1	STATE OF MISSOURI
2	PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
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6	TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
7	Hearing
8	November 27, 2017
9	Jefferson City, Missouri Volume 3
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12	In the Matter of the Rate) Increase Request of Indian) File No. WR-2017-0259
13	Hills Utility Operating) Company, Inc.)
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16	DANIEL R.E. JORDAN, Presiding,
17	SENIOR REGULATORY LAW JUDGE.
18	WILLIAM KENNEY, SCOTT T. RUPP,
19	MAIDA J. COLEMAN, COMMISSIONERS.
20	COMMISSIONERS.
21	
22	REPORTED BY:
23	KELLENE K. FEDDERSEN, CSR, RPR, CCR NO. 838 ALARIS LITIGATION SERVICES
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1 JUDGE JORDAN: Good morning, everyone. 2 We are on the record. The Commission is calling 3 the action in File No. WR-2017-0259. That is in 4 the matter of the rate increase request from Indian 5 Hills Utility Operating Company. 6 My name is Daniel Jordan. I'm the 7 Regulatory Law Judge assigned to this action, and 8 I'm going to begin by silencing my cell phone and 9 I'm going to ask everyone else to do the same. You don't have to turn them off. Just make them 10 11 silent. And now the Commission will take entries 12 of appearance. Let's start with the Applicant. 13 Thank you, your Honor. MR. COOPER: 14 Dean Cooper from the law firm of Brydon, 15 Swearengen & England, P.C., appearing on behalf of 16 Indian Hills Utility Operating Company, Inc. The 17 court reporter has the address. JUDGE JORDAN: Thank you. And for 18 19 the Commission's Staff. 20 MS. MERS: Nicole Mers appearing on 21 behalf of Staff, and my information has been 22 provided to the court reporter. Thank you. 23 JUDGE JORDAN: Thank you. For the 24 Office of the Public Counsel. 25 MR. SMITH: Ryan Smith on behalf of

the Office of the Public Counsel, here also with 1 2 Curtis Schube with the Office of the Public 3 Counsel. My information has previously been 4 provided to the court reporter. 5 JUDGE JORDAN: Thank you. Before we 6 begin to take opening statements, I want to clarify 7 a few things on the record. First, Staff has an 8 extra witness? 9 MS. MERS: Yes. To sponsor the EMS 10 run that was stipulated to, we have Kim Bolin 11 appearing on behalf of Staff. JUDGE JORDAN: And in what order will 12 13 that witness appear? 14 MS. MERS: Do you have a preference 15 on just taking her the first witness Tuesday 16 morning, Mr. Smith? 17 MR. SMITH: Yes, the first witness would be fine for OPC. 18 19 JUDGE JORDAN: So we're talk about 20 the tomorrow morning, being Tuesday, at 8:30? 21 MR. SMITH: Yes. 22 JUDGE JORDAN: Any objection from the 23 company on that? 24 MR. COOPER: No, your Honor. 25 JUDGE JORDAN: Thank you. I'd also

1	like to clarify something else on the record. We
2	have two settlements filed with the Commission.
3	One is without objection and resolves a part of the
4	issues, and the other resolves all the issues but
5	is only some of the parties. I will ask Staff to
6	clarify the status of that.
7	MS. MERS: I believe that OPC also
8	objected to the Partial Stipulation & Agreement, so
9	both agreements have been objected to by OPC. But
10	the total Nonunanimous Stipulation & Agreement that
11	was filed I believe Wednesday would incorporate the
12	partial and be a total resolution of the case
13	between Staff and the company.
14	JUDGE JORDAN: As far as
15	incorporating the partial resolution, I understand
16	there's some amendments to that information in
17	testimony? One of the witnesses made a correction
18	to something in the partial stipulation, if I
19	remember correctly.
20	MS. MERS: Yes, and the nonunanimous
21	would incorporate any corrections and, I guess,
22	supersede and incorporate and replace.
23	JUDGE JORDAN: All right. And
24	something else has come to my attention, which is
25	if you take a look at the more recent stipulation

1 document, the one entered into between Staff and 2 Indian Hills, I just want to point out paragraph 17 3 has a typo in it. Paragraph 17, just a clerical 4 error. 5 MS. MERS: Thank you for noticing 6 that. Yes, it should be corrected to Indian Hills from Summit. Thank you. 7 JUDGE JORDAN: Any other preliminary 8 9 matters before we go to opening statements? Not seeing any. The Commission will hear opening 10 11 statements, and we will begin with the Applicant, Indian Hills. 12 13 MR. COOPER: Good morning. As I 14 mentioned before, I'm appearing today on behalf of 15 Indian Hills Utility Operating Company, Inc., which 16 is an indirect subsidiary of First Round CSWR, LLC. 17 First Round is also the ultimate parent of public utilities Hillcrest Utility Operating Company, 18 19 Raccoon Creek Utility Operating Company, and Elm 20 Hills Utility Operating Company, as well as 21 Confluence Rivers Utility Operating Company which 22 is currently an applicant before the Commission 23 seeking to become a public utility. 24 On the wastewater side of the 25 business, First Round subsidiaries have purchased

1	source wastowator treatment plants with the
	seven wastewater treatment plants with the
2	associated sewer pumping stations, gravity force
3	mains and gravity conveyance lines. Companies have
4	designed, permitted and completed construction with
5	Missouri Department of Natural Resources' approval
6	of approximately \$2.4 million of sanitary sewer
7	systems since March of 2015.
8	On the drinking water side of the
9	business, the companies have designed, permitted,
10	and have completed construction, again with MDNR
11	approval, of approximately \$2.6 million of drinking
12	water systems since March of 2015.
13	Most recently, Elm Hills Utility
14	Operating Company closed on the purchase of two
15	wastewater systems and one water system near
16	Sedalia, Missouri. The water system and one of the
17	two sewer systems, those that had been belonged to
18	Missouri Utilities Company, had been in Missouri
19	state-appointed receivership for about ten years
20	and had Attorney General enforcement actions
21	pending. Improvements on those systems will soon
22	be underway.
23	As I mentioned before, Confluence
24	Rivers Utility Operating Company has filed with
25	this Commission an application to acquire

1	approximately 15 water and wastewater systems which
2	contain four wastewater systems currently in
3	state-appointed receivership, one water system in
4	receivership with an active AG enforcement action,
5	and two non-regulated wastewater systems that are
6	in AG enforcement actions, to include one of which
7	that has a current building moratorium in the area
8	it serves.
9	Indian Hills acquired its water
10	system from a company named IH Utilities, Inc.,
11	which was a public utility regulated by the
12	Commission. The company, Indian Hills, sought
13	approval of the proposed transaction in File No.
14	WO-2016-0045. Ultimately, a stipulation was
15	reached and the Commission approved the
16	transactions by its Order Regarding Stipulation $\&$
17	Agreement and Certificate of Convenience and
18	Necessity issued on February 3rd of 2016, effective
19	March 4th of 2016, and closing on that system took
20	place on March 31st of 2016.
21	The original Indian Hills drinking
22	water system was constructed approximately 50 years
23	ago. Indian Hills does not believe any major
24	capital improvements were completed after the
25	initial construction. The original system was in a

1 state of significant disrepair that centered around 2 six major enforcement issues or schedules of 3 compliance associated with the system's operation 4 at the time Indian Hills bought the water assets. 5 First, there was only one well in 6 service. For drinking water systems serving over 7 about 50 homes, MDNR's design guides require two 8 drinking water wells. Indian Hills has 9 approximately 715 homes. There was no backup power or backup pumping system. 10 11 Third, there was significant water 12 loss inside the system. IH Utilities was losing 13 about 75 percent of all the water pumped to leakage 14 from the existing water conveyance lines. 15 Fourth, there was a lack of 16 sufficient pressure in parts of the system. The 17 Department of Natural Resources' current design quides require a minimum of 21 PSI of water 18 19 pressure, with a guideline of 35 PSI for 20 residential drinking water systems. At the time of acquisition, Indian Hills registered a maximum of 21 22 20 PSI at the back of the lake community and during 23 peak usage would experience sometimes no water 24 pressure at all in that area. 25 Fifth, there was a lack of redundant

1	pumps to ensure system reliability. And sixth,
2	there was a lack of sufficient storage. The system
3	previously had 20,000 gallons of storage for a
4	system that can average 180,000 gallons per day
5	during the summer months.
6	Indian Hills had a list of 27 MDNR
7	compliance issues at the time of acquisition that
8	dated back to at least 2014. Indian Hills began
9	construction on the wastewater I'm sorry, on the
10	improvements approximately 30 days after it
11	acquired the systems. Those DNR violations were
12	addressed by November of 2016, and the remaining
13	improvements were completed by February of 2017.
14	Indian Hills, at least through the
15	period of time that's significant to this case, had
16	invested approximately \$1.84 million in the
17	facilities. As I mentioned before, the customer
18	base at Indian Hills is about 715 customers.
19	About half of those are part-time residents, people
20	for whom Indian Hills residence is a second home.
21	The current rates became effective in
22	October of 2009 and include a \$10.81 base rate,
23	which includes the first 4,000 gallons of water
24	used, and a volumetric rate of \$1.89 for every
25	thousand gallons used over the original 4,000.

1	Unfortunately, whether the Commission
2	follows the OPC, Staff, company or the
3	Staff/company nonunanimous stipulation
4	recommendation as to rates, a substantial rate
5	increase will result from this case. This is
6	because the water system required a substantial
7	rebuild, which is still underway to some extent, in
8	order to be operational for the provision of
9	service to the customers and to comply with federal
10	and state regulations relating to those services.
11	Now, I mention that the rebuilding
12	continues to some extent, and I think you'll hear
13	about this issue during the case, but the
14	distribution system itself was largely constructed
15	in a haphazard manner initially with insufficient
16	materials. Eventually much of that distribution
17	system will need to be rebuilt. Those inadequacies
18	are causing leaks as pressure, appropriate pressure
19	is brought to the system, and as I said, that will
20	be an issue that you'll hear about later in the
21	case.
22	Indian Hills will present its
23	testimony in this case and evidence to support the
24	positions as represented in its position statement
25	that was filed in the case. However, as we've

mentioned before, Indian Hills has reached a 1 2 Nonunanimous Stipulation & Agreement with the Staff 3 that represents a compromise of those positions. 4 Key points in the Nonunanimous 5 Stipulation & Agreement are as follows: There's an 6 incremental increase to Indian Hills' annual 7 revenue requirement in the amount of \$630,911, 8 which was based on a cost of debt of 14 percent, a 9 return on equity of 12 percent, and a hypothetical capital struck of 35 percent equity and 65 percent 10 11 debt. 12 Prior to the effective date of any 13 rate change tariff sheets, the company has agreed 14 to submit a modification of loan agreement to 15 reduce the prepayment penalty term on its loan from 16 20 years to 10 years. 17 The stipulation includes a two-way tracker for repair expenses related to water main 18 19 repair and service line repair expense with a 20 \$90,000 base amount. A rate design containing a 21 moderate seasonal commodity charge is included. 22 A requirement that an engineering 23 study be performed by Indian Hills to outline the 24 water system areas that should be scheduled for 25 main replacement based upon historical repair data

1	and current distribution line plans is included,
2	that study to be submitted with Indian Hills' next
3	annual report in April of next year. And the
4	submission of monthly usage data inclusive of water
5	loss on a quarterly basis is a requirement as well.
6	Indian Hills believes that the
7	Nonunanimous Stipulation represents a package of
8	items that Indian Hills believes would be a just
9	and reasonable resolution of this case. That's all
10	I have.
11	JUDGE JORDAN: Questions from the
12	Bench?
13	COMMISSIONER KENNEY: Just one
14	question. I'm sorry. I was reading some of the
15	material. You just mentioned the information that
16	you've agreed to in the Stipulation & Agreement.
17	MR. COOPER: Yes.
18	COMMISSIONER KENNEY: But you're
19	going to argue your points during the hearing,
20	correct?
21	MR. COOPER: We will still be
22	presenting the testimony which is based upon our
23	original positions, yes.
24	COMMISSIONER KENNEY: Thank you.
25	JUDGE JORDAN: I have nothing for

1	you. Thank you. Staff's opening statement.
2	MS. MERS: Good morning, Judge. Good
3	morning, Commissioner Kenney. If it pleases the
4	Commission?
5	As Mr. Cooper mentioned, Staff and
6	the company were able to come to a total
7	disposition of the case between Staff and the
8	company. OPC did not sign on and objected, which
9	makes this now the joint position of the Staff and
10	company.
11	I thought it might be helpful to
12	briefly walk through the small case proceeding from
13	Staff's end and then walk through the stipulation
14	reached with a recognition that how the stipulation
15	was reached and the decisions behind any changes in
16	positions are confidential and privileged
17	discussions and work product for both the company
18	and Staff, but the Staff witnesses today and myself
19	will still be happy to answer any questions about
20	the mechanics of the stipulation, its impact or why
21	Staff believed it was the best resolution for the
22	case.
23	4 CSR 350 outlines the small utility
24	rate case proceedings. As opposed to large rate
25	case proceedings, this process is more

1 collaborative with multiple attempts for settlement 2 driven resolution built into the timeline. 3 Section 6 requires Staff to conduct 4 an investigation. Section 9 requires Staff to 5 submit a preliminary report of its findings to the company and OPC 90 days after the case is opened. 6 7 This report is 90 days in what could be an 11-month 8 process and is noted as a preliminary report when 9 it is circulated to the parties. Staff continually updates its report when new information is 10 11 received, which is much like what happens in the 12 large cases where positions and numbers can change 13 up until true-up. 14 Staff also evaluates and incorporates 15 new information or positions suggested by the 16 company and OPC, but as Staff is the only party 17 required to conduct an investigation, Staff will often not receive a party's full position on every 18 19 contested issue and, therefore, will not be able to 20 evaluate it as part of its decision-making process. From day 90 up until the last filed 21 22 testimony, Staff continues to evaluate, discuss and 23 refine positions based on the information and facts 24 it receives through communication with the parties 25 and through Staff's own investigative efforts.

1 Section 10 requires Staff to present a settlement package with revised tariffs to the 2 3 company and OPC. This occurs around day 20, and 4 you may hear this confidential settlement document 5 referred to as a day 120 report. 6 Since Section 11 requires Staff to 7 file a disposition between at least the company and 8 Staff on day 150, the 30 days between the day 120 9 offer and the day 150 partial filing consists of confidential, privileged settlement activities in 10 11 general, such as presenting the initial offer to 12 the parties, settlement meetings, negotiated and 13 partial stip based on the information Staff has 14 received from the parties at the moment. 15 In this case, a partial disposition 16 between the company and Staff was filed, with OPC 17 opposing, which led us to the contested rate 18 proceeding and the filing of testimony. 19 As the Commission may know from the order establishing the procedural schedule, there 20 21 was a settlement conference held on November 16th. 22 I will not discuss the details of that conference 23 or the following discussions as they are privileged 24 discussions from the company, OPC and Staff, but eventually the company and Staff were able to 25

1	execute the nonunanimous full Stipulation &
2	Agreement that is presented for your approval
3	today.
4	As soon as this agreement was reached
5	in principle, it was communicated to OPC for their
6	review, and OPC ultimately decided to object to the
7	agreement.
8	As an overview, the stipulation
9	incorporates the partial disposition filed
10	September 1st, 2017. The incremental increase is
11	\$630,911, and the overall revenue requirement is
12	723,466.
13	I know those numbers may give people
14	some pause. The bulk of the dollars in this case
15	stem from Mr. Cox needing to expend nearly
16	\$2 million into the system. Indian Hills is a
17	50-year-old system that has had little to no
18	maintenance or repairs in the last five decades.
19	There has been substantial issues with pressure and
20	leaks, there were no meters, and multiple Missouri
21	DNR compliance issues.
22	Mr. Cox upon taking over spent
23	\$1.84 million to install new wells, generators and
24	bring the system back into DNR compliance. This
25	upgrade effort was described to the Commission in

1	
1	the application associated with the company's asset
2	purchase case along with the estimate of the
3	investment necessary.
4	DNR compliance is an absolute
5	requirement for safe and adequate service, and no
6	party can argue that dollars spent to meet state
7	and federal regulations is improper. The bulk of
8	that money was spent to ensure the people of Indian
9	Hills had safe and adequate service, and no one in
10	this case will be able to argue that Mr. Cox and
11	the company did not need to make those improvements
12	to the system.
13	Even OPC's revenue requirement
14	proposes a \$30 customer charge increase and a \$5
15	commodity charge increase in the summer and a \$15
16	commodity charge increase in the winter.
17	Unfortunately, no matter how this case shakes out,
18	because of the artificially low rates that OPC
19	notes that have been in place under the previous
20	owners, the ratepayers in this case will be seeing
21	a larger than normal increase.
22	In light of the shape of the system,
23	a two-way tracker for repair expense has been
24	stipulated to. This measure allows the company to
25	continue repairs for safe and adequate service but

1	protects ratepayers by returning any unspent
2	portion of the base amount to ratepayers if repair
3	levels trend downward.
4	The company has also agreed to
5	perform an engineering study and use those results
6	for a replacement plan with progress reports
7	submitted to Staff and OPC. A replacement plan is
8	the best path forward to efficiently and
9	effectively increase quality of service, prevent
10	leaks and minimize repair expense going forward,
11	and that is done in a manner that is organized,
12	targeted, and minimizes destruction to the
13	community.
14	A moderate seasonal rate has also
15	been agreed to, along with monthly usage data
16	reports submitted to OPC and Staff. Curt Gateley
17	is the Staff witness who designed this proposal and
18	can answer questions on the mechanics of it and the
19	impacts it may have on the residents both full-time
20	and part-time.
21	Now for the really hotly contested
22	items in this case. The ROE is 12 percent. The
23	last litigated small water case, Hillcrest, which
24	is also a CSWR company, had an ordered ROE of
25	13 percent. Staff would like the Commission to

1 keep in mind that ROE is supposed to capture the 2 return a hypothetical investor would need to invest 3 in one investment over another. 4 Generally, the riskier the 5 investment, the higher the ROE needs to be to 6 entice capital sources. For example, Missouri 7 American, a large water system that is part of a 8 nationwide large water company, that is one of the 9 largest in the nation, is requesting a 10.8 ROE in its pending rate case. Missouri American has 10 11 nearly half a million customers in Missouri. Indian Hills has 715. 12 13 Cost of debt is 14 percent. This is 14 the actual cost of debt for the company and the one 15 that we know that they can attract the nearly \$2 million of capital that they needed to invest in 16 17 the system. Honestly, no one likes the 14 percent, but that's the number that we have credibly. 18 And 19 the company has agreed to submit a modification of 20 their loan agreement to reduce the penalty term 21 from 20 years to 10 years. This is an agreement 2.2 the company made in a rate case where the 23 prepayment penalty terms were not otherwise subject 24 to modification, and Staff is very heartened by 25 that step.

