, Austin, 12 13 Texas 78701. 14 And also participating this morning is Mr. Floyd R. Hartley. Mr. Hartley's address is Hughes and 15 Luce, LLP, 1717 Main Street, suite 2800, Dallas, Texas 75201. 16 17 Also participating on behalf of CenturyTel this 18 morning in the hearing room are Arthur Martinez and Becky

suite 1400, Austin, Texas 78701 representing Socket.

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Powell. Participating on the telephone are Max Cox, Susan
 Smith and Calvin Simshaw.
 JUDGE JONES: Thank you. First, does anyone

22 object to these petitions for leave to enter appearance of 23 David brown, Floyd Hartley and Kara Altenbaumer-Price? 24 Hearing no objections, then their motions are 25 granted.

1 Also, there's a motion for leave to file an 2 errata petition for arbitration. Are there any objections to 3 that motion?

4 Hearing none, that motion is granted. 5 Now, the bigger motion is the motion that has 6 to do with release of confidential information. I'm not quite 7 sure I understand it. I know there have been successors in interest and GTE and AT&T had an agreement, Socket wants 8 9 CenturyTel to -- or I should say rather Socket wants information that was confidential in a 1997 arbitration Report 10 and Order. 11

Mr. Dority, you oppose that? MR. DORITY: Yes, your Honor. We do at this time. We filed our response to motion for administrative notice. And I think in a nutshell, our message there is that it is too broad in scope at this point. And at this point in time, we're not sure that there's been any showing of

18 relevance or materiality.
19 And as far as the standard protective order
20 that is normally issued by this Commission, it, by its own
21 terms, indicates that those materials would be used for the

22 purposes of that particular proceeding.

And we also filed a motion for a
reconsideration of your order shortening time wherein you made
AT&T Communications of the Southwest -- I'm sorry, you didn't

1 make them a party, but you did ask them to file a response. And we suggested that the other real party and interest, that 2 3 being GTE Midwest, Incorporated, who was a party to that 4 arbitration, should also have the opportunity to react to the 5 motion and the request to declassify confidential information. 6 JUDGE JONES: Okay. Mr. Lumley --7 MR. LUMLEY: Yes, sir. JUDGE JONES: -- why do you want that 8 9 information? MR. LUMLEY: Your Honor, as you noted, the 10 existing agreement between Socket and the CenturyTel companies 11 is, in the case of CenturyTel of Missouri, the adopted 12 13 AT&T/GTE agreement with a couple recent changes and in the 14 case of Spectra, is essentially that same document with a series of specific sections deleted. And those two additions 15 16 and deletions were recently approved by the Commission in some 17 separate cases that we've noted in the materials. 18 The proposal that Socket has made in the current arbitration include the continuation of existing 19 language that comes from that original underlying agreement. 20 21 And the only information that we've asked to move into this 22 case is the Commission's decision in full. And as you've 23 noted, portions of that decision are currently still under a 24 protective order status.

I think there was a misunderstanding in the

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AT&T response that I saw that suggested we were seeking the entire record in that case, and that's certainly not what we asked for. It's just the order.

4 We believe it's pertinent to have the 5 Commission's precedent in terms of its decisions on various 6 contract sections that we believe, you know, have worked 7 between the parties and should continue on; and therefore, that's why we would like that precedent to be made available. 8 9 Obviously because of the protective order 10 status, it's not readily available simply from the Commission's files, but the Commission's rules do allow it to 11 12 take notice of matters that are in its files.

13 The additional part of our request that I think 14 has been misunderstood, and it's set forth in paragraph 7, is 15 that we're not asking for public disclosure of this 16 information, but rather that it be moved into this case and 17 subject to the protective order.

And I would suggest that given the relationship of that order to the existing agreement between the parties, that if I were to send discovery to AT&T or Verizon or to CenturyTel or to Spectra, they would have to respond and produce that order, again, subject to the protective order in this case.

24 But given the fast track of an arbitration
25 proceeding, we think it would be prejudicial to require us to

1 go through, you know, what could be, you know, 20 to 45 days of delay of a discovery process when the information is 2 already in the Commission's files and we're not asking to 3 4 change its protected status in terms of public access. 5 We're just trying to make sure that it can be 6 brought to the Commission's attention in this case through the 7 use of attorneys and outside experts that sign the appropriate nondisclosure documents. So that's our view in a nutshell. 8 9 JUDGE JONES: I don't know why now, but for 10 some reason I was thinking that you wanted access to cost information. 11 12 MR. LUMLEY: I believe there is such information included in the Report and Order, yes. 13 14 JUDGE JONES: But do you want --MR. LUMLEY: That information supports the 15 16 Commission's decision on certain rates that we would want to 17 continue on as part of our position in this case. JUDGE JONES: So is that a yes? 18 MR. LUMLEY: Yes, sir. 19 JUDGE JONES: And, Mr. Dority, why would you 20 21 have a problem with that? 22 MR. DORITY: Because that is not our 23 information. That is GTE Midwest, Incorporated doing business as Verizon's information, your Honor. 24 25 If I could refer you -- and in one of the

Commission's earlier orders where they addressed the situation -- and I have not seen this information myself. I am not standing in the shoes of Verizon in terms of that particular documentation.