1	Many of Staff's positions in the
2	stipulated EMS run are the same, and you can speak
3	to the appropriate Staff witness on those issues
4	for any questions. As it relates to the
5	stipulation, Curt Gateley can walk you through the
6	seasonal rate design. Natelle Dietrich is
7	available for questions about the policy regarding
8	cost of capital. And Kim Bolin, who is the late
9	add to the witness list, can answer questions
10	regarding both the stipulated EMS run and the
11	mechanics of how the tracker for repair expense
12	will work.
13	Thank you. And if you have any
14	questions, I'm happy to answer them.
15	COMMISSIONER KENNEY: Yeah. I just
16	have a short question or two. I notice in the
17	partial stip there were several issues that were
18	not decided in the stipulation. What was the
19	agreement on issues like payroll, auditing, tax
20	prep? And I know the Chairman would love to know
21	about rate case expense.
22	MS. MERS: Sure. Those issues have
23	been agreed to in the Staff EMS run, so they're
24	basically the accepted portion of this position
25	Staff has put on during the rate case. I think the

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modifications really came from the ROE and the
 1
 2
     rate -- repair expense.
 3
                  COMMISSIONER KENNEY: So what's
 4
    the -- what's the answer to what I'm asking then?
5
                  MS. MERS: Sure. Let me grab the EMS
 6
     run and give you the numbers.
7
                  COMMISSIONER KENNEY: The numbers
8
     are -- I don't see them in the stip.
9
                  MS. MERS: Yes.
                                   If you look at
    Attachment A and B.
10
11
                  COMMISSIONER KENNEY: Let me see if I
12
    can find that on my iPad.
                  MS. MERS: Sure. Those EMS runs are
13
14
     always kind of hard to read, too.
15
                  COMMISSIONER KENNEY: I think the
16
    problem is I might not have the attachment right
17
    here, which is fine.
18
                  MS. MERS: Sure. So if you look
19
    at --
20
            COMMISSIONER KENNEY: Oh, wait. I think I
21
     see it now. Okay. It's here. That's all I need
22
    to know.
               Thank you.
23
                  JUDGE JORDAN: I have just one
24
    question and it's clarification, partly for our
25
    viewers at home as we stream online, and you
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1	mentioned a two-way tracker. What do you
2	anticipate the evidence will show as to what a
3	tracker is and in particular a two-way tracker?
4	MS. MERS: Tracker is a deferral
5	mechanism that allows the company to record the
6	costs. There's a base amount set in rates. It's
7	around \$90,000 in this case. Anything over the
8	company's allowed to defer on their books and to
9	argue for recovery in the next rate case, and
10	anything that is under is captured on their books
11	to be returned, usually in the form of an
12	amortization or a mechanism that counts against
13	their expenses on the books to lower the cost of
14	service for the ratepayers.
15	So it's a mechanism that kind of
16	monitors the expense levels of an issue, and for
17	this one it's the repair expense. So the base
18	level is set at 90. Anything over we'd look at in
19	the future rate case to see if it needs to be
20	included or to set the base level higher, and then
21	anything under would be returned to customers.
22	JUDGE JORDAN: Okay. The over and
23	under, that's why you call it a two-way tracker; is
24	that correct?
25	MS. MERS: Yes, as opposed to a

1	one-way tracker which would just capture one type
2	of cost. Usually it's proposed that it cost it
3	captures the decreases in cost to return to the
4	customers. We felt in this situation that a
5	two-way tracker was more appropriate because of the
6	ongoing need for repair in a system that's 50 years
7	old.
8	JUDGE JORDAN: Does that constitute a
9	departure from the uniform standards of accounting
10	for water utilities?
11	MS. MERS: I don't believe so.
12	JUDGE JORDAN: Okay. That's all I
13	have for you.
14	MS. MERS: Thank you.
15	JUDGE JORDAN: An opening statement
16	from the Office of Public Counsel.
17	MR. SMITH: Good morning, Judge.
18	Good morning, Commissioner.
19	JUDGE JORDAN: Good morning.
20	MR. SMITH: May it please the
21	Commission?
22	JUDGE JORDAN: Go ahead.
23	MR. SMITH: I have some prepared
24	remarks, but before I get to those, I wanted to
25	respond to a few things I just heard. I heard a

1	lot of Staff's opening statement about
2	confidentiality. I heard settlement privilege. I
3	heard compromise. To me, that doesn't sound like
4	factual basis, which is what has to be decided in
5	this case.
6	I think Mr. Cooper, I think he said
7	50 homes or more requires a second well. I think
8	the number is 500 homes or more, so just a matter
9	of correction.
10	I also thought I heard Nicole or
11	Ms. Mers, excuse me, say that if levels trend
12	downwards, then a two-way tracker would protect
13	ratepayers. But if you look at Mr. Phil Macias'
14	testimony, you'll see that the trend is actually
15	upwards. So this two-way tracker isn't going to
16	protect anyone but the company, at least in the
17	short term.
18	I noticed also in Ms. Mers' opening
19	she talked about ROE and about how no one likes the
20	14 percent, and I think we agree on that part about
21	no one likes the 14 percent. But I also notice
22	some selective cases when comparing the ROE she
23	just compared it to the last Hillcrest rate case.
24	What about all the other small utilities that
25	operate in the state of Missouri? Those were

1 actually left out. 2 And Mr. Greg Meyer actually presented 3 some testimony on what the cost of debt is for 4 other small utilities in the state of Missouri, and 5 that average is around 5 to 6 percent, which 6 represents maybe an 800 or 9-- well, let's see 7 I quess it's either 8 or 900 basis point here. 8 departure. I'm sorry. That was for the cost of 9 debt. But for the ROE, that would be a different 10 matter. 11 A few other things I heard. Staff 12 said that this will be presented for your approval, 13 referring to the stipulation. I thought I heard 14 presented for your approval. Hopefully I just 15 heard presented for your review. I think 16 Mr. Cooper said that this represents a just 17 package. 18 Those sorts of things are concerning 19 to me. There's a case in 1982 called State ex rel 20 Fischer versus Public Service Commission, cite 21 645 SW 2d 39, which, and I'm paraphrasing, says 2.2 that you can't turn an evidentiary hearing into a 23 settlement hearing. In other words, the Commission 24 has to decide actually on the record, and there 25 have to be findings on each of the issues. So I

1 think, if I heard those parties correctly, I hope 2 they're not suggesting a departure from that legal 3 standard. 4 As to my prepared remarks, this as a 5 case about affordable water. The provider of the 6 water in this community is Mr. Cox, who owns the 7 company Indian Hills Utility Operating Company. 8 Indian Hills provides water service to residents 9 outside Cuba, Missouri. The company's staffed with 10 six employees. They have a large variety of 11 independent contractors. The website shows that there are 12 13 challenges in these rural communities because the 14 size of the customer base is hard to spread costs 15 around to. On the website of Indian Hills -- or I 16 should say the parent of Indian Hills -- and I 17 think this is too small for you to read, and 18 actually I've got presentations of this slide show 19 that I had forgotten to hand out. Curtis, would 20 Would that be okay if he handed that vou mind? 21 out? I think this is too small for you to read 2.2 that. Can you read that, Commissioner? 23 COMMISSIONER KENNEY: No. 24 JUDGE JORDAN: Is this marked as an 25 exhibit?

1	MR. SMITH: It is not. I do not plan
2	to introduce it into evidence. That's a little
3	better probably for your eyes but not that much. I
4	did the best I could. I'll read to you the
5	representations, which are that the company holds
6	itself out as having access to financial resources.
7	They're able to construct affordable facilities.
8	They can close compliance gaps at rates for
9	communities that they can afford.
10	Their approach, according to
11	themselves, is that they have expertise and
12	financial resources to facilitate cost-effective
13	solutions for communities like this one. They
14	claim affordability is important because the future
15	of entire communities is tied to water and
16	wastewater facilities.
17	These representations, however
18	genuine they were when they were written, stand in
19	contrast to history, and they stand in contrast to
20	present day. The media has reported on the rate
21	spike or the rate hike occurring with the other
22	affiliates of the parent of this company. Here are
23	a few exemplars. You can see one senator in the
24	headline, Wallingford, actually tried to propose
25	legislation to prevent these types of steep rate

1 hikes. Other articles are about the rate shock. 2 This case represents more of a spike 3 than previous affiliate cases. In Hillcrest I 4 believe it was around 400 percent as was proposed. The prior owner in this case, it is true, had not 5 6 made necessary repairs, and the prior owners had 7 rates that were artificially low for many years. 8 If there is a silver lining to this story, it is 9 the repairs have been made and ratepayers did enjoy low rates leading up to the filing of this rate 10 11 case. 12 However, as you'll see on this slide, 13 OPC's numbers are very different than the Staff's 14 and the company's numbers. OPC's numbers actually started off very closely to Staff's preliminary 15 audit at day 90. As time progressed, Staff settled 16 17 and they became more in line with the company. They jumped to 564.16 percent, and then the final 18 19 settlement, which happened on Wednesday, 20 Nonunanimous Stipulation & Agreement is a 21 648.48 percent increase. And if you look at the 22 company's initial request, I'd say it's a fair characterization that Staff has met them more than 23 24 halfway on this. 25 But what's most important here is

1	that the Commission just needs to focus on what
2	rates are just and reasonable. The case from 1937
3	called State ex rel, and I'm going to mispronounce
4	this, I think it's Pitcairn versus Public Service
5	Commission, cite 111 SW 2d 982, it's from 1937, and
6	it said about public utility regulation this: The
7	primary purpose of regulation of utilities is the
8	ultimate good of the public and that protection
9	afforded to utilities is merely incidental to the
10	attainment of that objective.
11	This case involves two Unanimous
12	Stipulation & Agreements. So there's the other
13	legal standard that you need to be aware of, which
14	is the case I cited earlier, State ex rel Fischer
15	versus Public Service Commission. When considering
16	the promises made by the utility in their website,
17	consider the headlines in the media, and we can
18	consider that, but OPC really would prefer to hear
19	from the horse's mouth, which are the customers.
20	That's who we represent.
21	This was interesting to me, and I
22	thought there was an error so I checked it a few
23	times, but there were 225 public comments in this
24	case. There 715 water customers. In Missouri-
25	American Water's last rate case, WR-2015-0301,

1 there were 219 public comments with 460,000 water 2 customers. 3 And I thought, well, maybe I'm not 4 capturing something. So I went to the sewer rate 5 case because they consolidated their sewer/water 6 rate case with their water rate case and there were 7 ten sewer/water customer comments. So these 8 numbers speak to the outrage and the emotion and to 9 the genuine need for a voice. 10 Who are the customers in this case? 11 Crawford County, we were able to find some 2010 12 census data, and it's not perfect. It's general in 13 that it represents county statistics. Shows 14 household income of 48,500, median household income 15 of 36,700. 16 But I kind of like this description 17 from Mr. Kents, a ratepayer: It's a retirement 18 community and a weekend retreat, 730 homes, 19 350 full-timers, 380 weekenders. Now, we've 20 assumed for rate design that there's 715 customers. 21 He goes on to describe the majority are retirees. 22 They're living on fixed income. Can't afford stiff 23 increase. He has some words for the increase, 24 calling it insane. He says he's going to have to 25 sell his home or that it might be abandoned. Not a

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1	good situation.
2	Who are the other customers?
3	Families, young families who can't afford it,
4	veterans, people on fixed income like Mr. Seden,
5	people who are retired, and there are lots of
6	retirees. You can see that in the public comments.
7	This person says they'll choose between medicine or
8	food if this is granted.
9	Another person says that it's going
10	to be a financial burden on the retirees, and they
11	speak to the fact that there are a lot of retirees
12	in the community. A number of people said they're
13	just going to either sell their home or maybe they
14	won't be able to sell their home and they'll just
15	leave it as is. Here's another one. We would not
16	be able to stay living here at the lake. I cannot
17	afford this exorbitant water bill.
18	There are also weekenders, who are a
19	little better off. That portion of the community,
20	however, also dislikes the increase, as you might
21	imagine. No one likes an increase. And I noticed
22	in the comments, though, they're concerned and they
23	do recognize the retirees and they also one
24	person said, I'm just going to turn my water off
25	during the winter and the fall.

1	
1	And I thought, well, maybe under
2	Staff's and the company's stipulation agreement
3	that seems to me like that's that's what would
4	happen with a lot of those weekender customers,
5	which then creates more rate cases and more rate
6	case expense and not the best situation.
7	Missouri politicians are also
8	concerned. They entered public comments. Senator
9	Dan Brown and Senator Wayne Wallingford said they
10	think that this is becoming very prevalent in
11	Missouri.
12	And these customers are actually
13	smart. They noticed a few things that I hadn't
14	known. The meters, and I'd like to maybe obtain a
15	little more information in cross about this. One
16	person says that they actually didn't install his
17	meter pits and he would be able to testify, and
18	some other people didn't get their meter pits
19	installed. Another person said it tastes like pure
20	chemicals. That's just their opinion, but it is
21	there on the record.
22	Also, a number of other people
23	commented on road damage. There's a lot of road
24	damage because there are a lot of repairs. In both
25	the company's and Staff's opening statement they

1	described this necessary DNR standard. You have to
2	get those DNR standards. What was surprising,
3	though, is that there had never been a repair or
4	replacement plan. Actually, that's only coming
5	now. It's only coming now as a part of this
6	offered stipulation.
7	And so this company increased the PSI
8	for the purported reason of meeting a DNR standard
9	and then they had to they're like a trauma
10	center triaging different leak repairs because the
11	old antiquated pipes couldn't handle the increased
12	pressure. And it doesn't appear at least in the
13	stipulation or from the evidence that I saw that
14	there was a plan in place to think about the
15	consequences before actions were made.
16	And this is a recurring issue. I'll
17	turn now to the risk of self-dealing. It was
18	present in Hillcrest. It was present in Raccoon
19	Creek. It's present again. There in those red
20	boxes, I've tried to chart this out because
21	visually I'm a visual person and I think this is
22	helpful for me.
23	The way the company's structure works
24	is that the Glarners are equity owners of this
25	company called GWSD, and that company has a

1	membership interest in First Round. First Round is
2	a parent of Indian Hills. So you have some, if you
3	go up the ladder, who has an ownership stake in the
4	company, but you also have a totally separate
5	entity called Fresh Start Venture. Now, that
6	company also has ownership interest by the same
7	people. So there's interlocking ownership, and
8	whenever you have that, there is a risk of
9	self-dealing.
10	In this case it resulted in a
11	14 percent interest rate, and the utility could not
12	refinance itself. Well, they could but they would
13	have to prepay the entire amount of the penalty,
14	and that's got to be considered. Some people will
15	be living with that prepayment penalty as retirees
16	literally until they're dead.
17	I do Ms. Mers said she was
18	heartened by I guess the affiliate's decision to
19	reduce the prepayment to ten years or modify. If
20	that truly is what's happening, I think that's a
21	step forward, but it's still a ten-year prepayment,
22	and for retirees, likely some of them will die with
23	14 percent rates. And 10 years for a 20-year note
24	is a pretty long time to prevent refinancing.
25	There are also some other affiliate

1	relations. This company happens to bank with
2	American Bank and Enterprise Bank. Those are
3	they both have relations with the Glarner family.
4	The company has a corporate office, and the
5	landlord is also the Glarners. So I think it's
6	fair to say there is someone who's benefiting from
7	this.
8	I guess before I move much further, I
9	just want to say, for all these issues, I think we
10	have a tendency here, we can become sort of
11	surgical or clinical about how we we get into
12	accounting terminology. And as I go through these,
13	just keep in mind each of these decisions has a
14	face to it, and that's really important to OPC.
15	On the payroll, it's a little
16	unclear, I think, from the company's position and
17	Staff's position and their stipulation, but I am
18	doing the best I can. I'm trying to interpret that
19	and also simultaneously interpret their filed
20	testimony for which I've been preparing this case
21	for several months.
22	Basically, the company can call
23	itself whatever it wants when it comes down to the
24	positions it treats itself, but in OPC/PSC
25	regulatory world we use MERIC. MERIC is a

1	benchmark and it allows boxes, and you can put
2	boxes and you can argue that certain people fit in
3	boxes and have different experience levels within
4	those boxes. As you might imagine, the most
5	expensive level of experience is an experience
6	category. There's also a mean category and an
7	entry level category.
8	In the testimony OPC and Staff are
9	aligned. We believe that a mean level is
10	appropriate. The company choose the higher cost
11	item and argued that they were that they should
12	fit in the experience category.
13	Mr. Cox is he styles himself as a
14	president. I'm not sure if there's a president
15	classification or not in MERIC. I know there's a
16	chief executive officer categorization.
17	So the reason that OPC opposes this
18	is we want to treat all small utilities fairly and
19	non-discriminatorily. Treating the top level
20	employee as a CEO in MERIC represents an outlier
21	and possibly a discriminatory practice. However,
22	OPC has chosen the normal practice, which is to
23	label the top level employee as a general
24	operations manager.
25	OPC and Staff are aligned on the

1	allocation factor. Both of us looked at the actual
2	hours. The company instead, what they did is they
3	looked at the total customer count. And in
4	Mr. Macias' testimony he says that customer count
5	is more accurate for allocating, and that seemed to
6	me a little strange because I would think customer
7	count would be a proxy for actual hours. So if you
8	have the actual hours, use the actual hours.
9	That's what Staff and OPC have done. That's what
10	we would recommend the Commission do.
11	Auditing and tax preparation fees
12	will be an issue in this case. There was no update
13	in this case. Some cases there are updates. Other
14	cases there are not updates. OPC tried to get
15	clarification from the parties on whether or not an
16	updated was going to an update was going to be
17	done. Initially we were open to having an update
18	occur, but no one could agree on it, and so the
19	case moved forward and no update, to my knowledge,
20	was done.
21	Consequently, we have some tax
22	preparation fees and some auditing expense fees
23	that occurred outside of the test year, violating
24	the matching principle, and so OPC would suggest
25	denying those items that are outside of the test

1 year.

	-
2	I would make a modification to this.
3	OPC's position isn't exactly the same as Staff on
4	the top two items. The tax prep for the parent and
5	the auditing prep for the parent is a little bit
6	different, but it's pretty close. I couldn't tell
7	you exactly how close. Keri might be able to,
8	Ms. Keri Roth. But it is pretty close at least
9	with respect to what was filed in the testimony.
10	Another question with regards to the
11	audited financial statement of a subsidiary is why
12	do you need one? I understand there are benefits
13	of having one, but there are also substantial known
14	costs to having one. It's not a PSC requirement as
15	far as I know with the annual report. I don't know
16	that they have any SEC reporting obligations, but
17	I'm not thinking that Indian Hills subsidiary does,
18	but maybe the company can justify that.
19	Management consulting fee. The
20	management consulting fee relates to Mrs. Stanley.
21	She was the prior owner, and right around the time
22	of the case, the acquisition case, she got a
23	contract, and there was a as I understand it,
24	you get a three-year guarantee and then there's a
25	club option or a company option. So for the

1	remaining seven years of the deal the company gets
2	to choose at, as I understand it, its discretion
3	whether or not to keep the keep her or not.
4	The fee is a flat fee. Time is not
5	measured. There's no time logs. And like I said,
6	three years guaranteed. So there's really no way
7	to substantiate whether \$6,000 is a bargain for
8	customers or a detriment to customers. So that
9	raises some serious doubts that OPC thinks the
10	company should meet their burden on.
11	Also, there's another issue with this
12	management consulting fee, which is that most of
13	the help she's doing is to help locate leak
14	repairs. Well, we found out that she actually
15	most of her records are mental records. So she's
16	relying on her memory, I guess. And so we're not
17	sure how good of a deal the ratepayers are getting
18	on that contract. Staff and the company think it's
19	fine. OPC raises some issues.
20	I bring this slide back up because
21	there's a subtopic here. We're going to bank fees.
22	Sure, you have that risk of self-dealing, but
23	there's a bigger question at work here. This
24	company is paying an outside service to do lockbox
25	and imaging services. It's not something that I've

1	seen while working at OPC with other small
2	utilities. And the company also has three
3	accountants, and they have contracted for a billing
4	service. They've contracted for a debt collection
5	service.
6	And so OPC and actually Staff agree
7	that maybe what should happen is the company should
8	consider doing this in-house. The difference,
9	though, OPC thinks that sort of evidence needs to
10	be presented in the record in this case. Staff, at
11	least through their filed testimony, has taken the
12	position that that cost/benefit evidence can come
13	in at a later date, maybe when there's a future
14	affiliate in a future year, but not in this case.
15	OPC thinks the company needs to meet its burden on
16	this.
17	Rate case expense. That's a big one.
18	So the company this is also new. I haven't seen
19	this at Ameren. I haven't seen this at Spire local
20	public hearings. They created this before and
21	after video. It's well done. It's sort of a short
22	documentary about before and after and what
23	happened before and what happened after. There's a
24	narrator. There's music. There's a musical
25	composition. I'm not sure if it's original or not.

1	But OPC just thinks that's great, but
2	that's not helping with safe and reliable service,
3	and that needs to be denied. I couldn't really
4	tell from the company what they wanted to do with
5	this, but it seemed like they wanted to include it
6	and normalize it over three years. So that's what
7	I have there. But from OPC's and Staff's position,
8	that absolutely needs to go away.
9	Expert witnesses, it seems that Staff
10	and OPC are relatively aligned here. We both think
11	that the amount that the experts in this case are
12	getting paid are way too much. We can't tell you
13	how much because the company has designated that
14	amount as confidential. And so I didn't challenge
15	that, but
16	COMMISSIONER KENNEY: Mr. Cooper, why
17	is it confidential?
18	MR. COOPER: The hourly rate,
19	Commissioner?
20	COMMISSIONER KENNEY: I think we've
21	talked about this in the past.
22	MR. COOPER: I think we have, and I
23	think
24	COMMISSIONER KENNEY: I think it
25	needs to be probably needs to be disclosed.

1	MR. COOPER: Well, I think the rule
2	now says that the total amounts charged certainly
3	are public, but I think it remains it provides
4	the ability to keep the individual hourly rates
5	because those are negotiated rates.
6	COMMISSIONER KENNEY: I'll just tell
7	you, I know the Chairman, he hates this stuff,
8	and but why don't you I'd like to before this
9	is over have a reason why you cannot disclose.
10	MR. COOPER: Sure.
11	MR. SMITH: Commissioner, I would
12	also note, OPC has hired experts, and we would
13	we would extend the favor. If they open up their
14	books, we'll open up ours. Our interest is
15	transparency.
16	COMMISSIONER KENNEY: When I came on
17	this Commission, Robert Kenney, my little brother,
18	would always ask each witness, how much are you
19	getting paid, what are you getting paid, how much
20	are they paying you, what's your total bill,
21	because it's just because I think they should be
22	disclosed, and that was the methodology. We
23	will
24	MR. COOPER: We certainly will take a
25	look at that, Commissioner. I would say, though,

1	that Mr. Smith's offer is a little not quite
2	what it seems in that he works for a state agency,
3	and I think some sunshine laws probably apply to
4	his documents that don't necessarily apply to mine.
5	COMMISSIONER KENNEY: Thank you,
6	Mr. Cooper. Sorry for interrupting.
7	MR. SMITH: On the matter of expert
8	witnesses, Staff and OPC take a little bit of a
9	different approach. OPC takes a proxy and we say
10	here we look at the market. We actually looked at
11	other big rate case expenses. Ms. Roth would be a
12	good witness for that. And we looked at what we
13	thought would be a reasonable fee for an expert.
14	Staff took a different approach,
15	which isn't a bad approach. It's a 50/50 split. I
16	think they come out pretty close to each other, but
17	I don't know the exact math, but I think the
18	experts might be able to tell you if you were to
19	ask them.
20	Attorney fees, notice to customers,
21	those are things that should be recovered, but we
22	want to spread it out. I believe the Staff wants
23	to spread it out over five years. I'm not sure
24	with the stipulation how that will work. OPC
25	originally had three years. So actually the Staff

1 was more generous to ratepayers in that respect. 2 So we appreciate that. 3 Treatment of leak repair, we 4 discussed this earlier. This is this idea that there have been triaging of leaks. There's so many 5 6 leaks on this system, and what do you do when you 7 have a situation where there are lots of leaks? 8 Well, there are different positions, as you might 9 imagine, and the company took a different position and Staff took a different position with this 10 11 two-way tracker that wasn't in play. 12 OPC does not recommend that you 13 approve a two-way tracker. That's going to benefit 14 the company. Mr. Macias' testimony shows there's 15 an upward trend in repair, so that's just going to 16 allow -- the other problem with this is it really 17 hasn't been explained. I don't know if there's going to be a notice that's going to be sent out to 18 19 customers related -- related to the tracker. All 20 of this is sort of happening live during the testimony, which I think is just terrible. I think 21 2.2 it's not the way it should happen. 23 Putting aside the stipulation for a 24 minute, if you look at the actual testimony, Staff 25 essentially, they didn't use the word regulatory

1 asset, but I think that's what they're trying to 2 They said to amortize, they had like a do. 3 grouping of expenses, amortized it three years, get 4 a return of and on it. Not a bad way to go 5 actually.

6 OPC said, you know, we also want to 7 spread these out, but we're just going to put them 8 in the NARUC account for mains and lines. Now, in 9 full disclosure, that's a very long life. That's a 50 year useful life. Part of the reason that OPC 10 11 did that is because from the beginning, and the 12 evidence will show in this case, the company didn't 13 keep very good records. There are cases where 14 repairs should have been actually accounted for as 15 a replacement or a replacement should have been 16 accounted for as a repair, and I think the company 17 will admit that at the beginning the records weren't good. 18

19 So as a conservative effort to 20 protect the ratepayers from this bad recordkeeping 21 and triaging of this unusual situation, OPC has 2.2 recommended that capitalization. Mr. John Robinett 23 will be the OPC witness if you have any questions 24 about why he chose to do that. 25

One thing that's nice about this

1	stipulation, I should say, it was present in the
2	last stipulation and we did not object to it, is
3	that there will be a replacement and repair plan
4	going forward. That absolutely needs to happen.
5	And it's confusing. In the first stipulation it
6	says this is all there's going to be a five-year
7	replacement plan, but in the new stipulation it
8	doesn't specifically say five, but they have other
9	language.
10	And so I don't know if it conflicts,
11	but I don't think it does because they're also
12	incorporating the first stipulation from the last
13	stipulation. So perhaps more clarity from the
14	company and Staff as to the negotiation that they
15	entered into would be illuminating.
16	I know I've been going long. I'm
17	almost to the end. Extension of electric service
18	line, capitalize or amortize this. It's very
19	simple. OPC did the research. We reached out to
20	Crawford Electric Company. We got an affidavit.
21	Crawford Electric Coop said, we own that. The
22	company didn't know whether they owned it based on
23	the data requests. So we said, you can't treat
24	that as a company asset. That needs to be at best
25	amortized. So that's what OPC did. That's what we

1	recommend that you find. I should say Staff went
2	with the company as to that position in their
3	testimony.
4	On rate design, OPC has always
5	maintained a consistent position. However, the
6	company and Staff have maintained multiple
7	positions. At first the company wanted a \$84.21
8	fixed charge for 4,000 gallons. They were going to
9	charge \$14.72 per 1,000 gallons. That changed, but
10	it wasn't really changed with specificity, and then
11	it changed again in the stipulation.
12	Staff started out as a \$52.04 fixed
13	\$7.87 variable. Now that's changed. OPC is happy
14	to see that Staff and the company have come closer
15	to OPC in the seasonal and non-seasonal usage. But
16	a set fee of \$60, if you go back to the beginning
17	of my statement and you remember that weekender who
18	said, I'm going to shut off my rates if you're
19	charging me a high fee. I don't think there's
20	really, that I could see in the stipulation,
21	anything that kind of addresses that, and that
22	seems to be a worry there with me with having such
23	a high fixed charge. So OPC recommends a lower
24	charge, fixed charge, and a lower variable charge.
25	Keep in mind, these numbers are

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1 created on each party's different revenue 2 requirement. So if I were to plug in my revenue 3 requirement, you get a proportional difference from 4 Staff and the company's proposal, just to clarify 5 that. 6 Rate design, more on this. We all 7 support monitoring the usage. This company just 8 put in meters, and we don't really have a lot of 9 usage data. So any rate design needs to be subject to close examination. The company could very 10 11 easily overearn, could very easily under-earn. So 12 that needs to be monitored. We support quarterly 13 usage data reports as explained in the stipulation. 14 Risk of self-dealing again, why do I 15 have that up? Because we're here to talk about 16 cost of capital, the big issue in the case. OPC 17 equity, 9.34. That is the same as Staff and their testimony. They jumped on their stipulation, and I 18 19 guess we'll wait to see what factual basis they 20 have to support that. I didn't hear any in the 21 opening statement, but we'll wait to see. 22 For the cost of debt, OPC has 23 6.75 percent as represented by Mr. Michael Gorman. 24 He'll be available on Thursday, not Tuesday but 25 Thursday for questions.

1	Mr. Meyer, Mr. Greg Meyer has
2	explored the cost of debt also, but rather than
3	one thing he did do is he looked at all the small
4	utilities. He found 5 to 6 percent is roughly the
5	average here in Missouri. But he also looked at it
6	from a different perspective. Mr. Meyer will be
7	available to discuss things like when this company
8	actually looked for financing, what were they
9	doing? You know, were they offering a guarantee,
10	were they offering a personal guarantee? Did that
11	happen?
12	Did in this case the company start,
13	did they have a new company for each financing
14	deal? Is that something that maybe should be
15	considered? Whether, you know, there was adequacy
16	of capitalization or cash in the subsidiary at the
17	time that the company was applying for a loin.
18	That's an important thing if you've tried to get a
19	loan, they want to make sure that you're not
20	over-leveraged. So leverage is a big deal. This
21	company is very highly leveraged with debt.
22	Mr. Meyer also looked at the number
23	of applications to lenders. He looked at the
24	structure of the affiliates. He actually looked
25	through bank records to figure out what the cash

1 flows were and actually came to some other 2 realizations about the company that I think are 3 worth your attention if you were to read his 4 testimony. 5 And he's also available to talk about 6 the bond offering plan. This is the way in which 7 the company says it's going to seek to lower the 8 cost of debt. But this bond offering plan can't 9 happen unless the company makes a prepayment. That prepayment penalty doesn't go away unless the 10 11 subsidiary goes to its lender and gets another 12 modification. 13 So as far as I can see, this bond 14 offering plan doesn't contemplate that sort of loan 15 modification, so I'm not sure how that's a prudent 16 plan. 17 And this is last slide. It's on 18 capital structure. I thought this was pretty good. 19 This is Staff's good work. This is Mr. Barnes. 20 What he did is he looked at our capital structure, what we're proposing, and he also looked at what 21 22 Staff is proposing in the capital structure. And 23 then he said, what would the impact on rates be for 24 14 percent cost of debt versus 6.75 cost of debt? 25 I thought it was pretty telling. I

1	mean, it could at least under Staff's rate design
2	have as much as a \$11 impact. I mean, this isn't
3	like a small amount for someone who's a senior on a
4	fixed income that's a lot of money.
5	So thank you for listening to my long
6	opening. I would ask that you look back at those
7	representations on the company's website, make them
8	come true. Give the utility customers a more
9	affordable option than when the Staff and the
10	company than the option the Staff and the
11	company have presented. That power is in your
12	hands. Thank you.
13	COMMISSIONER KENNEY: Mr. Smith?
14	MR. SMITH: Yes.
15	COMMISSIONER KENNEY: Thank you for
16	your handout, by the way. It's easier to follow.
17	How long have you been with OPC?
18	MR. SMITH: A little under one year.
19	COMMISSIONER KENNEY: I'm not sure.
20	I wish somebody would do a study. What's the
21	who turns over faster, young attorneys with OPC,
22	Staff or Commissioners?
23	A. I don't know. We're in high demand.
24	Q. Because we come and go pretty quick,
25	too. But, you know, I appreciate your

1	presentation. This is the I've been here five
2	years now. This is far and away, these are the
3	toughest cases we have. They all start off the
4	same way. No one they're just old systems. No
5	one repairs anything. So people are being served
6	when they should have had increases all along the
7	way.
8	I don't know going forward if it's
9	mandatory rate cases for all these small sewer and
10	waters, they have to come in every five years or
11	something. We need to do something.
12	MR. SMITH: I think there's some
13	things legislatively that could definitely address
14	some of what you're talking about.
15	COMMISSIONER KENNEY: You know, one
16	of the things, the last Missouri American Water
17	case, I'm just curious. I can't remember what
18	OPC's position. It went from I think seven rates
19	to three rates, and I don't think OPC supported
20	that. And for me, you know, if you want to
21	accomplish this maybe, a company like Missouri-
22	American Water if they had a single rate, they
23	could go into these small areas and probably
24	because they wouldn't have the rate shock.
25	

```
1
                  COMMISSIONER KENNEY: I don't
 2
     think -- I don't believe OPC has supported that in
 3
     the past, and I doubt if you would know because you
 4
     weren't around for the last rate case.
 5
                  MR. SMITH: I don't know if there's a
 6
     true comparable. From what -- I have seen a few
7
     acquisition cases, and from what I've seen, the
 8
     pattern of Missouri-American, and I've only seen
9
     two or three of these, but they tend to go for more
10
     growing communities that have kind of
11
     infrastructure in place, sometimes more affluent
12
     communities.
13
                  COMMISSIONER KENNEY: They have made
14
     exceptions within recent years.
15
                              They have.
                  MR. SMITH:
16
                  COMMISSIONER KENNEY: They've gone
17
     into troubled areas and been able to restore that
18
     because it's just difficult, as we see now, every
     time Mr. Cox has been here, we're dealing with a
19
20
     14 percent interest rate.
21
                  MR. SMITH: Yeah. No. There's no
22
     doubt about it, it's a -- it's a difficult
23
    position.
24
                  COMMISSIONER KENNEY: Okay. Thank
25
     you very much.
```

1 JUDGE JORDAN: Just a couple of 2 things. First I want to clarify for the record, 3 the handout you passed around that consists of the 4 slides for your PowerPoint presentation, follows 5 your opening statement; is that correct? 6 MR. SMITH: That is correct. 7 JUDGE JORDAN: And that's not going 8 into evidence? 9 MR. SMITH: I don't think it would be 10 proper. 11 JUDGE JORDAN: I agree. Just want to 12 clarify that for the record. 13 Number two, I just want to clarify a 14 fundamental matter with regard to billing 15 determinants and what you anticipate the evidence 16 will show. The Nonunanimous Stipulation & Agreement, at page 5, paragraph 3, describes the 17 18 billing determinants as 715 customers and expected 19 water sales of 25,740,000 gallons? Is that OPC -is OPC's evidence going to be the same? 20 21 MR. SMITH: Yes. OPC will have the 22 same evidence on customer count and usage, with the 23 one caveat that I think all parties recognize that 24 that usage number that you have is not really 25 supported by a lot of usage data because the meters

haven't been in place for a long enough time to 1 2 have that usage data tracked. 3 So as we go forward in time, I 4 understand that there will be quarterly reports to 5 track that usage data, if that makes sense. But 6 yes, those billing determinants will be the same. 7 JUDGE JORDAN: Thank you. That's all 8 Thank you, counselor. I have. 9 Well, we can start our first witness, then, which is Staff's witness on policy, Natelle 10 Dietrich. 11 MS. MERS: Staff calls Natelle 12 13 Dietrich to the stand. 14 (Witness sworn.) 15 JUDGE JORDAN: Thank you. 16 NATELLE DIETRICH testified as follows: 17 DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. THOMPSON: 18 Q. State your name, please. 19 Α. Natelle Dietrich. 20 Would you spell your last name for Q. 21 the reporter, please. 22 Α. D-i-e-t-r-i-c-h, and Natelle is 23 N-a-t-e-l-l-e. 24 Q. Thank you. How are you employed? 25 Α. I'm employed as a Commission Staff

Director for the Public Service Commission. 1 2 Q. And did you prepare or cause to be 3 prepared direct testimony that's been marked as 4 Staff Exhibit 100? 5 Α. Yes, I did. 6 Ο. Do you have any corrections to that 7 testimony? 8 Α. No, I do not. 9 If I were to ask you the same Ο. 10 questions at this time, would your answers be the 11 same? Α. 12 My answers would be the same as far 13 as the questions are asked and the testimony as of 14 the time the testimony was prepared. I would add 15 that in the meantime Staff and the company have 16 reached a Nonunanimous Stipulation & Agreement. So 17 to the extent that my testimony would be updated to incorporate the Nonunanimous Stipulation & 18 19 Agreement, I would make that change. 20 Okay. And with that change in mind, Ο. 21 is your testimony true and correct to the best of 22 your knowledge and belief? 23 Α. Yes, it is. 24 MR. THOMPSON: At this time I would 25 submit Staff Exhibit 100.

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1
                  JUDGE JORDAN: Any objections?
 2
                  MR. SMITH: No objection.
 3
                  MR. COOPER: No objection.
 4
                  JUDGE JORDAN: Hearing no objections,
5
     that exhibit is entered into the record.
 6
                  (STAFF EXHIBIT 100 WAS RECEIVED INTO
7
     EVIDENCE.)
                                 Thank you, Judge.
 8
                  MR. THOMPSON:
                                                     Ι
9
     tender Ms. Dietrich for cross-examination.
10
                  JUDGE JORDAN: Cross-examination from
     Indian Hills?
11
12
                  MR. COOPER: No questions.
13
                  JUDGE JORDAN: Cross-examination from
    the Office of Public Counsel?
14
15
                  MR. SMITH: Yes. Thank you. And
16
     also permission to cross from my seat?
17
                  JUDGE JORDAN: Oh, absolutely.
18
                  MR. SMITH: Thank you.
19
     CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. SMITH:
20
                  Good morning, Ms. Dietrich.
            Q.
21
            Α.
                  Good morning.
22
                  I wanted to clarify a few things on
            Q.
23
     your timeline that you spent a lot of time in your
24
     testimony talking about. As I understand, the day
     90 is the preliminary audit; is that correct?
25
```

1 Α. That's correct. 2 And do you know what the calculation Q. 3 of the incremental increase in revenue requirement 4 was at day 90? 5 Α. Not off the top of my head. 6 Ο. Does \$443,925 sound right? 7 That sounds reasonable. It sounds Α. correct. 8 9 Would you agree that OPC's revenue Ο. 10 requirement in this case is \$432,110? 11 Α. Something close to that if not that 12 number, yes. 13 Would you agree that that preliminary Q. 14 day 90 initial audit was approximately \$10,000 away 15 from what OPC's incremental increase in revenue 16 requirement turned out to be? 17 Correct. Yes. Α. 18 Also as a part of Staff's initial 0. 19 audit, I understand Staff sponsored a 5 percent 20 cost of debt; isn't that true? 21 Α. Could you repeat that question? 22 I understand as a part of the initial Q. 23 day 90 audit, the preliminary audit, that Staff 24 sponsored a 5 percent cost of debt; isn't that 25 true?

1 Α. I quess I'm not sure of your word 2 sponsored. 3 If I were to go to the EMS run and Q. 4 show it to you, would that refresh your memory on 5 whether the term sponsor may have been used with 6 respect to the witness? 7 Well, I quess what I'm saying is, Α. 8 yes, I would agree that that was the number in the 9 I'm just not sure that sponsored is the EMS run. 10 correct word. It was presented as part of the 11 preliminary audit. 12 Would you agree that Staff's -- Staff Q. 13 used the term sponsor when referring to the witness 14 that prepared the 5 percent cost of debt finding? 15 Α. Could you direct me to that? 16 Q. Yes. Just a second. 17 JUDGE JORDAN: While counsel's locating the exhibit, I'll ask the witness one 18 19 question. You used the term EMS run. Would you 20 define that for the record. 21 THE WITNESS: I'm drawing a blank. 22 JUDGE JORDAN: If you can't answer, 23 that's all right. 24 THE WITNESS: I am completely drawing 25 a blank at this time. I'm so used to just saying

1 EMS. 2 JUDGE JORDAN: Can you describe it? 3 THE WITNESS: It's the accounting 4 runs that Staff inputs all the numbers. It's the 5 model that Staff uses to do its auditing and 6 develop its revenue requirement. 7 JUDGE JORDAN: Okay. So it's 8 something of a picture of the company's operations; 9 would that be fair? 10 THE WITNESS: It's a picture of all 11 the expenses, the costs, and that type of thing. 12 JUDGE JORDAN: Okay. Thank you. 13 BY MR. SMITH: 14 If you would take a little bit of Q. 15 time to review that and let me know if that 16 refreshes your memory. 17 Α. Oh, okay. I see what you're saying. Down at the bottom, yes, it says sponsor David 18 19 Murray. 20 Okay. And so what does that mean? 0. 21 He is the Staff witness that prepared Α. or worked on this issue. 22 23 Okay. And at that time, what does it Ο. 24 show as his long-term debt as the embedded cost of 25 capital?

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1 Α. 5 percent. 2 Does this appear to be a true and Q. 3 correct copy of that document? 4 Α. Yes. 5 Q. And you recognize it to be --6 Α. Yes. 7 -- his capital structure schedule? 0. 8 Α. Yes. 9 MR. SMITH: I would then offer this exhibit as, I think we're actually going to have 10 11 218. 12 MR. COOPER: Judge, I would object on 13 the basis of relevance. If I understand this 14 correctly, this is, what, a 90-day Staff accounting 15 run that really has no import to the case at this 16 point in time. It's not something that's agreed to 17 by any of the parties. It's something that's later superseded by the small case process. So again, my 18 19 objection is to relevance. 20 MR. SMITH: Yeah. I'm going to 21 completely disagree. This is a finding, albeit a 22 preliminary finding. I think this Commission is 23 fair enough to give it the credibility and weight 24 that it holds as a preliminary finding. 25 MR. COOPER: Well, I disagree with

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1	the categorization of it as a finding even. It's
2	a it's documents exchanged amongst the parties
3	at a very early point in the case.
4	JUDGE JORDAN: Right. The record
5	will the record describes the nature of this
6	document. I'm going to overrule this objection.
7	No. 218 of the Office of the Public Counsel is
8	admitted into the record.
9	(OPC EXHIBIT NO. 218 WAS MARKED AND
10	RECEIVED INTO EVIDENCE.)
11	BY MR. SMITH:
12	Q. Who is David Murray?
13	A. David Murray is the manager of the
14	Financial Analysis Department for the Staff of the
15	Public Service Commission.
16	Q. What does the manager do?
17	A. He oversees the financial analysis
18	unit. They work largely on cost of capital, debt,
19	those types of issues.
20	Q. And how many years has Mr. Murray
21	worked at Staff, to your knowledge?
22	A. I would guess 10 to 15. I don't know
23	for sure.
24	Q. Do you consider him to be a highly
25	qualified witness?

1 Α. Yes, I do. 2 According to your testimony -- if you Q. 3 could open up to your direct testimony. Let me 4 know when you have that. 5 Α. Okay. 6 Ο. If you would go to page 4, lines 11 7 through 14. Let me know when you're there. 8 Α. I'm there. 9 And I have a few questions related to Ο. lines 11 through 14. Would you read those and then 10 I can build on those statements? 11 12 Sure. From my direct testimony, Α. 13 Staff necessarily must only put forth positions 14 that it can support by fact. Thus Staff's 15 preliminary audit and investigation continues to 16 evolve from day 90 to day 120 to day 150 as 17 additional data is obtained or as Staff's preliminary recommendations are discussed and 18 19 refined. 20 And elsewhere in that testimony don't Ο. 21 you also say that, as an example, you refer to that 22 cost of debt; isn't that true? 23 Not to the 5 percent. I refer to the Α. 24 cost of debt of 14 percent. 25 Do you want to have a look at that? Q.

1 MR. THOMPSON: Have a look at what 2 exactly, counsel? 3 BY MR. SMITH: 4 Your direct testimony. Let me point Q. 5 to the line. 6 I'm sorry. I see it, yes. Α. 7 So to rephrase that, you use the 0. 8 5 percent as an example of a way in which things 9 might change from the initial preliminary audit; isn't that true? 10 11 Α. Correct. In my testimony I state 12 that at the preliminary day 90 report the cost of 13 debt was estimated at 5 percent, and then I go on 14 to explain how it changed. 15 And you say things like additional 0. 16 data can be obtained; isn't that true? And that 17 Staff's investigation continues to evolve; isn't 18 that true? 19 Α. Staff's preliminary audit and 20 investigation continues to evolve and additional data is obtained or Staff's preliminary 21 22 recommendations are discussed and refined. 23 Specifically for the cost of debt, Ο. 24 did Staff actually review additional documents that 25 would have caused Staff to change its opinion from

1 the day 90 filing?

A. Specific to the cost of debt, that comes into the preliminary recommendations are discussed and refined, and we did have discussions. We did review the information that was -- the documents that were used for the 5 percent determination.

Q. My question's a little different. Not necessarily if discussions were had or that additional reflection took place, but whether additional new documents were reviewed after the day 90 finding that would have caused Staff to change its opinion?

A. Clarifying the question in that way,
no new documents were reviewed specific to the cost
of debt.

17Q.Why did Mr. Murray's name no longer18appear as an affidavit to the Stipulation &19Agreement that was filed?20A.Which Stipulation & Agreement?

Q. The first one.

A. Mr. Murray prepared and sponsored the capital structure, which was labeled as Exhibit 218, I believe. He did not participate in the continuation of the case, and so he was not --

21

he did not submit an affidavit to the partial 1 2 disposition. 3 Do you mean Mr. Barnes instead of Q. 4 Mr. Murray? 5 Α. No. 6 So you're saying Mr. Murray filed Ο. 7 what document now? 8 Mr. Murray prepared the document that Α. 9 you just submitted as an exhibit. He did not 10 participate in the rest of the case, and so he did 11 not submit an affidavit or testimony. 12 Why did he not participate in the Q. 13 rest of the case? 14 MR. THOMPSON: I object. That's an 15 internal Staff personnel matter. 16 MR. SMITH: I think it's important to 17 know. He was the original witness who was a part of the day 90 finding. I think there are many 18 19 number of explanations I'd like to hear from the 20 witness. 21 JUDGE JORDAN: I don't really 22 understand the objection, so I will overrule it. 23 THE WITNESS: As part of any case, 24 Staff continues to review its positions, review its 25 information, and Staff does not put forth a witness

1	that is not comfortable in supporting a position
2	that is the Staff position. Mr. Murray had put
3	forth the 5 percent. We had discussions internally
4	both at the management level and also at the legal
5	level and determined that the 5 percent was not
6	supportable and that the 14 percent was supported
7	by previous cases, Commission decisions.
8	Mr. Murray was not comfortable with being the
9	witness on the 14 percent, so he did not proceed
10	with the case.
11	BY MR. SMITH:
12	Q. Why was Mr. Murray not comfortable at
13	14 percent?
14	A. I can't speak for Mr. Murray, but he
15	put forth the 5 percent.
16	Q. I've noticed would you say Staff's
17	position is mainly a policy and settlement position
18	at 14 percent?
19	A. I would say it was a policy decision
20	based on other factors, for instance, the
21	Commission decision in the Hillcrest case, some of
22	the language in the Commission's order in the
23	Hillcrest case, the order being upheld by the
24	appellate court.
25	Q. But I guess was there a factual