5 The Commission itself, I believe, conducted --6 had their Staff conduct a 16-week investigation regarding this 7 type of costing information that they're referring to. And the Commission notes that because GTE will perhaps be required 8 9 to disclose extraordinarily confidential information, 10 including trade secrets and other proprietary matter, AT&T will not participate in these meetings. So even the other 11 party to that arbitration was not allowed to participate in 12 13 meetings.

14 And I guess there was information or schedules that that Staff report ultimately concluded and perhaps that 15 16 is what was made as an attachment to the Report and Order. 17 I have not seen that confidential information. I do not know. 18 And that's why we're suggesting that if -- that 19 surely GTE Midwest, Incorporated should have the opportunity to react to it. AT&T has reacted to it and has opposed the 20 21 release of the information. 22 And, Mr. Hartley, I don't know if you had 23 anything you wanted to add at this point, but I would certainly welcome that, if you'd like. 24

25 MR. HARTLEY: I think Mr. Dority's hit on the

primary objections, that administrative notice may not be the proper vehicle at this time, in addition to administrative notice primarily being focused on fact.

4 The rules do allow the Commission to refer to 5 its filings of evidence when noted with specificity or 6 particularity. Part of the problem here is we don't know what 7 Socket is after with any level of detail.

8 The next part, as Mr. Dority explained, is the 9 relevance or materiality. How is it relevant to the successor 10 interconnection agreement what may or may not have undergone 11 in the prior agreement eight, nine years ago? And as 12 Mr. Dority's explained, there would be substantial 13 confidentiality issues that AT&T obviously has and Verizon 14 also may have as well.

JUDGE JONES: Well, let me ask this of CenturyTel. Cost studies are relevant in this arbitration; is that right? What it cost CenturyTel to do things is going to be relevant?

MR. DORITY: That is correct, and you hit it on the head. What it costs CenturyTel to do these things, that's correct.

JUDGE JONES: Well, since you phrased your response that way, then are the costs as reflected in the '97 order relevant to what it would cost CenturyTel to do things? MR. DORITY: That's something that I think we would like to have the opportunity to discuss. And I guess at this point, Judge, in relation to the scheduling, which is another issue that I know you intend to take up this morning, we are going to request the opportunity to perhaps go off line and visit with Socket regarding some particular concerns we have related to the scheduling issue.

7 And, you know, I'm most willing to visit with 8 Socket about this particular issue as well and perhaps we can 9 report back to you after we've had those chance for those 10 discussions.

JUDGE JONES: Well, is that the most recent cost study that -- well, Socket -- or I should say CenturyTel is a successor interest to GTE; is that right? MR. DORITY: We acquired the GTE Verizon

15 properties, your Honor.

16 JUDGE JONES: Doesn't that make those cost 17 studies relevant to some degree?

18 MR. DORITY: It may well. Susan Smith, Cal 19 Simshaw, do you want to jump in here and offer your 20 perspectives on that?

MS. SIMSHAW: Well, this is Cal Simshaw. I think, your Honor, yeah, to some extent. The commonality obviously being the assets, the telephone plant, for instance, to the extent that it hasn't been replaced or retired in the intervening nine years.

1 But there are other aspects, as you know, of cost studies regarding corporate overheads and things of that 2 3 nature that obviously are not common that Verizon may have 4 had -- Verizon GTE may have had certain dynamics associated 5 with that that are different from the CenturyTel perspective. 6 So to give you a precise answer to the question without the 7 ability to review what it is that is on file, it's impossible to say to what extent it may be relevant. 8 9 JUDGE JONES: So don't you want to know whether 10 or not it's relevant, Mr. Simshaw? Wouldn't you want to have the ability to see that information and know whether or not it 11 is relevant, whether it can be used to benefit this 12 13 arbitration? 14 MR. SIMSHAW: To see it, perhaps. But to just automatically, you know, put it into the record and move on, 15 16 no. JUDGE JONES: I don't understand the difference 17 between you seeing it and not putting -- how do you get to see 18 19 it without making it a part of this case? MR. SIMSHAW: Well, it may be that we can get 20 21 it from the source. 22 JUDGE JONES: Is your relationship with the 23 source such that -- when you say "the source," what do you 24 mean? 25 MR. SIMSHAW: GTE Verizon.