```
1
     was there any sort of analysis or witness that
 2
     Staff relied on, other than what Staff perceived to
 3
    be prior Commission policy?
 4
            Α.
                  It was a policy decision, if that's
 5
     what you're asking. So there is not a specific
 6
     witness supporting 14 percent other than myself as
7
     the policy witness.
 8
                  Yeah. Are you the sole person
            Ο.
9
     supporting the 14 percent?
                  To the extent that it stands along.
10
            Α.
11
     There are other witnesses that are supporting the
     EMS run and how it works and all of that.
12
13
                  And you're talking about policy
            Q.
14
     decisions. You don't actually mean like a written
15
     policy, you mean more of a management decision;
16
     isn't that true?
17
            Α.
                  That's correct. Management policy
18
     decision.
19
                  So there's no written policy?
            Q.
20
                  Not specific to what a cost of debt
            Α.
21
     should be or that the 14 percent is the proper
22
     policy.
23
                  So is this based on management
            Q.
24
     discretion?
25
            Α.
                  It's based on management discussion
```

1	with other Staff witnesses and with legal counsel
2	and review, like I said, of previous Commission
3	orders. So it's not just a discretion. It is
4	subject to discussion and consideration.
5	Q. So as I understand it, the current
6	position is to support prior Commission orders, is
7	that right, and the prior Commission order had
8	approved a 14 percent cost of debt; is that fair?
9	A. I would not say that the policy is to
10	support prior Commission decisions. Generally, if
11	the Commission has made a decision, then Staff
12	would follow that decision unless there was
13	evidence or reason to depart from that. In this
14	case, there was not substantial or sufficient
15	evidence to depart from what the Commission had
16	ordered in previous cases.
17	Q. I guess who would have reviewed that
18	sufficient evidence to determine when to depart?
19	Is that you?
20	A. That would have been me in consult
21	with legal counsel.
22	Q. And to make that review if there are
23	sufficient f there is sufficient evidence to
24	depart for policy reasons, just to clarify, you
25	didn't actually review new documents?

1 Α. That's correct. 2 Did you read Mr. Greg Meyer's Q. 3 surrebuttal testimony? 4 Α. Yes, I did. 5 And were you present during the Q. 6 Raccoon Creek on-the-record settlement hearing? 7 Α. I believe I was, yes. 8 Do you remember certain remarks by Ο. 9 Chairman Hall, Commissioner Stoll, Commissioner 10 Coleman on the record relating to the cost of debt 11 and how they would like to see the cost of debt 12 improve? 13 I don't know that they specifically Α. 14 said they would like to see the cost of debt 15 improved. They did express concerns and indicated 16 they would be reviewing the cost of debt going 17 forward. 18 0. Was that transcript or that 19 information included in your determination on 20 whether or not to depart from the 14 percent 21 recommendation? 22 Α. It was part of the discussion that 23 the Commissioners had expressed concerns during the 24 previous cases. 25 Is Staff's position that 14 percent Q.

1	is a reasonable seat of debt?
	is a reasonable cost of debt?
2	A. I would not say Staff would say it's
3	a reasonable cost of debt. It's a supported cost
4	of debt.
5	Q. Then why did why was the agreement
6	signed if it's not a reasonable cost of debt, if
7	that's your testimony today?
8	A. As I previously stated, it's the
9	testimony or it's the cost of debt that is
10	supported by previous Commission decisions. The
11	numbers that were being put forth in the case by
12	Staff and also by OPC in our opinion were not
13	supported and were not equivalent.
14	Q. Didn't OPC support Staff's initial
14 15	Q. Didn't OPC support Staff's initial 5 percent cost of debt?
	•••
15	5 percent cost of debt?
15 16	5 percent cost of debt? A. 5 point something. I don't remember
15 16 17	<pre>5 percent cost of debt? A. 5 point something. I don't remember if it was exactly five percent, but it was in the</pre>
15 16 17 18	<pre>5 percent cost of debt? A. 5 point something. I don't remember if it was exactly five percent, but it was in the 5 percent range. But it was it was our</pre>
15 16 17 18 19	<pre>5 percent cost of debt? A. 5 point something. I don't remember if it was exactly five percent, but it was in the 5 percent range. But it was it was our determination after discussing that the information</pre>
15 16 17 18 19 20	<pre>5 percent cost of debt? A. 5 point something. I don't remember if it was exactly five percent, but it was in the 5 percent range. But it was it was our determination after discussing that the information that was being put forth as support was not a</pre>
15 16 17 18 19 20 21	5 percent cost of debt? A. 5 point something. I don't remember if it was exactly five percent, but it was in the 5 percent range. But it was it was our determination after discussing that the information that was being put forth as support was not a comparable situation to what we have in the current
15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	5 percent cost of debt? A. 5 point something. I don't remember if it was exactly five percent, but it was in the 5 percent range. But it was it was our determination after discussing that the information that was being put forth as support was not a comparable situation to what we have in the current situation.
15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	<pre>5 percent cost of debt? A. 5 point something. I don't remember if it was exactly five percent, but it was in the 5 percent range. But it was it was our determination after discussing that the information that was being put forth as support was not a comparable situation to what we have in the current situation. Q. So there is a second stipulation,</pre>

1 Q. Same cost of debt, correct? Α. 2 Same cost of debt, yes. 3 Same 14 percent rate? Q. 4 Α. Yes. 5 There was, however, an improvement. Q. 6 The company did offer to modify from 20 to 10 7 years, true? 8 For the prepayment penalty, that's Α. 9 correct. 10 Now on the return of equity, that's Q. 11 12 percent in the stipulation; isn't that true? 12 That's correct. Α. 13 Did you make that determination or Q. 14 did you rely on a Staff member to reach that conclusion? 15 16 Α. That was again in consultation with 17 other Staff members and reviewing previous Commission decisions. 18 19 Without divulging any privileged Q. 20 content, what Staff members did you consult with? 21 Α. Staff counsel Nicole Mers, Jacob 22 Weston, and Staff auditing personnel Mark 23 Oligschlaeger and Kim Bolin. 24 Did you consult with Matt Barnes, the Q. 25 Staff witness?

1 Α. He's not available, so I was not able 2 to consult with him. 3 Did you consult with Dave Murray, the Q. 4 prior Staff witness? He's not part of this case, so no, I 5 Α. 6 did not consult with him. 7 Now, ten years, we were discussing Ο. 8 Do you think ten years is a reasonable that. 9 prepayment penalty? 10 Α. I would not -- again not call it 11 reasonable. It's an improvement. 12 Why would you support something that Q. 13 isn't reasonable for policy reasons? 14 Α. The use of the word reasonable is 15 subjective. When negotiating a settlement or when 16 putting forth a Staff position, you have to balance 17 all the factors, especially when negotiating a settlement. So looking at just one component by 18 19 itself, for instance the ROE or the prepayment 20 penalty, and asking me if that in and of itself is 21 reasonable or not is -- it may not be in and of 22 itself, but as a package, the package is 23 reasonable. 24 Q. Now, this is a pretty serious issue. 25 You realize people might die before that ten years

1 runs out. They might be stuck literally for the 2 rest of their life with that 14 percent interest 3 rate as a part of their bill. 4 If Indian Hills did find a lower cost 5 of debt in the future before ten years, like let's 6 say a few years from now, what would the 7 ramifications of that prepayment penalty be, to the 8 best of your knowledge? 9 Well, I mean, first of all, I Α. wouldn't tie it to people passing away. We could 10 11 pass away tomorrow. But a lower prepayment penalty 12 would reduce the -- presumably reduce the rate that 13 would be charged. 14 Did the prepayment penalty also go Q. 15 down or just the time span? 16 Α. The time span did. 17 Okay. So there isn't a lower Ο. 18 prepayment penalty? 19 Α. I believe the structure is it would 20 decrease over time because of it's being phased 21 out. 22 Isn't a prepayment penalty, the one Q. 23 I'm familiar with is that they can't refinance. 24 Isn't that true? 25 Α. They can't refinance without there

1 being a prepayment penalty, but I believe the 2 percentage of the prepayment penalty is also 3 adjusted. 4 Is that in the Stipulation & Ο. 5 Agreement? 6 Α. The Stipulation & Agreement says to 7 reduce the prepayment penalty term from 20 years to 8 10 years. 9 So it just reduces the term, not the Ο. 10 amount, under the black ink of the text? 11 Α. Under the plain reading of the text, 12 yes. 13 Going back to the question, what Q. 14 would the ramifications -- if Indian Hills did find 15 lower cost of financing in the next few years, what 16 would the ramifications of that prepayment penalty 17 be for customers? 18 If the loan was refinanced prior to Α. 19 the ten years, then the customers could be saddled 20 with the prepayment penalty. That would be up to 21 the Commission to determine in a future rate case. 22 When you were making this decision, Q. 23 did you also weigh consideration of the risk of 24 self-dealing? 25 I wouldn't characterize it as Α.

1 weighing the risk. We did discuss self-dealing. 2 Does that give you any doubts about Q. 3 the prudence of this transaction? 4 Α. No, it does not. 5 Q. Do you think it's reasonable for the 6 lender -- do you think there's a risk of 7 self-dealing? 8 In this situation, as a small water Α. 9 and sewer company, there are no -- the Commission does not have affiliate transaction rules for water 10 11 and sewer companies. And from my understanding from consultation with Staff counsel and their 12 13 review, the laws do not prohibit the type of 14 situation that we have in this situation as far as 15 self-dealing. 16 Q. And the laws may be silent or they 17 may be expressed, but self-dealing is self-dealing, would you agree? 18 19 MR. THOMPSON: I object. I don't 20 think it's at all clear to anyone what self-dealing 21 is self-dealing might mean. 22 MR. SMITH: I'll rephrase. 23 BY MR. SMITH: 24 The law may be silent or it may be Q. 25 express, but there still could be a risk of

7	
1	<pre>self-dealing, true?</pre>
2	A. There could be a risk, but as far as
3	I'm advised and my understanding, it's not
4	something that's illegal, not allowed.
5	MR. SMITH: Thank you.
6	JUDGE JORDAN: Questions from the
7	Bench?
8	COMMISSIONER KENNEY: No questions.
9	Thank you.
10	COMMISSIONER RUPP: None for me.
11	JUDGE JORDAN: Redirect from Staff?
12	MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Judge.
13	REDIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. THOMPSON:
14	Q. You were asked a lot of questions,
15	Ms. Dietrich, about the 5 percent cost of debt that
16	appeared in the day 90 preliminary audit and the
17	14 percent cost of debt that was stipulated to. Do
18	you recall those questions?
19	A. I do.
20	Q. Now, to your knowledge, is there
21	anyone offering money to this company at 5 percent?
22	A. Not to my knowledge, no.
23	Q. There's not a single bank that you're
24	aware of that's offering a 5 percent loan?
25	A. No. And in response to data

requests, the company provided several e-mails and 1 2 documentation from banks saying that it was not an 3 option, financing was not an option. 4 Thank you. And if you know, is there Q. 5 money available for this company at 14 percent? 6 Yes, there is. Α. 7 So there is actual financing Ο. 8 available at that rate? 9 Α. That's correct. 10 Q. Now, are you familiar from your job 11 and your involvement in this case, are you familiar 12 with the condition of this company? 13 Α. Generally. 14 And you're familiar with the Q. 15 condition of its facilities? 16 Α. Generally. 17 And you're familiar with the size of Ο. its customer base? 18 19 Α. Yes. 20 So if you had money to invest, would Ο. 21 you invest money in this company? 22 MR. SMITH: Objection. Calls for a 23 hypothetical. 24 MR. THOMPSON: Yes, it is a 25 hypothetical. You're quite correct.

```
1
                  MR. SMITH: I don't believe she's
 2
     qualified to make an opinion about what a lender
 3
     would or wouldn't do.
 4
                  MR. THOMPSON: I didn't ask her to
 5
     speculate on what a lender would do. I asked her
 6
     to tell me if she would invest in this company,
7
     knowing what she knows about it.
 8
                  JUDGE JORDAN:
                                 I'm overruling the
9
     objection.
10
                  MR. THOMPSON:
                                 Thank you, Judge.
11
                  THE WITNESS: Knowing what I know
12
     about the company and assuming I had that kind of
13
     money, I would be very leery about lending money
14
     unless I had a pretty high interest rate.
15
     BY MR. THOMPSON:
16
            Ο.
                  So would you consider this to be a
17
     risky investment?
18
            Α.
                  Most definitely.
19
                  And would you want that investment to
            Q.
20
     be protected perhaps by a position as both an
21
     equity owner and also as a creditor?
22
            Α.
                  If I'm the equity owner and creditor?
23
                        If you were going to put your
            Q.
                  Yes.
24
    money into this company, would you want that sort
     of security?
25
```

1 Α. Yes. 2 And is that, in fact, what's been Q. 3 characterized as self-dealing or a possible 4 self-dealing in this case? 5 Α. To my under--6 MR. SMITH: Objection. I think that 7 misstates the facts in the record. 8 MR. THOMPSON: Well, I think the 9 facts of record are that the source of the financing, whether directly or whether through a 10 11 shell company, is both an equity owner and also the 12 lender. 13 MR. SMITH: I agree. 14 MR. THOMPSON: So how did I 15 mischaracterize? 16 JUDGE JORDAN: Okay. No need for 17 debate. Counselor, if you will give your definition of self-dealing and ask your question 18 19 again, let's take it from there. 20 Thank you, Judge. MR. THOMPSON: 21 BY MR. THOMPSON: 22 If a lender is also an equity owner, Q. 23 is it possible that the lender can induce the 24 company to take a loan at a rate that it otherwise 25 might not?

```
1
            Α.
                  Could you clarify what you mean by
 2
     induce?
 3
                  Well, maybe I'll just leave the whole
            Q.
 4
     self-dealing line of questioning alone.
 5
                  When you testified that the 5 percent
 6
     was not supportable, did you mean that there was no
7
     lender willing to offer money to this company at
 8
     5 percent?
9
                       I meant that the information
            Α.
                  No.
     that Staff relied on to develop that 5 percent was
10
11
     not, in my opinion, and, as I said, discussing with
12
     legal counsel supportable as to a comparable
13
     company or comparable situation.
14
                  Okay. But in terms of reality, in
            Q.
15
     terms of practical reality, I think you told me
16
     there's nobody that you are aware of offering money
17
     to this company at 5 percent?
18
                  That's correct.
            Α.
19
                  MR. SMITH: Objection. This is very
20
     leading.
21
                  JUDGE JORDAN:
                                 Try not to lead,
22
     counselor.
23
                  MR. THOMPSON:
                                  I apologize, Judge.
24
     I'll try to do better. In fact, I think I'm done.
25
     Thank you, Ms. Dietrich.
```

1 JUDGE JORDAN: Fair enough. I have 2 just one question. Staff has offered Exhibit 3 No. 100. I didn't see, because I wasn't watching, 4 whether Staff had handed that to the court 5 reporter. 6 MR. THOMPSON: We'll provide copies 7 for everyone else, Judge. 8 JUDGE JORDAN: Thank you, counselor. 9 The witness is excused. Let's move on to the topic of payroll, and we'll begin with Indian Hills' 10 11 witnesses. 12 MR. COOPER: Your Honor, we would 13 call Mr. Phil Macias. 14 (Witness sworn.) 15 PHIL MACIAS testified as follows: 16 DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. COOPER: 17 Ο. Please state your name. 18 Α. Phil Macias. 19 Have you caused to be prepared for Q. 20 the purposes of this proceeding certain direct, 21 rebuttal and surrebuttal testimony in question and 22 answer form? 23 Yes, I have. Α. 24 Is it your understanding that that Q. 25 testimony has been marked as Exhibits 4, 5NP, 5C

and 6 for identification? 1 2 Α. Yes. 3 If I were to ask you the questions Q. 4 which are contained in Exhibits 4, 5NP, 5C and 6 5 today, would your answers be the same? 6 Α. Yes, they would. 7 Are those answers true and correct to 0. 8 the best of your information, knowledge and belief? 9 Α. Yes. 10 I skipped a question, and I assume Q. 11 that I know the answer, but I assume you didn't 12 have any changes to that testimony? 13 Α. No. 14 MR. COOPER: Your Honor, I would offer Exhibits 4, 5NP, 5C and 6 into evidence and 15 16 tender Mr. Macias for cross-examination. 17 JUDGE JORDAN: Thank you. 18 Cross-examination from Staff? 19 MS. MERS: No questions. Thank you. 20 JUDGE JORDAN: Cross-Examination from 21 the Office of the Public Counsel? 22 MR. SMITH: Yes. Just a few quick 23 questions. 24 MR. COOPER: Can I -- I'm sorry, 25 Mr. Smith. Are we going to take up the admission

```
1
     of the evidence or the testimony later or at this
 2
    time or --
 3
                  JUDGE JORDAN: You've offered these
 4
    exhibits into the record. I did not ask for an
     objection. I'll do that now. Objections?
5
 6
                  MR. SMITH: No objection.
 7
                                 Hearing no objections,
                  JUDGE JORDAN:
8
    those exhibits are admitted into the record.
                  (INDIAN HILLS EXHIBITS 4, 5NP, 5C AND
9
     6 WERE RECEIVED INTO EVIDENCE.)
10
11
     CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. SMITH:
12
            Q.
                 Good morning.
13
            Α.
                 Good morning.
14
                 Do you have your testimony in front
            Q.
15
    of you?
16
            Α.
                  I do.
17
                  Would you open that up, please, and I
            Ο.
18
    need to open it up, too. I think it's in your
19
    direct at page 11, lines 5 through 7, but it could
20
    be rebuttal. It's your direct.
21
            Α.
                 You said lines 5 through 7?
22
            Q. Yes.
23
            A. Yes, I have it.
24
                 Okay. That sentence number 5 there
            Q.
25
    or on line 5 it says, per-customer allocation is a
```

1 more accurate allocation. 2 Oh, I'm sorry. You said direct? Α. 3 Yes, your direct testimony. Q. 4 Α. I have lines 5 and 7 talking about something completely different. 5 6 Ο. Are you on page 11? 7 I'm sorry. Α. No. 8 Did I say page 5 through 7? Ο. It 9 should be page 11, lines 5 through 7, direct 10 testimony. 11 Α. I've got it right here. 12 Okay. So at line 5, a per-customer Q. 13 allocation is a more accurate allocation. What is 14 your source for that statement? 15 Source would be the analysis of kind Α. 16 of what we did looking at Staff's presentation in 17 terms of the overhead allocation, understanding that there's multiple ways to be able to come up 18 19 with an overhead allocation. We had looked at the use of labor as a driver for that calculation, and 20 21 in the original calculation we found a number of 22 inconsistencies or sort of process -- just we'll 23 call it that sort of inconsistencies in process 24 that we think sort of rendered the use of hours as 25 the labor driver as perhaps not quite the best

1 answer. So that speaks maybe specifically to that 2 model. 3 In terms of the accuracy as hours as 4 a labor driver versus accuracy of a head count, 5 customer count, I think both are within the realm 6 of accurate. They're both, if you think about 7 it -- now, our calculation was a little bit higher 8 than Staff's at 17.6 versus the 18 percent for the 9 just a customer count, but I think that's certainly 10 close enough within the error of margin and the --11 it's -- it kind of speaks to the notion of 12 simplicity. Part of this when you look at the 13 overhead hour, if you do the driver by hours, it's 14 a series of lengthy calculations which are an --15 And Mr. Macias --Q. 16 Α. -- opportunity for error. 17 Q. I appreciate --18 Α. Oh, sure. Sure. 19 -- trying to answer the question. Q. Ι 20 was just trying to figure out what your source for 21 the statement that --22 Α. Oh, okay. 23 -- customer allocation is a more Q. 24 accurate allocation. Do you have like a --25 Α. Is there an authoritative guidance

1	or
2	Q. Yeah. Right.
3	A. No, certainly not that I'm aware of.
4	That source was my own personal background and
5	experience.
6	Q. That just seems a little odd to me.
7	Wouldn't actual hours be more accurate than using
8	customer count as a proxy for time spent on the
9	systems?
10	A. It depends on sort of the two
11	things. One is, you know, ultimately if you can
12	agree upon the calculation process to determine the
13	overhead allocations based on labor hours, then
14	that's certainly a possibility, but it's kind of
15	it's a question of sort of too much answer for too
16	simple of a question. 18 percent is accurate, it's
17	easy to understand, it's easy for everyone to
18	understand, the parties involved. Certainly if
19	that question ever came up with the customer base,
20	they have an understanding of how overhead
21	allocation is expensed over to whatever that entity
22	would be, whether that's Indian Hills or someplace
23	else. It's accurate and
24	Q. I'm not sure I'm getting my answer,
25	but let me rephrase. Would it be fair to say the

1 statement a per-customer allocation is a more 2 accurate allocation is just your opinion? 3 The difference between the two? Α. 4 Q. Yes. 5 Α. What I expressed in my testimony --6 0. Right. 7 -- is my opinion. As I said, Α. 8 there's -- I'm aware of no authoritative quidance 9 that would prescribe one method over the other. 10 Q. And I know said it's a simple number, 11 things like that, but isn't it also true that the 12 customer allocation actually ends up giving the 13 company more money out of Indian Hills than would 14 an hourly? 15 Α. It does. The customer count is a 16 marginally higher percentage. 17 MR. SMITH: No further questions. 18 JUDGE JORDAN: Questions from the Bench? 19 20 COMMISSIONER KENNEY: No questions. 21 JUDGE JORDAN: Redirect? 22 MR. COOPER: Yes, your Honor. 23 REDIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. COOPER: 24 Mr. Macias, will customer -- or hours Q. 25 worked by the company's personnel vary from year to

1 year? 2 Yes, it will. Α. 3 And in terms of which subsidiaries Q. 4 they may be working on? 5 Α. Yes. The customer counts, are they likely 6 Ο. 7 to be more steady over a longer period of time? 8 Α. Yes. 9 MR. COOPER: That's all the questions 10 I have. 11 JUDGE JORDAN: Thank you. You may be 12 excused. Next witness. 13 MR. COOPER: We will call Mr. Todd 14 Thomas. 15 (Witness sworn.) 16 JUDGE JORDAN: Go ahead. 17 TODD THOMAS testified as follows: 18 DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. COOPER: 19 Please state your name. Q. 20 Todd Thomas. Α. 21 Q. Have you caused to be prepared for 22 the purposes of this proceeding certain direct, 23 rebuttal and surrebuttal testimony in question and 24 answer form? 25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Is it your understanding that that 2 testimony has been marked as Exhibits 7, 8 and 9 3 for identification? 4 Α. Yes. 5 Do you have any changes that you Q. 6 would like to make to that testimony at this time? 7 Α. I do not. 8 If I were to ask you the questions Ο. 9 which are contained in Exhibits 7, 8 and 9 today, would your answers be the same? 10 11 Α. Yes. 12 Are those answers true and correct to 0. 13 the pest of your information, knowledge and belief? 14 Α. They are. 15 MR. COOPER: Your Honor, I would 16 offer Exhibits 7, 8 and 9 into evidence and tender 17 the witness for cross-examination. 18 JUDGE JORDAN: Objections to those 19 exhibits? Not hearing any --20 MR. SMITH: No objection. 21 JUDGE JORDAN: Not hearing any, 22 Exhibits 7, 8 and 9 are admitted into the record. 23 (INDIAN HILLS EXHIBITS 7, 8 AND 9 24 WERE RECEIVED INTO EVIDENCE.) 25 JUDGE JORDAN: Cross-examination from

```
1
     Staff.
 2
                  MS. MERS: I have no questions.
 3
     Thank you.
 4
                  JUDGE JORDAN: Examination from the
5
     Office of the Public Counsel?
 6
                  MR. SMITH: No questions.
 7
                  COMMISSIONER KENNEY: No questions.
 8
                  COMMISSIONER RUPP: None.
9
                  JUDGE JORDAN: You may be excused.
10
    Next witness.
                  MS. MERS: Staff calls witness Ashley
11
12
     Sarver to the stand.
13
                   (Witness sworn.)
14
     ASHLEY SARVER testified as follows:
     DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MS. MERS:
15
16
            Q.
                  Can you please state and spell your
17
    name for the record.
18
                  Ashley Sarver, S-a-r-v-e-r.
            Α.
19
                  And whom are you employed by and in
            Q.
20
    what capacity?
21
            Α.
                  Missouri Public Service Commission,
     Utility Regulatory Auditor 4.
22
23
                  And did you cause to be prepared
            Ο.
24
     certain exhibits marked the direct testimony
25
    Exhibit 104, rebuttal testimony that has been
```

1 marked Exhibit 110 and surrebuttal testimony that's 2 been marked Exhibit 112? 3 Α. Yes. 4 Do you have any changes to that Ο. 5 testimony? 6 Α. Yes, I do. My direct testimony, 7 Schedule AS-D3, the EMS run is no longer current. 8 And then on my rebuttal testimony, page 11, 9 line 18, the number 4,714 should be 4,932. So should read, Staff included eight months of bank 10 11 fees in its cost of service totally 4,932. 12 And is that it for your corrections? Q. 13 Α. Yes. 14 And with those corrections in mind, Q. 15 if I asked you the same questions today, would your 16 answers be the same? 17 Α. Yes. 18 0. And are those answers true and 19 correct to the best of your knowledge and belief? 20 Α. Yes. 21 MS. MERS: All right. At this time 22 Staff would like to enter Exhibit 104, which has a 23 public and confidential version, Exhibit 110, which 24 has a public and confidential version, and 25 Exhibit 112, which has a confidential and public

```
version.
 1
 2
                  JUDGE JORDAN: Objections to those
 3
     exhibits?
 4
                  MR. SMITH: No objection.
 5
                  JUDGE JORDAN:
                                 Then Exhibits 104,
 6
     110, 112, each one with public and confidential,
7
     are admitted into the record.
                  (STAFF EXHIBITS 104NP, 104C, 110NP,
8
9
     110C, 112NP AND 112C WERE RECEIVED INTO EVIDENCE.)
10
                  MS. MERS: I tender the witness for
11
     cross.
                  JUDGE JORDAN: Cross-examination from
12
13
     Indian Hills?
14
                 MR. COOPER: No questions, your
15
    Honor.
16
                  JUDGE JORDAN: Cross-examination from
17
    the Office of Public Counsel?
18
                  MR. SMITH: Just a few.
19
     CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. SMITH:
20
                  Ms. Sarver, what is MERIC? You don't
            0.
21
    have to know the acronym. Just a description will
22
    be fine.
23
                  It's just the salaries that -- it's
            Α.
24
    the base salaries that people use as a survey.
25
                  And why is that used?
            Q.
```

```
So everybody can be -- on the job
 1
            Α.
 2
     titles, so you know how much the job titles pay,
     like, in the state of Missouri, what's most common.
 3
 4
                  And that's done by an independent
            Q.
 5
     state research agency?
 6
            Α.
                  Yeah.
 7
                  You used 2013 job titles in MERIC for
            Ο.
 8
     Mr. Cox and Ms. Eaves; is that correct?
 9
            Α.
                  Yes.
10
            Ο.
                  And is it true that MERIC data only
11
     goes three years back?
                  Yes.
12
            Α.
13
                  So in terms of MERIC's display of
            Q.
14
     which data, your 2013 information is outdated,
15
     true?
16
            Α.
                  No.
17
                   I guess it would be less current than
            Q.
     the 2014 information, true?
18
19
            Α.
                   Yes.
20
                  And less current than the 2015
            Ο.
21
     information, true?
22
            Α.
                  Yes.
23
                  And less current than the 2016
            Q.
24
     information, true?
25
            Α.
                  Yes.
```

```
1
            Q.
                  And you chose to use the 2013
 2
     information, correct?
 3
            Α.
                  Yes.
 4
                  MR. SMITH: No further questions.
 5
                  JUDGE JORDAN: Ouestions from the
 6
     Bench?
 7
                  COMMISSIONER KENNEY: No, thank you.
 8
                  COMMISSIONER RUPP: Thank you.
 9
                  JUDGE JORDAN:
                                  Redirect?
10
     REDIRECT EXAMINATION BY MS. MERS:
11
            Q.
                  Ms. Sarver, has the company agreed to
12
     the payroll number that you provided as part of
13
     your direct testimony in the Nonunanimous
14
     Stipulation & Agreement?
15
            Α.
                  Yes.
16
                  MS. MERS: No further questions.
17
                  JUDGE JORDAN: You may step down.
18
     Next witness.
19
                   (Witness sworn.)
20
     KERI ROTH testified as follows:
21
     DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. SMITH:
22
                  Would you please state your name and
            Q.
23
     spell it for the court reporter.
24
                  Keri Roth, R-o-t-h.
            Α.
25
                  And your first name?
            Q.
```

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1 Α. Keri, K-e-r-i. 2 What is your job title? Q. 3 I am a Public Utility Accountant 3 Α. 4 with Missouri Office of the Public Counsel. 5 And how long have you been with the Q. 6 Office of the Public Counsel? 7 Since September 2012. Α. 8 And have you filed testimony in the Ο. 9 case WR-2017-0259? 10 Α. Yes. 11 MR. SMITH: May I approach? 12 JUDGE JORDAN: You may. 13 MR. SMITH: I'm handing to the court 14 reporter what's been premarked as 200, 201, 202, 15 203 and 204. For the record, these are both 16 confidential and public versions. 17 BY MR. SMITH: 18 Q. Do you have copies of these exhibits, 19 Ms. Roth? 20 Α. Yes. 21 And did you prepare or cause to be Q. 22 prepared the testimony marked as Exhibits 200, 201, 202, 203 and 204? 23 24 I believe so. I'll take your word on Α. those numbers. 25

1 Q. Do you have any corrections to be 2 made? 3 I believe I have one correction to my Α. 4 surrebuttal testimony. On page 4, line 22, it 5 currently states Staff is not including. Not 6 should be the word now. And that's the only 7 corrective I have, I believe. 8 Subject to that one correction, if I Q. 9 were to ask you these same questions again under oath, would your answers be the same or 10 11 substantially the same? 12 Α. Yes, they would. 13 MR. SMITH: All right. At this time 14 I would offer Exhibits 200, 201, 202, 203 and 204, and tender the witness for cross-examination. 15 16 JUDGE JORDAN: Any objections to 17 Exhibits 200, 201, 202, 203 or 204? 18 (No response.) 19 JUDGE JORDAN: Not hearing any, those exhibits are admitted into the record. 20 21 (OPC EXHIBITS 200 THROUGH 204 WERE 22 RECEIVED INTO EVIDENCE.) 23 JUDGE JORDAN: Cross-examination from 24 Staff? 25 MS. MERS: No questions.

1 JUDGE JORDAN: Cross-examination from 2 Indian Hills? 3 MR. COOPER: Thank you, your Honor. 4 CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. COOPER: 5 Ms. Roth, in talking about the Q. 6 experience or the assignment of experience levels 7 under MERIC, I think in a couple of places you talk 8 about the fact or you reference the fact that 9 Indian Hills employees should be at the mean level 10 because they have less than three and a half years 11 of experience in the regulated utility industry. 12 Do you remember that? 13 Α. Yes. 14 Does that mean that there's no other Q. 15 type of experience other than that with a regulated 16 utility that would be helpful in regard to building or repairing or operating or accounting for or just 17 running a water or sewer utility? 18 19 Α. State that one more time for me. 20 Well, for example, if a person had Ο. 21 20 years of experience running a sewer operation 22 for a sewer district, would you still say that 23 because their experience was not in the regulated 24 utility industry, it would have no value in terms 25 of assigning an experience level to them?

1 Α. I wouldn't deny that it wouldn't add 2 value, no. 3 So that might be an experienced Q. 4 person even though their experience would not be 5 within the regulated utility industry? 6 Α. Possibly. 7 MR. COOPER: Okay. That's all the 8 questions I have. 9 JUDGE JORDAN: Ouestions from the 10 Bench? 11 COMMISSIONER KENNEY: No, sir. 12 COMMISSIONER RUPP: No. 13 JUDGE JORDAN: Redirect? 14 MR. SMITH: Just a few questions. 15 REDIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. SMITH: 16 Q. Ms. Roth, when Mr. Cooper was asking 17 you about experience, isn't it true that -- sorry. Did Staff select an experience level that was mean, 18 19 entry or experienced? Which did they select? 20 Staff also selected the mean. Α. 21 Q. So the same as you? 22 Α. Yes. 23 And Mr. Cooper said, referred to less Q. 24 than three years. Are there employees within the 25 company that have less than one year in the

1	regulated industry?
2	A. Yes.
3	Q. And doesn't does the term
4	experience, according to MERIC, also capture
5	quartile what is your opinion of that term, I
6	guess, of the term experience?
7	A. I don't know. I guess the easiest
8	way for me to say that would be several more years
9	of experience. I don't know how to answer that.
10	Q. Can't you quantify it in terms of one
11	has a higher pay grade, the mean, and what is a
12	mean level, for example?
13	A. I'm not sure.
14	Q. There are multiple levels, right?
15	A. Yes.
16	Q. And experiences is the top level?
17	A. Right.
18	Q. And there are only three levels,
19	correct?
20	A. Correct.
21	MR. SMITH: No further questions.
22	JUDGE JORDAN: You may stand down.
23	That concludes the testimony as to the topic of
24	payroll. And I'm pretty sure the parties have a
25	better idea of how these witnesses will go than I

1 do, so when the parties feel it's an appropriate 2 time to break for lunch, I hope they will let me know. In the meantime, let's take the next 3 4 witness. 5 MR. COOPER: Your Honor, we would 6 recall Mr. Macias for the issue of auditing and tax 7 preparation fees. 8 JUDGE JORDAN: Mr. Macias, you're 9 still under oath. So direct examination, you may 10 proceed. 11 MR. COOPER: Your Honor, I would tender Mr. Macias for cross-examination. 12 13 JUDGE JORDAN: Cross-examination from 14 Staff? 15 MS. MERS: No questions. Thank you. 16 JUDGE JORDAN: Cross-Examination from 17 Office of the Public Counsel? 18 MR. SMITH: Yes. Thank you. 19 PHIL MACIAS testified as follows: 20 CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. SMITH: 21 Mr. Macias, can you cite to any 0. 22 Commission rule that requires Indian Hills or its 23 parent to file audited financials? 24 Α. No. 25 When the company files its annual Q.

1 report, is it required to have audited financials 2 with the Commission? 3 Α. No. 4 There's a large cost associated with Q. 5 an audited financial statement; isn't that true? 6 Α. That is true. 7 What was the cost for Indian Hills 0. 8 and the parent to get audited financials? 9 Α. Audited costs for Indian Hills, paid so far is 9,000. The ending bill will be \$10,000. 10 11 The parent company, if I recall, is also 10,000. I 12 think we have invoices in support of costs for 13 9,000 of that. 14 Does Indian Hills have or its parent Q. 15 have any SEC filing requirement to file audited financials? 16 17 Α. We do not. 18 0. Are there any known legal 19 requirements that this take place, for example, for 20 safety reasons or something like that? 21 Α. Not that I'm aware of. 22 Mr. Macias, in your testimony you Q. 23 state that CSWR has been denied an equipment 24 financing loan based on a lack of audited 25 financials for the respective utility. Are you

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1 referring to Indian Hills? 2 Α. That's --3 Or are you at liberty to say? Q. 4 Α. Yeah. I actually don't recall. 5 So is it for the utility regulated in Q. 6 the state of Missouri, do you know that? 7 It would have been in the state of Α. 8 Missouri. 9 To your knowledge, was their lack of Ο. 10 audited financials the only reason they were denied 11 financing or could there have been other reasons? That I wouldn't know. 12 Α. 13 You also indicate in your testimony, Q. 14 direct at page 7, the company needs audited 15 financial statements because it's important for the 16 utility to be actively engaged in attempting to 17 raise capital. Are you aware of the prepayment 18 penalty that exists in this case? 19 Α. I am. 20 Do you expect that this utility will Ο. 21 be actively engaged in attempting to raise capital? 22 At some point, I would -- I don't Α. 23 know if I can actually accurately answer that. I 24 just don't know that I have the information. 25 So would it be fair to be said this Q.

1 wouldn't be -- the rationale included in your 2 testimony would not apply to this utility but maybe 3 others? 4 Α. Well, I think it would apply to this 5 utility. The specific nature of your question, there's certain conversations that I haven't had, 6 7 and so speaking generally in terms of pursuing alternative financing or pursuing any kind of 8 9 financing, one of the common prerequisites are acceptable audited financial statements. 10 11 Q. But not the only prerequisite? 12 Certainly not the only prerequisite. Α. 13 For example, more equity in a company Q. 14 would be something a lender might consider, 15 correct? That would be speculative. 16 Α. That 17 would depend on the institution and the deal. 18 0. Do you disagree that the invoices for 19 Indian Hills, those audit fees in those tax 20 preparation fees, do you disagree that those were 21 paid outside of the rate -- the test year? 22 Α. No. 23 You don't. Okay. Q. 24 MR. SMITH: Thank you. No further 25 questions.

1	JUDGE JORDAN: Questions from the
2	Bench?
3	COMMISSIONER RUPP: No.
4	JUDGE JORDAN: Redirect?
5	MR. COOPER: Very briefly.
6	REDIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. COOPER:
7	Q. Mr. Smith just asked you about the
8	payment on those invoices. Were those invoices or
9	a measure of those invoices issued within the test
10	period?
11	A. They were issued within the test I
12	would have to go back and look specifically. I
13	believe they were issued within the test period.
14	They were paid outside of the test period, but
15	certainly apply to the activity and sort of the
16	conduct of business that was within the test
17	period.
18	MR. COOPER: That's all the questions
19	I have, your Honor.
20	JUDGE JORDAN: You may step down.
21	Next witness.
22	MR. COOPER: We'd call Mr. Cox.
23	(Witness sworn.)
24	JUDGE JORDAN: Go ahead.
25	JOSIAH COX testified as follows:

1 DIRECT EXAMINATION by MR. COOPER: 2 Q. Please state your name. 3 Α. Josiah Cox. 4 And have you caused to be prepared Q. 5 for the purposes of this proceeding certain direct, 6 rebuttal, surrebuttal testimony in question and 7 answer form? 8 Α. I have. 9 Is it your understanding that that Ο. 10 testimony has been marked as Exhibits 1NP, 1C, 2NP, 11 2C and 3 for purposes of identification? That is correct. 12 Α. 13 Q. Do you have any changes that you 14 would like to make to that testimony at this time? 15 Yes, I have two changes I'd like to Α. 16 make. 17 Ο. Would you -- in which piece of 18 testimony is the first change? 19 Α. Both changes are in my rebuttal testimony. So if you go to page 3 of my rebuttal 20 21 testimony, on line 12 there's a typo. It should 22 read, the OPC could not, insert the word determine, 23 what. 24 So it would read, yeah, the OPC could Q. not determine what was offered to attract debt? 25

1 Α. Correct. I have one more correction. 2 And what page would that be on? Q. 3 Α. That is on page 19 of my rebuttal 4 testimony. 5 Q. What line? 6 Starting -- it's lines 10 and 11. So Α. 7 I wanted to insert after the word the, Indian Hills 8 would be inserted there. So it would read, the 9 exact date the Indian Hills financing 10 documentation. 11 And then at the end of that line, I 12 would strike Staff, the word Staff, and at the 13 beginning of line 11 I would strike and. 14 And then making that sentence now Q. 15 read, we do not have the exact date the Indian 16 Hills financing documentation was provided to OPC? 17 Α. Correct. 18 Ο. And then any more changes in that 19 section? 20 On line 11, I would insert the Α. 21 word -- I would strike the comma and insert the word and between Hillcrest and Raccoon Creek. 22 And then I would strike the words "and Indian Hills" 23 24 before matters. 25 And so then the sentence would read Q.

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```