JUDGE JONES: Is your relationship with those 1 companies such that you would be able to get that information 2 3 from them? 4 MR. SIMSHAW: Your Honor, this is moving so 5 fast I don't have an answer to that at the moment. 6 JUDGE JONES: It's got to move fast. We have a 7 May 9th deadline. 8 MR. SIMSHAW: I don't have an answer to that. 9 JUDGE JONES: You don't know whether or not your relationship with GTE is as such that you can get this 10 information? 11 12 MR. SIMSHAW: We have not had that discussion. 13 JUDGE JONES: Okay. Mr. Lumley, is there 14 anything else you'd like to add? 15 MR. LUMLEY: Well, I suppose what I would add is that to the extent you're concerned about AT&T's response, 16 17 I would like the opportunity to confer with them and allay 18 their concerns, because I think they've misunderstood our request in terms of both the scope of what we've asked for and 19 20 the degree of release of the information that we've asked for. 21 But short of that, I think you understand our position. 22 JUDGE JONES: I have a feeling that my order to 23 AT&T was probably misplaced. I'm thinking that you want cost 24 information about GTE rather than AT&T; is that correct? 25 MR. LUMLEY: I suspect that the information

1 attached to the Commission's order doesn't have much to do 2 with AT&T, yes.

JUDGE JONES: Okay. Do you have any questions MS. DIETRICH: I don't know who can answer this. This is Natelle Dietrich. Are rates going to be an issue in this arbitration?

7 MR. LUMLEY: Yes.

8 MS. DIETRICH: Mr. Dority, do we have 9 CenturyTel cost studies that would address current costs? 10 MR. DORITY: At this point we have not filed 11 anything. Our responsive pleadings are not due until next 12 week.

MS. DIETRICH: Right. But, I mean, would there be CenturyTel cost studies that would be available that would take care of the concern whether we need to consider GTE's costs or not?

MR. DORITY: I believe that is the case, yes. And, again, we're hoping to have some conversations with Socket as to the scope and breadth of what contested issues are going to remain. And we're working through those as diligently as we can.

MS. DIETRICH: And then you mentioned getting feedback from GTE on the request of Socket. In your filing --I haven't had a chance to read it yet -- did you give the Commission contact information for GTE, or how do we get GTE's 1 input?

2 MR. DORITY: I mean, as -- I think we can -- we 3 can probably provide that to the Commission in terms of their 4 general counsel that I believe is located in Dallas, Texas. 5 MS. DIETRICH: I mean, it's GTE Midwest and --6 MR. DORITY: GTE Midwest, Incorporated doing 7 business as Verizon Midwest was the entity --8 MS. DIETRICH: And they are still doing 9 business? MR. DORITY: -- doing business in Missouri that 10 sold the properties in 2002 to CenturyTel of Missouri, LLC. 11 And I'm relatively certain we can provide a contact name for 12 13 the Commission. JUDGE JONES: Okay. Do either of you have 14 questions? 15 16 Well, I'm going to have to -- I'm going to 17 think about this issue a little more. In the meantime, I hope 18 you guys can just work it out. Keeping in mind that we do have a limited amount of time here and that if cost 19 information -- even though it's 10 years old, I believe it's 20 21 the most recent cost information. If it can be helpful in 22 this arbitration, then it seems like you all are going to work with that. 23 24 Other than scheduling, are there any other 25 issues that I haven't addressed?

MR. LUMLEY: Judge, did you take up 1 Mr. Magness's entry? 2 3 JUDGE JONES: I haven't. I don't have it in 4 front of me. Has he petitioned to appear? 5 MR. LUMLEY: Yeah. That was filed on 6 January 19th. 7 JUDGE JONES: I don't know why we don't have 8 that. Has he paid the \$100 to Supreme Court of Missouri? 9 MR. MAGNESS: Yes, I have. 10 JUDGE JONES: Does anyone oppose his entry? 11 MR. DORITY: No, Judge. 12 JUDGE JONES: It's granted. You may appear, 13 Mr. Magness. 14 MR. MAGNESS: Thank you, your Honor. 15 JUDGE JONES: Those of you who aren't here, 16 unfortunately, don't have the benefit of a hearing calendar. 17 I have copies here of the judicial hearing calendar -- or I should say adjudication hearing calendar. We know May 9th is 18 the date that a final order from the Commission has to come 19 20 out. It's on a Tuesday. MR. LUMLEY: Judge Jones --21 22 JUDGE JONES: Yes. 23 MR. LUMLEY: -- Judge, I think technically it's 24 May 6th. JUDGE JONES: Is it May 6th? 25