```
1
    how?
 2
                  However, as to the Hillcrest and
            Α.
 3
     Raccoon matters.
 4
                  It has been in Staff -- yeah. Okay.
            Q.
5
    And those are all the changes you have?
 6
            Α.
                  Yes.
7
                  If I were to ask you the questions
            Ο.
8
     which are contained in Exhibits 1NP, 1C, 2NP, 2C
9
     and 3 today, would your answers as now amended be
    the same?
10
11
            A. Yes, they would.
12
                  Are those answers as amended true and
            0.
13
     correct to the best of your information, knowledge
14
     and belief?
15
            Α.
                  Yes, they are.
16
                  MR. COOPER: Your Honor, I would
     offer Exhibits 1NP, 1C, 2NP, 2C, and 3 into
17
     evidence and tender the witness for
18
19
    cross-examination.
20
                  JUDGE JORDAN: Objections?
21
                  MR. SMITH: No objections?
22
                  JUDGE JORDAN: Not hearing any,
     Exhibits 1NP, 1C, 2NP, 2C and 3 are entered into
23
24
    the record.
25
                  (INDIAN HILLS EXHIBITS 1NP, 1C, 2NP,
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1 2C AND 3 WERE RECEIVED INTO EVIDENCE.) 2 JUDGE JORDAN: Cross-examination from 3 Staff? 4 MS. MERS: Briefly. 5 CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MS. MERS: 6 0. Does an item have to be required by 7 the PSC rules to be included in cost of service, to 8 your knowledge? 9 Α. No, not to my knowledge. 10 MS. MERS: Okay. Thank you. Nothing further. 11 JUDGE JORDAN: Cross-examination from 12 the Office of Public Counsel? 13 14 CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. SMITH: 15 To your knowledge, when was the tax Q. 16 invoice submitted to Indian Hills? Was it outside 17 the test year or inside the test year? I believe it was outside the test 18 Α. 19 year. 20 0. Do you know the month? 21 Α. I do not. 22 Do you remember when the audit was Q. 23 completed for Indian Hills? 24 Α. I don't remember the exact date of 25 the audit completion.

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1 Q. Does around October sound correct? 2 Α. In the fall, I believe. I can't 3 specify the exact date. 4 And for the Indian Hills audit, did 0. 5 that get paid outside the test year or inside the 6 test year? 7 I believe it was paid outside the Α. 8 test year. 9 MR. SMITH: No further questions. 10 JUDGE JORDAN: Ouestions from the Bench? Redirect? 11 12 REDIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. COOPER: 13 Just to confirm, you've attached Q. 14 those invoices concerning the various tax and audit 15 invoices to your testimony, correct? 16 Α. That is correct. 17 And then there's -- to the extent Ο. there's any difference, there's also some of those 18 19 attached to the testimony of Mr. Macias? 20 Α. That is correct. 21 MR. COOPER: That's all the questions 22 I have. 23 JUDGE JORDAN: You may step down. 24 Next witness. 25 MS. MERS: Staff would recall Ashley

Sarver to the bench or to the witness stand, and I 1 2 tender the witness for cross-examination. 3 JUDGE JORDAN: And you're still under 4 oath. So cross-examination from Indian Hills? MR. COOPER: No, your Honor. 5 6 JUDGE JORDAN: Cross-examination from 7 the Office of Public Counsel? 8 MR. SMITH: A few questions. 9 ASHLEY SARVER testified as follows: 10 CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. SMITH: 11 Q. Ms. Sarver, was there an update in this case to cover costs like certain volumes of 12 13 leak repairs that may have occurred outside the 14 test year? 15 Α. For leak repairs? 16 Q. Yes. 17 Α. No. 18 Q. To your knowledge, was an update ever 19 decided on to do an update? 20 Α. Not for leak repairs. 21 Do you believe that an update was Q. 22 agreed upon to -- by the parties to include cost 23 items outside of the test year? 24 Yes. We went -- for rate base, we Α. went to June 19th, 2017. 25

1 Q. And when you say we, do you mean 2 Staff? 3 Α. OPC and -- yeah. It was agreed. 4 So for the invoices in question, Q. 5 these would have occurred -- for the audit and tax 6 preparation, was there any sort of agreement, to 7 your knowledge, on how to treat those between the 8 parties? Did we do an update for those? 9 Α. No. 10 Q. So Staff just went ahead and went 11 outside the test period for Indian Hills' audit and 12 tax preparation fees? 13 Well, for Indian Hills there wasn't Α. 14 any costs within the test year period. 15 Wasn't there a cost associated with Ο. 16 an allocation from the parent for tax preparation 17 and audit? 18 A. During the test year? 19 Q. Yes. 20 Α. Yes. 21 Are you aware of any PSC or SEC Q. 22 reporting requirement that would require a company of this size to obtain an audited financial 23 24 statement? 25 A. I don't know.

1 Q. Are you aware of any other small 2 Utility as defined by the Public Service Commission small water rule that would hire an outside auditor 3 4 to prepare audited financial statements? Are you 5 aware? 6 Α. Repeat your question, please. 7 Are you aware of any other small 0. 8 utility, as defined by the Public Service 9 Commission's small water rule, so any other small 10 utility that would hire an outside auditor to 11 prepare audited financial statements? Have you 12 ever seen that happen? 13 In cases I've worked on, no. They've Α. 14 all been outside auditing that's performed all the cases I've worked on. 15 16 0. And of those cases that you've worked 17 on, were those companies with customer counts greater than 8,000? 18 19 Α. No. 20 Okay. Which case did you work on Ο. 21 that had a customer count lower than 8,000 that had 22 an outside auditor that prepared financial reports? 23 It would be the Hillcrest case. Α. 24 Object. And that's an affiliate Q. 25 of --

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1 Α. Yes. 2 -- Indian Hills, right? Q. 3 Α. Yes. 4 Is the other one Raccoon Creek? Q. 5 Α. Yeah. I wasn't assigned to that 6 case. 7 That's also an affiliate of Indian Ο. 8 Hills, correct? 9 Α. Correct. 10 No others? Q. 11 Α. No. 12 MR. SMITH: No questions. 13 JUDGE JORDAN: Questions from the 14 Bench? Redirect? REDIRECT EXAMINATION BY MS. MERS: 15 16 Q. Ms. Sarver, you were asked some 17 questions about the update period. To your knowledge, even with an agreed-upon true-up period, 18 19 is it Commission practice to include something such 20 as postage expense that increased outside of the 21 test year and the update period in rates? 22 Α. Yes. 23 The same for union wages, correct? Q. 24 Α. Yes. 25 Would you consider the CSWR system to Q.

1 be the typical small water utility? 2 Α. No. 3 MS. MERS: Thank you. No further 4 questions. JUDGE JORDAN: You may stand down. 5 6 Next witness. 7 MR. SMITH: OPC would like to recall 8 Keri Roth. 9 JUDGE JORDAN: You're still under 10 oath, so direct may proceed. MR. SMITH: And I would tender her 11 12 for cross. 13 JUDGE JORDAN: Cross-examination from 14 Staff? KERI ROTH testified as follows: 15 16 DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MS. MERS: 17 Hello, Ms. Roth. 0. 18 Α. Hello. 19 Did you include an amount in your Q. cost of service for the PSC assessment fee? 20 21 Α. I believe so. 22 Q. And what year is that fee for? 23 Most current data that I had Α. 24 available at the time. I don't remember off the top of my head. 25

1 Q. Do you know when that fee is 2 typically paid? 3 Α. According to the letters that I've 4 seen, you can make four payments a year. Some 5 companies will pay it all at once. Some will make 6 two payments. Some will make all four payments. 7 Do you recall from your EMS run or 0. 8 the information that you provided that you included 9 the fee that would be paid outside the test year? 10 I don't recall off the top of my head Α. 11 which year it was. Without looking at my work 12 paper, I can't say off the top of my head. 13 Okay. You don't have your work Q. 14 papers with you? 15 No, not with me. Α. 16 Q. Okay. Would it be typical to include 17 the PSC assessment fee that's been assessed and not paid for OPC? 18 19 Α. State that one more time. 20 Ο. Is it typical for OPC to include an 21 assessment fee that's been assessed and not paid? 22 Α. What I would include is the most 23 current PSC assessment available. 24 Okay. And that could be one that's Q. 25 been assessed and not paid then, correct??

1 Α. I quess that is possible. 2 Because it's known and measurable? Q. 3 Α. Yes. 4 Q. Okay. Are tax and auditing 5 preparation fees a normal and reoccurring part of 6 doing business? 7 Α. State that one more time. 8 Are tax and auditing preparation fees Ο. 9 a normal and reoccurring cost of doing business? 10 I don't see that with all small Α. 11 companies, no. 12 Do you see it with some? Q. 13 Α. With Indian Hills and its affiliates. 14 MS. MERS: Okay. No further 15 questions. 16 JUDGE JORDAN: Cross-examination from 17 Indian Hills? 18 MR. COOPER: 19 CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. COOPER: 20 So you don't believe any other small Q. 21 companies prepare tax returns? 22 Α. Tax returns, yes, they do. Sorry. 23 In your rebuttal testimony you refer Q. 24 to a Commission decision in the Hillcrest rate case 25 in regard to auditing and tax preparation fees, and

1 I think you say the Commission disallowed estimated 2 costs of audit and tax preparation fees in that 3 Would that be accurate? case. 4 I did state that, yes. Α. 5 Q. Now, here we're not talking about 6 estimated costs, are we? 7 No. The costs are known here. Α. 8 So this is a little different than Ο. 9 Hillcrest in that we actually have invoices, 10 correct? 11 Α. It is slightly different, yes. 12 And those invoices, the amounts shown Q. 13 on those invoices have been paid, correct? 14 Α. Outside of the test year, yes. 15 And when you say outside of the test Q. 16 year, you mean after -- well, I guess let's back 17 The test year is the 12 -- as you described it up. is the 12 months ending March 31st of 2017? 18 19 Α. Yes. 20 Ο. And so outside the test year they 21 were paid in 2017, just after March 31st? 22 Α. Correct. 23 MR. COOPER: That's all the questions 24 I have. 25 JUDGE JORDAN: Questions from the

1 Bench? Redirect? 2 MR. SMITH: Yes, a few questions. 3 REDIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. SMITH: 4 Approximately, to your knowledge, Q. 5 when was the tax invoice paid for Indian Hills? 6 The tax return invoice? I'm not for Α. 7 sure of the date of when it was paid. I believe the invoice itself was not dated until October of 8 9 2017, though, so I would say after that sometime. 10 Ο. And do you remember approximately 11 when you filed your testimony in this case, your 12 direct testimony? 13 Α. October. 14 And so it's possible that information Q. 15 was coming in not even at the time you had filed 16 your testimony? 17 Α. Yes. 18 Ο. And do you remember when the work was 19 completed on the audit? 20 Α. We received that information, I 21 think, the same day that direct testimony was due. 22 It was in October also. 23 All right. So that information Ο. 24 didn't come around until later into the case? 25 Α. Correct.

1 MR. SMITH: No questions. 2 You may stand down. JUDGE JORDAN: 3 That's the last scheduled witness for auditing and 4 tax preparation fees. The next topic is management 5 consulting fees. First witness is for Indian 6 Hills. 7 MR. COOPER: Yes. We would recall 8 Mr. Cox to testify on management consulting fees. 9 JUDGE JORDAN: Mr. Cox, you're still 10 under, so direct may proceed. MR. COOPER: We would tender Mr. Cox 11 for cross-examination. 12 13 JUDGE JORDAN: Cross-examination from 14 Staff? 15 MS. MERS: No questions. 16 JUDGE JORDAN: Cross-examination from 17 the Office of the Public Counsel? 18 MR. SMITH: Yes. Thank you. 19 JOSIAH COX testified as follows: 20 CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. SMITH: 21 Mr. Cox, who's the individual 0. 22 referred to as the management consultant? 23 It is Ms. Lois Stanley. Α. 24 And who is Ms. Lois Stanley? Q. 25 Ms. Lois Stanley was the former owner Α.

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1 IH Utilities. 2 Isn't it true that her payment that Q. 3 you give to her each year is a fixed fee? 4 Say the question again. I'm sorry. Α. 5 I misheard you. 6 Ο. Isn't the payment that you make to 7 her a fixed amount on an annual basis? 8 On a monthly basis, correct. It is a Α. 9 \$500 per month fee. 10 Q. And how many years does the contract 11 run? 12 Α. Three years with a possible extension 13 up to seven or six. I can't remember if I'm 14 incorrect on that three or six, three or seven. 15 With a multiyear agreement like that, Ο. 16 do you keep time logs or time sheets for 17 Ms. Stanley? 18 The original contract did not have Α. 19 any stipulations for time logs. 20 But do you keep -- does your company, Q. 21 Indian Hills, keep time logs for Ms. Stanley? 22 Α. So we are not the primary group that 23 interacts with Mrs. Stanley, so that we don't keep 24 a time log. 25 Who is? Is that Missouri One? Q.

1 Α. No. The primary groups who interact 2 with Ms. Stanley would be our engineering firm and 3 our operations and maintenance company. 4 To your knowledge, do they keep time Q. 5 logs? 6 I've never asked them. Α. 7 Is it fair to say that Ms. Stanley 0. 8 provides help with line locates and service 9 connections in the 15 miles of infrastructure at 10 Indian Hills? 11 Α. I think it's probably more fair to 12 say that she helps identify where lines would be, 13 where specific improvements would be, like 14 connections, cross corrections, those type of 15 issues. 16 Q. And she never mapped the system when 17 she owned it, did she? I don't think it would have been 18 Α. 19 possible for her to map the system. I don't know a 20 way to map the system besides dig it up, you know, piece by piece as we go through. 21 22 As she conducted her repairs, did she Q. 23 keep any written records that would help in terms 24 of mapping the system? 25 Α. I don't believe she kept any written

1 records on that. 2 Did you receive any written records Q. 3 on that? 4 Α. I don't recall getting anything 5 written record-wise. 6 Is it fair to say that most of her Ο. 7 records are mental records that exist in her head 8 but not on paper? 9 For example -- that's exactly Α. Yeah. 10 correct. For example, we found out the engineer --11 give an example. The engineer was planning on 12 putting isolation valves in the system to try and 13 create zones so that when there are leaks or main 14 issues, that the entire system doesn't have to be 15 shut down. In his conversations with Ms. Stanley, 16 she was able to identify a couple locations where 17 valves already existed that we would not have known 18 of. We were then able to go to those two valves 19 and uncover them -- they'd been covered up -- and 20 then bring them into operation. So it saved us 21 money as company capital investment and allowed us 22 to change our valve replacement or valve insertion 23 plan. 24 Q. How long was Ms. Stanley the owner of 25 the prior system?

1 Α. I don't know the answer to that 2 question. 3 I think in testimony, or perhaps it Q. 4 was in discovery, I thought it was six-plus years. 5 Does that sound about right? 6 Α. That sounds correct. 7 To your knowledge, did she do many 0. 8 repairs during that time? 9 Α. We do not have any written records of her repairs. What we do have is evidence of, you 10 11 know, we have uncovered service lines where there's 12 multiple repairs that we assume that she performed 13 or people working for her performed. 14 So in some cases she might have to Q. 15 access from her memory bank a memory that may have 16 been eight years old to try to help locate a 17 service line; isn't that true? 18 I have no idea how many years she'd Α. 19 have to think back. 20 Have you ever asked Ms. Stanley to Ο. 21 write down these records rather than calling her? 22 Α. I have never asked her that. 23 Why have you not asked her that? Q. 24 I don't know if it would be helpful Α. 25 or not.

1	Q. Why wouldn't it be helpful?
2	A. I don't know if she's capable of
3	systematically thinking about something like that.
4	Haven't done it.
5	Q. But you systematically pay her each
6	month a fixed fee?
7	A. Correct, because it's been helpful
8	for us to be able to locate lines, to be able to
9	schedule improvements in such a way that are more
10	cost effective.
11	Q. Isn't Mrs. Stanley the owner that
12	neglected many of these repairs?
13	A. She did not perform many repairs or
14	at least she didn't do any reinvestment that we're
15	aware of.
16	Q. And now she's working as an employee
17	for you?
18	A. No. She's not an employee. She's a
19	consultant.
20	Q. Did Ms. Stanley actually do the
21	repairs?
22	A. I'm not I don't know who did the
23	repairs.
24	Q. So she may not have even been on site
25	when the repairs were being done?

1 Α. I'm not privy to that information. 2 Don't you also pay Missouri One to Q. 3 help with line locates? 4 Α. No. That's incorrect. So Missouri 5 One Call is set up to locate the other utilities 6 inside the system. So, in fact, we have to provide 7 a contractor to do locates for Missouri One Call. 8 That's our legal responsibility as a utility. 9 Do they keep written records? Ο. 10 Α. Who? 11 Q. Missouri One. Missouri One Call, the util--12 Α. 13 Missouri One Call is -- maybe this is just clarification. Missouri One Call requires every 14 15 individual utility with underground utilities in 16 the state to identify their own utilities as part 17 of a One Call. 18 And didn't this contract get 0. 19 negotiated right around the time that the system 20 was purchased? 21 Α. If I remember correctly, that's close 22 to the time. 23 Would it be fair to characterize this Ο. 24 as part of the purchase price of the system? 25 No, that would not be fair. Α.

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1	Q. Did they happen around the same time?
2	A. They did happen around the same time.
3	Q. Was Ms. Stanley getting any well,
4	I won't go into that.
5	MR. SMITH: No further questions.
6	JUDGE JORDAN: Questions from the
7	Bench?
8	COMMISSIONER KENNEY: No.
9	JUDGE JORDAN: Redirect?
10	MR. COOPER: Yes, your Honor.
11	REDIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. COOPER:
12	Q. I think you said this, but in terms
13	of the Indian Hills system prior to your ownership
14	or prior to Indian Hills' ownership of that system,
15	to your knowledge, no maps exist of either the
16	mains or the services and their locations?
17	A. That is correct, no accurate maps
18	exist.
19	Q. And again, with whom does Ms. Stanley
20	interact most often?
21	A. With our design engineer and our
22	operations and maintenance contractor.
23	Q. And I think you provided one example
24	of the use of Ms. Stanley. Do you have any other
25	examples of where she's been helpful?

1 Α. Yes. So when the design engineer was 2 originally designing the improvements for water 3 distribution and pressure, the size of the lines 4 inside the distribution system varies. It varies 5 so randomly that there's no kind of logic to it. 6 So it will go from a six-inch main to a three-inch 7 main, back to a four-inch main, and the engineer 8 was able to interact with Ms. Stanley and she was 9 able to point out, hey, this is the size of line in this area. We know because we've had to fix it 10 11 previously. She was also able to provide, hey, the 12 line actually doesn't run on this side of the road, 13 it runs on a different side of the road that it 14 would seem logical, which helped us to be able to 15 design the system. 16 Q. And in terms of locating lines, I 17 assume these lines have some age on them. They 18 don't any of them have any tracer wires or anything 19 that are part of that? 20 That is correct. That's one of the Α. 21 difficulties in this system. There's no way to 22 locate the lines by using metal detection, anything 23 like that. We literally have to dig it up or 24 visibly see where a leak is and try to find it by 25 potholing sometimes, where we just dig down the

```
surface, see if we can find the main.
 1
 2
                  And if you know, do you have an idea
            Q.
 3
     how many, I don't know, would it be measured in
 4
    miles of main and services there are in this
5
     system?
                 Almost 16 miles.
 6
            Α.
7
                  MR. COOPER: That's all the questions
8
     I have. Thank you.
9
                  JUDGE JORDAN: You may step down.
    Next witness.
10
                  MS. MERS: Staff calls Jennifer
11
    Grisham to the stand.
12
13
                  (Witness sworn.)
14
                  JUDGE JORDAN:
     JENNIFER GRISHAM testified as follows:
15
16
     DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MS. MERS:
17
                  Can you please state and spell your
            Ο.
18
     name for the record.
19
                  My name is Jennifer Grisham,
            Α.
20
    G-r-i-s-h-a-m.
21
                  And who are you employed by and in
            0.
22
    what capacity?
23
            A. I am employed by the Commission Staff
24
     as a Utility Regulatory Auditor 2.
25
                  And did you prepare or cause to be
            Q.
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1 prepared testimony that's been marked as the direct 2 testimony Exhibit 102, rebuttal testimony that's been marked as Exhibit 108, and surrebuttal 3 4 testimony marked as Exhibit 111? 5 Α. Yes. 6 Ο. Do you have any corrections to that 7 testimony? 8 Α. Yes, I do. 9 Ο. Okay. 10 The confidential schedule attached to Α. 11 my rebuttal testimony is mislabeled. It is 12 currently labeled as KBP-D1, and should be labeled 13 as JKG-R1. 14 Okay. Did you have any other Q. 15 corrections? 16 Α. No. That's all. 17 With that correction in mind, if I 0. asked you the same questions today, would your 18 19 answers be the same? 20 Α. Yes. 21 Ο. And are those answers true and 22 correct to of the best of your knowledge and 23 belief? 24 Α. Yes. 25 MS. MERS: At this time I'd like to

move to enter Staff Exhibit 102, which is public 1 2 and confidential versions, Staff Exhibit 108, which also has public and confidential versions, and 3 4 Staff Exhibit 111 which has confidential and public 5 versions. 6 JUDGE JORDAN: Objections? 7 MR. SMITH: No objection. MS. MERS: I tender the witness for 8 9 cross. 10 JUDGE JORDAN: I will go ahead and enter those exhibits into the record. 11 12 (STAFF EXHIBITS 102NP, 102C, 108NP, 13 108, 111NP AND 111C WERE RECEIVED INTO EVIDENCE.) 14 JUDGE JORDAN: Cross-examination from Indian Hills? 15 16 MR. COOPER: No, thank you. 17 JUDGE JORDAN: Cross-examination from 18 the Office of the Public Counsel? 19 MR. SMITH: Just a very brief cross. 20 CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. SMITH: 21 In your direct testimony, would you 0. 22 flip to page 3, lines 14 through 20. Are you 23 there? 24 Α. Yes. 25 Do you have a cite for that, like a Q.

1 citation? What's your source for that? 2 I spoke with senior staff regarding Α. 3 the information that they knew prior to Indian 4 Hills purchasing from the previous owner. 5 You say senior staff. Do you mean Q. 6 staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission or 7 who do you mean? 8 Α. Yes. 9 So did you actually look at Ο. Okav. 10 the facts underlying those statements? 11 Α. I'm not sure I understand what you're 12 asking. 13 I guess as I understand it, the Q. 14 entirety of this answer is based on a statements 15 by -- is the witness in this case or who's the 16 witness that you spoke with? 17 I spoke with Kim Bolin, who is an Α. Auditor 5. We were discussing the -- whether or 18 19 not to include the management consultant fees, and 20 in that discussion it was -- I was made aware of 21 the facts stated in line 16 through 20. 22 So you didn't actually do the reading Q. 23 of the discovery that led to that statement? 24 I guess not, no. Α. 25 MR. SMITH: Your Honor, I think I'm

1 going to move to strike that portion of her 2 testimony based on hearsay. 3 JUDGE JORDAN: I asked for objections 4 earlier, and you affirmatively stated no objection, 5 so --6 MR. SMITH: I was unaware of this 7 information, but I understand. 8 JUDGE JORDAN: Well, it's in the 9 record, so that will go to weight of the evidence. MR. SMITH: Fair enough. Thank you. 10 11 BY MR. SMITH: 12 Related to your overall analysis, did Q. 13 you read the contract between Indian Hills and 14 Ms. Stanley? 15 Α. Yes, I did. 16 Q. When did you read that? 17 Α. Prior to writing direct testimony. Ι 18 don't remember a date. 19 Can you point to any specific data Q. 20 requests that you relied on for that? 21 Α. Not off the top of my head, no. 22 MR. SMITH: No further questions. 23 JUDGE JORDAN: All right. That 24 motion strike is denied. Questions from the Bench? 25 COMMISSIONER KENNEY: No.

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1
                  JUDGE JORDAN:
                                 Redirect?
 2
     REDIRECT EXAMINATION BY MS. MERS:
 3
                  Ms. Grisham, are there often in the
            Q.
 4
     beginning of any Staff small water proceeding a
 5
     general list of, I'm not going to call them format,
 6
     but template DRs that go out that request a variety
7
     of things such as contracts that --
 8
            Α.
                  Yes, there are.
 9
                  And you review all of those DR
            Ο.
10
     responses, correct?
11
            Α.
                  Yes.
12
                  And that's usually like the first
            Q.
13
     one, two or three DRs that are sent out in a case?
14
            Α.
                  Generally, yes.
15
                  MS. MERS: All right. I have nothing
16
     further.
17
                  JUDGE JORDAN: You may stand down.
18
    Next witness.
19
                  MR. SMITH: OPC recalls Keri Roth.
20
                  JUDGE JORDAN: And you're still under
21
     oath, so we shall have direct.
22
                  MR. SMITH: OPC tenders Ms. Roth.
23
                  JUDGE JORDAN: Cross-examination from
24
     Staff?
    KERI ROTH testified as follows:
25
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1 DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MS. MERS: 2 Would you agree that knowledge of the Q. 3 Indian Hills distribution system is useful? 4 Α. Yes. 5 Q. And knowledge would be where pipes, 6 mains, connections are located, correct? 7 Α. Yes. 8 And that would help cut down on less Ο. 9 guesswork for making repairs, correct? 10 Α. It depends. 11 Q. So knowledge of where mains 12 connections and pipes, you don't think that that 13 would help repairs and placements be done with less 14 quesswork? 15 I question whether having another Α. 16 outside contractor come in to verify the accuracy 17 of where she has stated lines are and they still have to look, you may just be doubling the cost is 18 19 my understanding. 20 And by outside contractor, are you Ο. 21 referring to Missouri One? 22 Yes. So unless my understanding is Α. 23 incorrect about them, I --24 Q. Okay. So you were here for the 25 testimony of Mr. Josiah Cox?

1 Α. Yes. 2 Where he explained that Missouri One Q. 3 is actually a -- where the utilities report to and 4 not somebody who provides location services? 5 Α. I did hear that. I still have a 6 misunderstanding. I don't think that --7 You have a misunderstanding of what 0. 8 Missouri One does. Okay. Do you believe that 9 efficiently performed repairs and replacements would save ratepayers money and also probably 10 hassle because there's less disruption of service 11 12 and road? 13 Α. I'm sorry. Could you repeat that? 14 Yes, I can. I can break it down into Q. 15 two questions, too, because it's probably a little 16 easier. 17 Α. Sure. 18 Would you agree that efficiently Ο. 19 performed repairs and replacements save ratepayers 20 money? 21 Α. Yes. 22 And it also would save ratepayers or Q. 23 community members hassle because there would be 24 less disruption of service and roads, correct? 25 Α. Possibly, yes.

```
1
            Q.
                  Do you know if there are maps of the
 2
     Indian Hills distribution system?
 3
                  Not that I'm aware of.
            Α.
 4
                  So without maps, would you agree that
            Q.
5
     a primary source would be useful information in the
 6
     location of mains and pipes?
 7
            A. Depends on how accurate the source
 8
     is.
9
                  So if -- okay. But a primary source
            Ο.
10
     would definitely be a former owner of the system,
11
     correct?
12
                  If she was out there looking at the
            Α.
13
     locations as well right along with her maintenance
14
     contract person, yes.
15
                  MS. MERS: I have nothing further.
16
                  JUDGE JORDAN: Cross-examination from
17
     Indian Hills?
18
                  MR. COOPER: No questions, your
19
     Honor.
20
                  JUDGE JORDAN: Ouestions from the
21
     Bench?
22
                  COMMISSIONER KENNEY: No, thank you.
23
                  JUDGE JORDAN:
                                 Redirect?
24
                  MR. SMITH: No redirect.
25
                  JUDGE JORDAN: You may step down.
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1
     That's our last witness as to management and
 2
     consultant fees. The next topic is bank fees, and
 3
    the first witness is for Indian Hills.
 4
                  MR. COOPER: Can we go off the record
5
     just for a moment?
 6
                  JUDGE JORDAN: Let's go off the
7
    record.
8
                  (AN OFF-THE-RECORD DISCUSSION WAS
9
    HELD.)
10
                  JUDGE JORDAN: All right. We're back
11
    on the record.
12
                  MR. COOPER: The company would call
13
    Mr. Macias or recall Mr. Macias to the stand for
14
    the issue of bank fees.
15
                  JUDGE JORDAN: Mr. Macias, you're
16
    still under oath.
17
                  MR. COOPER: We would tender
    Mr. Macias for cross-examination.
18
19
                  JUDGE JORDAN: Cross-examination from
20
     Staff?
21
                  MS. MERS: No questions.
22
                  JUDGE JORDAN: Cross-examination from
    the Office of Public Counsel?
23
24
                  MR. SMITH: Yes. Thank you.
    PHIL MACIAS testified as follows:
25
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1	CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. SMITH:
2	Q. Mr. Macias, I understand from your
3	surrebuttal testimony that Indian Hills' parent is
4	going to do a cost/benefit analysis of the
5	usefulness of Lockbox in a future rate case with a
6	different affiliate; isn't that true?
7	A. That is correct.
8	Q. But that analysis has not been
9	provided in this case; is that true?
10	A. That is true.
11	Q. As a part of this future cost/benefit
12	study, would you also plan to look at other banks
13	and compare cost of other Lockbox services or would
14	it just be the cost of doing it in house versus the
15	cost for this one vendor?
16	A. No. The appropriate way to treat
17	that would be look at other banks as well.
18	Q. Do you know, is that in the
19	stipulation, the second stipulation?
20	A. I'm not sure. I do not know.
21	Q. Are you aware that the Glarner family
22	has a financial interest in your company and its
23	parent?
24	A. I'm aware.
25	Q. And are you aware there was a

1 Mr. Glarner who works at Enterprise Bank by the 2 name of Brian Glarner who's the vice president and 3 relationship manager? I'm aware of Mr. Glarner. 4 Α. 5 Do you know how Mr. Cox met David and Q. 6 Robert Glarner? 7 No, I do not. Α. 8 MR. SMITH: No further questions. 9 JUDGE JORDAN: Ouestions from the 10 Bench? 11 COMMISSIONER KENNEY: No. 12 JUDGE JORDAN: Redirect? REDIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. COOPER: 13 14 Mr. Macias, what we're talking about Q. 15 when we describe bank fees or at least in terms of 16 what's being proposed to be in the revenue 17 requirement, the \$4,932, what do those really provide for the company? 18 19 Α. Part of that is the bank fees are 20 actually the Lockbox service or the majority of 21 that is Lockbox service. What that is, it's the 22 cash receipts for customers who actually mail in 23 checks, the old fashioned paper checks. And so 24 kind of what's one of the traditional ways to be 25 able to account for that, particularly in an

1	operation that has a large number of small dollar
2	checks is, for lack of a better phrase, you sort of
3	farm that out.
4	For accounting standards for GAAP,
5	it's and for the auditors, one of the internal
6	control standards that they look very favorably on
7	is, as an internal control measure, to keep cash
8	out of the company. That's always a good thing.
9	And you turn that back over to a reputable
10	institution. In other words, you turn that back
11	over to the bank where they actually receive it,
12	turn it, put it back into the accounts. We don't
13	have to touch it, but we have reporting and control
14	over it.
15	It's a little bit faster. It
16	enhances the cash flow of the operations, which in
17	a small company is something that is incredibly
18	important to us. And in this case there's another
19	advantage because there are multiple companies
20	within the CSWR family, and that it allows us an
21	opportunity, not only cost effectively, but to take
22	that very known cost because the bank divides those
23	up by company and we can apply that cost and only
24	that cost for that service to Indian Hills. So, in
25	effect, it allows us to ensure that there's no

```
1
     extraneous cost that gets passed on to those
 2
     customers. So it becomes very much a one-to-one
 3
     kind of a situation.
 4
                  So we know what that cost is.
                                                  We
 5
     don't have to do that in overhead calculations.
                                                       We
 6
     don't have to guess. We don't have to think we
7
     know. We actually know. And it's affordable, it's
 8
     traditional.
                   It's something that's very common in
9
     the industry, let me clarify that, in accounting,
     and it's something that we take advantage of.
10
11
            Q.
                  And the number that I asked you about
12
     earlier, the 4,932, that's an annual number,
13
     correct?
14
            Α.
                  Correct.
15
                  And in terms of payments, when we're
            Ο.
16
     talking about payments, potentially there could be
17
     up to 715 every month, correct?
18
            Α.
                  Potentially.
19
                  MR. COOPER: That's all the questions
20
     I have.
              Thank you.
21
                  JUDGE JORDAN: You may step down.
22
     Next witness.
23
                  MS. MERS: Staff recalls Ms. Ashley
24
     Sarver.
25
                  JUDGE JORDAN: You're still under
```

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```
1
     oath. Any direct?
 2
                  MS. MERS: No. I just tender the
 3
     witness for cross.
 4
                  JUDGE JORDAN: Cross-examination from
 5
     Indian Hills?
 6
                  MR. COOPER: No, thank you.
 7
                  JUDGE JORDAN: Cross-examination from
8
     Office of the Public Counsel?
9
                  MR. SMITH: Yes.
     ASHLEY SARVER testified as follows:
10
11
     CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. SMITH:
12
                  Ms. Sarver, in your testimony you
            Q.
13
     support OPC's concern; however, you recommend that
14
     a cost/benefit analysis should be conducted in a
15
     future case with a future affiliate. Why not now?
16
     Why not in this case?
17
            Α.
                  Because these costs, the company --
     the bank fees is a reasonable cost for this
18
19
     company.
20
                  I guess if it's a reasonable cost,
            0.
21
     then do you think a cost/benefit study needs to be
22
     done or do you retract that?
23
                  No. It needs to be done. The
            Α.
24
     company needs to look at all their costs, all their
25
     expenses.
```

1 Q. And is that because you have concerns 2 that they might have a lower cost alternative? 3 Α. They could. 4 They could. But to your knowledge, Q. 5 the company has not produced evidence on that sort 6 of cost/benefit analysis, correct? 7 Α. Correct. 8 MR. SMITH: No other questions. 9 JUDGE JORDAN: Ouestions from the 10 Bench? 11 COMMISSIONER KENNEY: No, thank you. 12 JUDGE JORDAN: Redirect? 13 REDIRECT EXAMINATION BY MS. MERS: 14 Ms. Sarver, you recommend doing a Q. 15 cost/benefit analysis in a future case and not in 16 this case, correct? 17 Α. Correct. 18 And that's because the bank fees in Ο. 19 this case were already expended, correct? 20 Yes. Correct. Α. 21 Ο. And the bank fees were needed to 22 perform their customer service duties, take 23 payments, things like that? 24 Α. Yes. 25 MS. MERS: No further questions.