MR. LUMLEY: Yeah, unfortunately. 1 2 JUDGE JONES: Is that a Saturday? 3 MR. LUMLEY: I believe it is. 4 JUDGE JONES: Then that would mean May 4th or 5 May 5th possibly as the last day. 6 MR. LUMLEY: I think that's technically day 7 270. Let's see. 8 JUDGE JONES: Today is February 3rd --9 MR. DORITY: Judge, if I may interject, as your 10 Honor may be aware, this Commission has extended the deadline in other arbitrations, most recently in the ones that we have 11 12 been involved directly with was in the CD telecom proceeding 13 Case No. XO-2005-0277. While Socket's petition for arbitration 14 reflects that the formal request for negotiations was sent on 15 16 August 9th, 2005, as Mr. Lumley alluded to earlier, the first 17 couple of months of that intervening time frame starting with 18 the August date was truly spent working on an addendum to the existing agreement to which CenturyTel of Missouri and Socket 19 20 were operating, and that was the underlying AT&T/GTE 21 agreement. 22 As part and parcel of those negotiations, we 23 were also able to enter into an interim arrangement between 24 Socket and Spectra Communications Group, which is the other 25 party to this arbitration.

1 So, you know, the first 60 days, if you will, at least were spent focusing upon a new addendum, a new 2 3 agreement on behalf of Spectra and Socket that was only 4 approved by this Commission -- I think it was about 60 days to 5 the day from here back in December -- I believe it was 6 effective December 3rd the Commission approved those two new 7 agreements under which these companies are presently 8 operating. 9 Having said that, obviously our responsive pleading has not been filed at this point. That's due next 10 Tuesday, I believe, on the 7th. 11 12 We would like to have the opportunity to visit with Socket this morning and perhaps we can go off line for a 13 14 short amount of time to discuss the possible resolution of issues that we have identified and as will be reflected in our 15 16 filing next week. We think that all parties would be well served 17 18 to give ourselves a little more time to identify what are truly the issues that are out there and give ourselves and the 19 arbitrator and advisory staff the opportunity to have a

21 realistic schedule to address the issues. 22 We're not suggesting that we're going to be 23 wanting to push this off indefinitely. In the CD matter I 24 think we used a 60- to 90-day extension. We would like to

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25 have the opportunity to visit with Socket regarding that

1 perspective. And I interjected now, your Honor, just because it looked like we were headed down a path of looking at the 2 3 May 5th deadline as being absolute and working backwards and I 4 guess we would like to have the privilege and opportunity to 5 perhaps visit with Socket for a little while this morning to 6 see if there might be some opportunities to extend that. 7 JUDGE JONES: Mr. Lumley, are you on the same 8 page with Mr. Dority in that regard? 9 MR. LUMLEY: Well, unfortunately not, your 10 Honor. We've had some discussions about potential extensions, and I don't believe anybody representing Socket today has any 11 authority to agree to an extension. 12 13 JUDGE JONES: Does that mean you disagree to 14 one or you can't agree to one right now? 15 MR. LUMLEY: Well, I think the company management does not want an extension. 16 JUDGE JONES: Well, Mr. Dority, if all the 17 18 parties don't agree to an extension, I'm not willing to grant one. I don't think I can. In other words, I think if one 19 party wants the May 5th deadline, by federal law, I've got to 20 21 give that. If all the parties agree, I'm able to extend it. 22 So we'll have to stick with that deadline. 23 MR. DORITY: That may be an issue that we will want to address in our responsive pleading due on Tuesday as 24 25 well.

1 JUDGE JONES: You mean from a legal standpoint 2 whether it can be extended?

3 MR. DORITY: Yes, sir.

JUDGE JONES: Okay. Well, I'll tell you what. 4 5 The problem that's going to come up is if -- you'll file 6 something Tuesday that says why you think it should be able to 7 be extended, Mr. Lumley will file something in response saying 8 why he doesn't think it should be extended and then there's a 9 time period where I'll file some order in response to both those positions -- or I should say enter an order in response 10 to both those positions while time is being ate up. 11 12 MR. DORITY: I appreciate that, Judge. And that's why I was truly hopeful that Socket would at least 13 14 extend us the courtesy this morning of going off line and giving us a chance to at least visit about that issue. 15 16 MR. LUMLEY: I didn't mean to suggest that 17 we're not willing to discuss things, but I don't want to 18 mislead anybody. And the Judge asked the direct question, I wanted him to be clear on what I could do today. 19 20 JUDGE JONES: Well, let's see. After the 21 evidentiary hearing, we'll have briefs, preliminary report,

22 comments -23 MR. LUMLEY: Judge, if you don't mind me
24 interrupting you, one of our suggestions to help with the time
25 constraints is to eliminate the preliminary report step, just

1 allow the parties to present their case to you and have you make your decision. And if we have limited comments, you 2 3 know, we could interject those while the Commission is 4 considering your final decision. That seemed to work pretty 5 well in the M2A proceedings and provides, you know, 6 substantial amount of leeway. 7 JUDGE JONES: Well, let me write down everything that I think normally would happen and then we'll 8 9 go back and see what doesn't have to happen and you all can 10 help me out here. After what would be a preliminary report, we'd 11 have comments and then is it oral arguments after that, after 12 13 the comment period? 14 MR. DORITY: That's correct, Judge. MR. LUMLEY: I think the oral arguments come 15 after the final report. Although obviously as the arbitrator, 16 17 if you wanted us to --JUDGE JONES: No. I want to do it like it 18 would normally be done first and then make changes. 19 20 MR. DORITY: I believe that has all the piece 21 parts. 22 MR. LUMLEY: I think under Rule 36 the oral 23 argument is at the discretion of the Commission after your final report, if I remember correctly. 24 25 JUDGE JONES: So there are two comments,

1 comments on draft and comments on final.

| 2 MF | . DORITY: Correct. |
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3 MR. LUMLEY: Right.

4 MR. DORITY: Judge, would it be helpful, if 5 Mr. Lumley is willing to at least visit with us about the 6 scheduling issue, if we could take a brief recess off the 7 record and perhaps the parties can at least -- we have not had 8 the opportunity to discuss what Mr. Lumley is suggesting in 9 terms of deleting, you know, some of the stages that 10 Chapter 36 envisions at this point. And perhaps if we had a little time to chat about that, we might be able to move 11 12 things along. I just don't know, but I'm willing to try. 13 MR. LUMLEY: I think that's worthwhile. 14 JUDGE JONES: So what you all want to do is go off the record, talk about scheduling and then what? 15 16 MR. DORITY: We'll notify you when we're ready 17 to go back on the record and hopefully report anything that we may have been able to come to agreement on. 18 19 JUDGE JONES: Okay. 20 MR. DORITY: Or at least give you a status 21 report of where we are. And then we may have to take up where 22 we are right now, but I guess in my mind it would make sense 23 to give us a chance to visit since we have all of the participants at least on the phone. 24

25 MR. LUMLEY: I agree.

JUDGE JONES: Go ahead. You agree with what 1 Mr. Dority just said? 2 3 MR. LUMLEY: Yes, sir. JUDGE JONES: For the benefit of your all's 4 5 discussion -- I didn't realize there were two comment periods. 6 In light of that then, I'd be willing to forego the 7 preliminary report and have the comments on the final report 8 and then oral argument before the Commission, if necessary. 9 That's, of course, up to the Commission. 10 And I will also tell you this. After the post-hearing briefs are filed, I'll need at least a week and a 11 12 half to write the report. So keep that in mind while you all talk about that. 13 MR. LUMLEY: Does that translate to 10 days 14 or --15 16 JUDGE JONES: Is translates to seven working 17 days. 18 MR. LUMLEY: Seven working days. Okay. JUDGE JONES: Okay. We'll go ahead and go off 19 20 the record. 21 (A recess was taken.) 22 JUDGE JONES: We're back on the record with 23 Case No. TO-2006-0299. 24 The parties believe that it might be beneficial to this arbitration to continue this matter of this initial 25

arbitration meeting until Monday afternoon. That would be February 6th. And I'm going to set it for 2:00 p.m. Is that fine with everyone? MR. DORITY: Yes, your Honor JUDGE JONES: Okay. At 2:00 p.m. MR. LUMLEY: Can we have call-in arrangements, Judge Jones? JUDGE JONES: I'll try to get another number today and see if I can get something out early this afternoon. MR. DORITY: Thank you, Judge. And if that becomes a problem, let me know and we'll be glad to try to arrange a bridge and get you the information as well. JUDGE JONES: Is that all we need on the record? With that then, we'll go off the record. WHEREUPON, the arbitration meeting was continued until February 6, 2006 at 2:00 p.m.