```
1
                  JUDGE JORDAN: You may stand down.
 2
    Next witness.
 3
                  MR. SMITH: OPC recalls Ms. Keri
 4
    Roth.
5
                  JUDGE JORDAN: You're still under
 6
    oath. Any direct?
7
                  MR. SMITH: Just that we tender this
8
    witness for cross.
9
                  JUDGE JORDAN: Very good.
    Cross-examination from Staff?
10
11
                  MS. MERS: No questions. Thank you.
12
                  JUDGE JORDAN: Cross-examination from
13
    Indian Hills?
14
                 MR. COOPER: Just one moment, your
15
    Honor.
16
    KERI ROTH testified as follows:
17
    CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. COOPER:
18
            Ο.
                 Ms. Roth, is it your argument that
19
    the Lockbox fees are excessive or that they just
20
     should not be incurred?
21
            A. It's a concern that they're
22
    excessive.
23
                  So I take it from that you don't know
            Q.
24
    what other banks charge for these services, do you?
25
            A. No, I don't.
```

```
1
            Q.
                  And in terms of whether they should
 2
     be incurred or not, would you agree with me that
     it's common for Missouri public utilities to use
 3
 4
     lockbox services?
 5
            Α.
                  For a small utility, not that I'm
 6
     aware of.
7
                  Are you aware of utilities that do
            Ο.
8
     use lockbox services, though?
9
                  I would suspect that large utilities
            Α.
    might, but I'm not --
10
11
            Q.
                  You just don't know one way or the
12
     other?
13
            Α.
                 I don't know for sure.
14
                  Is that the case as to small
            Q.
15
     utilities as well, you're just not sure which
16
     utilities may be or may not be using lockbox
17
     services?
18
            Α.
                  I have not -- on the cases that I
19
     have worked, I have not seen it on other small
20
     utilities, but I can't state for all of them, no.
21
                  MR. COOPER: That's all the questions
22
     I have.
23
                  JUDGE JORDAN: Ouestions from the
24
    Bench?
25
                  COMMISSIONER KENNEY: No questions.
```

1 Thank you. 2 JUDGE JORDAN: Redirect? 3 MR. SMITH: Yes. 4 REDIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. SMITH: 5 Ms. Roth, how many years have you Q. 6 worked at the Office of the Public Counsel? 7 A little over five years. Α. 8 And you've seen about how many small Ο. 9 utility cases? 10 Ouite a few. Α. 11 Q. And you've never seen this sort of 12 lockbox fee imaging bank analysis service done by 13 any other small utility that is not an affiliate? 14 Α. Not that I can recall, no. 15 No other questions. MR. SMITH: 16 JUDGE JORDAN: You may stand down. 17 That's our last witness on bank fees. Let's take a break for lunch. I have 12:02. Let's resume at 18 19 1:02 p.m. 20 (A BREAK WAS TAKEN.) 21 JUDGE JORDAN: We're back on the 22 record. Before we resume the taking of testimony, 23 the parties have a couple of clarifications they 24 wish to make as to exhibits. Let's start with 25 Indian Hills and its matter of confidentiality.

1 MR. COOPER: We had stated off the 2 record, your Honor, that the hourly rates for our 3 two consultants, Mr. Thaman and Mr. D'Ascendis, are 4 not considered confidential. 5 JUDGE JORDAN: Okay. And the Office 6 of the Public Counsel also has something with 7 regard to its exhibits list. 8 MR. SMITH: Yes. The Office of the 9 Public Counsel originally submitted to the parties an exhibit list recognizing Exhibit Nos. 200 10 11 through 216. Today, in going through the 12 testimony, OPC has noticed that the direct 13 testimony for Mr. John Robinett has both a 14 confidential and a public version, and we had excluded that confidential version. We'd like to 15 16 include it once he is offered as Exhibit 217. 17 JUDGE JORDAN: Thank you. Anything else before we begin taking testimony again? Not 18 19 seeing anything. 20 The next topic on our list is rate case expense, and we will begin with the witness of 21 22 Indian Hills. 23 MR. COOPER: Yes. We'd call Mr. Cox. 24 JUDGE JORDAN: Mr. Cox, you're 25 already under oath, so we'll start with direct.

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1 MR. COOPER: And we will tender 2 Mr. Cox for cross-examination. 3 JUDGE JORDAN: Cross-examination from 4 Staff? 5 MS. MERS: No questions. 6 JUDGE JORDAN: Cross-examination from 7 the Office of the Public Counsel? 8 MR. SMITH: Yes, thank you. 9 JOSIAH COX testified as follows: 10 CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. SMITH: 11 Q. What was this before and after video 12 that the company paid for? Can you describe that? 13 That was a mistake actually. Α. That 14 invoice should not have been submitted as part of 15 rate case expense. In the last two submissions of 16 expenses that we put out, we removed that invoice. 17 Ο. Okay. So is that reflected in your testimony anywhere? 18 19 MR. COOPER: I don't think it -- I'm 20 sorry. I don't think it came up until surrebuttal, 21 but, yes, the company is -- it's kind of a nonissue 22 for the company. The company's never claimed that 23 as a part of rate case expense and is not claiming 24 that as a part of rate case expense. 25 BY MR. SMITH:

```
1
            Q.
                  Are you at liberty to disclose how
 2
     much that was?
 3
                 How much what was?
            Α.
 4
            Q. The fee for that video.
                  I don't remember what the fee for the
 5
            Α.
 6
     video was.
 7
                  Do you have a ballpark?
            0.
 8
            Α.
                  I'm sorry. I don't remember the fee
 9
     for the video.
10
            Q.
                  So you are not requesting recovery of
11
     that cost item?
12
                  We are not requesting recovery of
            Α.
13
     that cost item.
14
                         Thank you.
            Q.
                  Okay.
15
                  For expert witnesses, does the
16
     company intend on -- through their testimony, it
17
     was a little unclear to me at least. Were they
18
     recommending a three-year recovery period or a
19
     five-year recovery period?
20
                  We originally were going for a
            Α.
21
     three-year recovery period, but I think the
22
     stipulation now we've agreed to is a five-year.
23
                  So that has also changed?
            Q.
24
                  Yes, sir.
            Α.
25
                  And where would I find -- is that in
            Q.
```

1 the EMS run is how I should figure that out? 2 Correct, that would be in the EMS Α. 3 run. 4 In the stipulation or in testimony, Q. 5 does the company recognize any sharing of expert 6 fees as between the company shareholders and its 7 ratepayers, any reduction to the expert witness 8 fees? 9 I believe now the EMS run associated Α. with the stipulation does have a share as a part of 10 11 it. 12 And to the best of your knowledge, Q. 13 what is that share? 14 Α. I believe for the two consultants it 15 is a 50/50 share over a five-year amortization, I 16 think. 17 Ο. Okay. 18 I have to go through those numbers Α. 19 specifically, but I believe that is the case. 20 That sounds substantially similar to Ο. 21 what Staff had in their, I think it was surrebuttal 22 testimony. So that -- that sounds right to me. 23 What about the attorneys fees and 24 notice, what do you -- what is the company 25 proposing, either through the stipulation or

1 through its testimony or both, as to how to 2 allocate those fees? 3 Α. Again, I would have to dive into the 4 numbers there, but I believe the attorneys fees are 5 advised -- are captured in whole and amortized over 6 five years. 7 MR. SMITH: I'm going to have a new exhibit, actually two exhibits, which I'll label 8 9 219 and 220. May I approach? 10 JUDGE JORDAN: You may. MR. SMITH: I note for the record 11 12 that, per the earlier agreement, Exhibit 219 is a 13 confidential document with the exception of the 14 hourly rate. 220 is similar. (OPC EXHIBITS 219C AND 220C WERE 15 16 MARKED FOR IDENTIFICATION BY THE REPORTER.) 17 BY MR. SMITH: 18 Ο. Mr. Cox, do you recognize these 19 items? 20 I do. Α. 21 And is that your name as the person Q. 22 whom this is addressed for both documents? 23 JUDGE JORDAN: For clarification, are 24 we talking about the Exhibit No. 219 or the Exhibit 25 No. 220?

1 MR. SMITH: Let's start with 219. 2 THE WITNESS: Can you tell me which 3 one is 219? 4 BY MR. SMITH: 5 Q. 219 would be the one dated 6 September 20th, 2017. And is that your name there? 7 That is correct, that is my name. Α. 8 And what is this document, without Ο. 9 disclosing any of the confidential subject matter of the document? 10 11 Α. This is the consulting agreement with ScottMadden for services related to this rate case. 12 13 Q. Does this appear to be a true and 14 correct copy of that document? 15 It does appear to be. Α. 16 MR. SMITH: At this time I would 17 offer Exhibit 219 into the record. 18 JUDGE JORDAN: Objections? 19 (No response.) 20 JUDGE JORDAN: Not hearing any, 21 Office of the Public Counsel Exhibit 219 is entered 22 into evidence. 23 (OPC EXHIBIT 219 WAS RECEIVED INTO 24 EVIDENCE.) 25 BY MR. SMITH:

```
1
            Q.
                  Turning to the second item, the
 2
     letter dated September 14, 2017, do you see that?
 3
                  I do.
            Α.
 4
                  And to whom is that addressed?
            Q.
 5
            A. That is addressed to me.
 6
                  And do you recognize this document?
            0.
 7
                 I do.
            Α.
 8
                  And without disclosing the
            Q.
9
     confidential nature of the document, can you
     describe what this represents?
10
11
            Α.
                  This is the consulting agreement for
12
     rate case services with Warson Capital Partners.
13
                  Does this appear to be a true and
            Q.
14
     correct copy of that?
15
                  It does appear to be a true and
            Α.
16
     correct copy.
17
                  MR. SMITH: I would offer Exhibit 220
     into evidence.
18
19
                  JUDGE JORDAN: Objections?
20
                  (No response.)
21
                  JUDGE JORDAN: Not hearing any, OPC
22
     Exhibit 220 is entered into the record.
23
                  (OPC EXHIBIT 220 WAS RECEIVED INTO
24
    EVIDENCE.)
25
    BY MR. SMITH:
```

1	Q. Now, I entered those. I understand
2	that there has been a change based on the
3	stipulation. What is the rate for which
4	Mr. D'Ascendis charges as reflected in that
5	document?
6	A. He is reflected at the director level
7	at \$295 per hour.
8	Q. Okay. And Mr. Thaman, what are or
9	Mr. Thaman, Senior, what is the rate according to
10	that document?
11	A. The rate is \$650 per hour.
12	MR. SMITH: Judge, what I'd like to
13	do, I have another exhibit related to rate case
14	expense, but it's a data request that was responded
15	to as a part of multiple data requests. I think
16	I'd like to hold off on offering it but lay the
17	foundation for that exhibit for later admission in
18	the case, if that's acceptable.
19	JUDGE JORDAN: Go ahead.
20	MR. SMITH: This will be a new
21	exhibit, OPC Exhibit 221. May I approach?
22	JUDGE JORDAN: You may.
23	(OPC EXHIBIT 221 WAS MARKED FOR
24	IDENTIFICATION BY THE REPORTER.)
25	BY MR. SMITH:

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1 Q. Okay. Do you recognize this exhibit? 2 Α. I do. And what is this exhibit? 3 Q. 4 Α. I believe these are answers to OPC 5 DRs. 6 And for DR 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, Ο. 7 for those items, are you the author of that data 8 request? 9 Can you repeat the numbers one more Α. time so I can look at them? 10 11 Q. Yeah. 44 through 49. 12 Α. Yes, I'm the author of those data 13 requests. 14 You can take some time. The data Q. 15 requests I think are not more than a page that 16 relate to you. Do these appear to be a true and 17 correct representation of the answers you gave to the Office of the Public Counsel? 18 19 Α. Yes, they do. 20 MR. SMITH: I'll hold off on offering 21 this because, again, there are multiple authors to 22 these data requests. I think that's all I have. 23 JUDGE JORDAN: Ouestions from the 24 Bench? No questions from the Bench. 25 COMMISSIONER KENNEY: No questions.

```
1
                  JUDGE JORDAN: Recross?
                                            Sorry.
 2
     Redirect?
 3
                  MR. COOPER:
                               Just real briefly.
 4
     REDIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. COOPER:
 5
                  Mr. Cox, you were asked some
            Q.
 6
     questions about the rate case expense number that's
7
     built into the nonunanimous stipulation with Staff.
 8
     Do you remember that?
 9
            Α.
                  Yes, sir.
10
            Q.
                  In terms of just the nonunanimous
11
     stipulation with Staff, is it your understanding
12
     that that rate case expense that's included in that
13
     agreement is fixed?
14
            Α.
                  I believe besides possibly the
15
     attorney fees, it is fixed. It may be fixed all
16
     the way.
17
                  MR. COOPER: That's all the questions
18
     I have.
19
                  JUDGE JORDAN: You may step down.
20
     Next witness.
21
                  MS. MERS: Staff recalls Jennifer
22
     Grisham to the stand.
23
                  JUDGE JORDAN: This witness is
24
     already under oath, so we'll go into direct.
25
                  MS. MERS: I have no direct, and I
```

```
tender the witness for cross.
 1
 2
                  JUDGE JORDAN: Cross from Indian
 3
    Hills?
 4
                  MR. COOPER: No questions, your
5
     Honor.
 6
                  JUDGE JORDAN: From Office of the
7
    Public Counsel?
                  MR. SMITH: No questions, your Honor.
 8
 9
                  JUDGE JORDAN: Ouestions from the
    Bench for this witness?
10
11
                  COMMISSIONER KENNEY: Just one.
12
     Thank you, your Honor.
13
     JENNIFER GRISHAM testified as follows:
14
     QUESTIONS BY COMMISSIONER KENNEY:
15
                  Ms. Grisham, would you agree with
            Q.
16
    Mr. Cox regarding rate case expense sharing that he
17
     just spoke of, the percentages?
18
            Α.
                 Yes.
19
                  COMMISSIONER KENNEY: Okay. Thank
20
    you.
21
                  JUDGE JORDAN:
                                 Any recross
22
     examination from Indian Hills?
23
                  MR. COOPER: No, your Honor.
24
                  JUDGE JORDAN: From the Office of the
25
    Public Counsel?
```

```
1
                  MR. SMITH: No, your Honor.
 2
                  JUDGE JORDAN: Any redirect from
 3
     Staff?
 4
                  MS. MERS: No. No, thank you.
                  JUDGE JORDAN: Then you may step
 5
 6
     down. Next witness.
7
                  MR. SMITH: OPC calls Ms. Keri Roth.
 8
                  JUDGE JORDAN: And this witness is
9
     also under oath already, so we'll go into direct.
10
                  MR. SMITH: OPC would tender Ms. Keri
    Roth for cross.
11
                  JUDGE JORDAN: Cross-examination from
12
13
     Staff?
14
                  MS. MERS: No, thank you.
15
                  JUDGE JORDAN: Cross-examination from
16
     Indian Hills?
17
    KERI ROTH testified as follows:
18
    CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. COOPER:
19
                  In your surrebuttal testimony, you
            Q.
20
     talk about a three-year normalization for attorneys
21
     fees and a five-year amortization for consulting
22
     fees.
            Is that -- first off, is there a difference
23
    between the two?
24
                 Between the amortization and the
            Α.
25
    normalization?
```

1 Q. Yes. 2 The amortization, in my opinion, Α. 3 would basically guarantee the recovery at the level 4 that we recommended of the hourly rate; whereas, 5 the normalization just kind of continues through year to year to be reset in the next case. If they 6 7 come back in two years, it may not be fully 8 collected. 9 So the distinction there is Ο. 10 intentional anyway, right? 11 Α. Yes. 12 MR. COOPER: That's all the questions 13 I have. 14 JUDGE JORDAN: Any questions from the Bench for this witness? 15 16 COMMISSIONER KENNEY: No, thank you. 17 JUDGE JORDAN: No questions from the Bench. Any redirect? 18 19 MR. SMITH: No redirect. 20 JUDGE JORDAN: Very well. You may 21 step down. 22 That's the last witness on rate case 23 expense. Our next topic is the treatment of leak 24 repair expense. First witness is from Indian 25 Hills.

MR. COOPER: We will recall Mr. Phil 1 2 Macias. 3 JUDGE JORDAN: And this witness is 4 also under oath already, so we will go straight 5 into any direct. 6 MR. COOPER: We would offer 7 Mr. Macias for cross-examination. 8 JUDGE JORDAN: Cross-examination from 9 Staff? MS. MERS: No questions. Thank you. 10 JUDGE JORDAN: Cross-Examination from 11 12 the Office of the Public Counsel? 13 MR. SMITH: Yes. We'd like to, I 14 quess, do a similar approach with respect to laying 15 the foundation for an exhibit, data request, and 16 offering it later. So I have a new exhibit. I 17 think that's 222. 18 JUDGE JORDAN: Yes. 19 (OPC EXHIBIT 222 WAS MARKED FOR 20 IDENTIFICATION BY THE REPORTER.) 21 PHIL MACIAS testified as follows: 22 CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. SMITH: 23 If you would turn to Data Request 9 Q. 24 and 25. 25 A. And you said 25?

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1 Q. Yes. It should be page 8. Thank you. All right. 2 Α. 3 Are you the author of those data Q. 4 requests? 5 Α. Yes. 6 Yes for DR? Ο. 7 Oh, so for No. 9, yes, and -- it's Α. 8 been a while. 9 Perhaps it would help, I got an Ο. 10 e-mail from your counsel. 11 Α. Yeah. My answer to No. 25 would be 12 yes as well. 13 And you said it had been a while ago. Q. 14 Have you -- have you reviewed these prior to 15 preparing for your testimony today? 16 Α. Yes. We reviewed a number of them. 17 I've been through quite a few. 18 Ο. Do the answers provided in this 19 document, to the best of your knowledge, appear to 20 be a true and correct representation of the answers 21 that you provided to the OPC? 22 Α. Yes, they do. 23 MR. SMITH: At this time I'd offer 24 Exhibit 222. Or sorry. I will not offer. I'll retract my offer and hold off offering it now that 25

```
I've laid the foundation.
 1
 2
     BY MR. SMITH:
 3
                  Turning to your testimony,
            Q.
 4
    Mr. Macias, I was looking at your rebuttal, and
 5
     there's a statement about if an update were
 6
     performed, that the company would actually have
7
     $189,300 in repair expense. Is that correct?
 8
            Α.
                  I do recall that in my testimony,
9
     yes.
10
                  But the company was only actually
            Q.
11
     seeking 99,303 because, in the company's opinion,
12
     that was the amount that was within the test year;
13
     isn't that correct?
14
            Α.
                  That was the amount that was part of
15
     the first Stipulation & Agreement.
16
            Q.
                  Okay. Was there a factual basis
17
    behind that number or is it a settlement
18
    negotiation?
19
            Α.
                  I'm not aware of a factual basis for
20
     that number.
21
                  Okay.
                         So the $99,303 in your
            Q.
22
     testimony doesn't have a factual basis, from the
23
     company's perspective at least?
24
            Α.
                  It's not that it doesn't have a
25
     factual basis. I'm simply not the originator of
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that number. 1 2 Who is the originator? Is that Q. 3 Mr. Thomas? I do not know. 4 Α. 5 Q. All right. Now, I understand there's 6 been an agreement, a second agreement; is that 7 correct? 8 Α. Yes. 9 There's a two-way tracker with a Ο. 10 \$90,000 base. If we subtract these two numbers, \$189,300 from 99,000, in your opinion, has the 11 12 company already surpassed that \$90,000 base? 13 Α. In what period? 14 The end of the test year to present, Q. 15 to the time at which your testimony was written. 16 Α. Can you run that by -- or restate the 17 question one more time, if you would, please. 18 Well, I guess I'm trying to establish Ο. 19 what this \$90,000 base is in the two-year -- or the two-way tracker. How is that base calculated? 20 21 Α. The 99? 22 Q. No. The \$90,000 base. 23 Again --Α. 24 Q. Are you the right witness to ask this 25 question?

1 Α. I'm not the right --2 Q. Okay. 3 Α. I'm not the author of that number, so 4 I can't begin to --5 I guess you'd agree, though, that the Q. 6 \$99,303 requested compared to \$189,300 requested 7 or, sorry, that you put in your testimony would --8 the difference of those two numbers would equal to 9 over \$90,000? 10 It would. Α. 11 Q. Do you know who the right person 12 would be to ask about the two-way tracker? Is it 13 Mr. Thomas or Mr. Cox or -- I'd like to discuss 14 this since we're talking about treatment of leak 15 repair costs. 16 Α. I would have to have that discussion 17 with either of them. 18 Ο. Okay. So you don't know? 19 Α. I do not know. 20 And it's okay if you don't know. Ο. То 21 your knowledge, is there any customer notice 22 associated with rate increases or decreases 23 relating to this two-way tracker? 24 Α. I do not know. 25 So you wouldn't know when that would Q.

1 be sent out or anything like that? 2 Α. That's correct. I have no knowledge 3 of that. 4 Or if they would be sent out? Q. 5 Α. Correct. 6 MR. SMITH: I have no other 7 questions. 8 JUDGE JORDAN: Questions from the 9 Bench? 10 COMMISSIONER KENNEY: No questions. 11 JUDGE JORDAN: Redirect? 12 MR. COOPER: No, thank you. 13 JUDGE JORDAN: You may step down. 14 Before we get to our witness, Office of the Public 15 Counsel, I don't have a copy of OPC 221 yet. MR. SMITH: I apologize, Judge. 16 17 Judge, I've given you a giant binder clip because it's not stapled together. I apologize. I'm 18 19 sorry. Did you ask for 221 or 222? 20 JUDGE JORDAN: 221. I have 222 21 already. 22 MR. SMITH: I think I gave you 222. 23 JUDGE JORDAN: I think you gave me 24 another 222. 25 MR. SMITH: All right. Let's correct

1 that. 2 JUDGE JORDAN: I'll give you that 3 back. All right. So I now have copies of 221 and 4 222, and neither has been offered into evidence 5 yet. Let's go to the next witness. 6 MR. COOPER: Indian Hills would call 7 Mr. Thomas. 8 JUDGE JORDAN: This witness is 9 already under oath, so we will go to any direct. 10 MR. COOPER: And we would tender him 11 for cross-examination. 12 JUDGE JORDAN: Cross-examination from 13 Staff? 14 TODD THOMAS testified as follows: 15 CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MS. MERS: 16 Q. Mr. Thomas, how familiar are you with 17 PSC practice? 18 Not extremely familiar. I have been Α. 19 with Central States for about a year now, so it's my introduction into PSC. This is my first rate 20 21 case. 22 Hopefully we're not scaring you off. Q. 23 Are you familiar with the USOA at all? 24 Α. I am not. 25 MS. MERS: I have no further

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1 questions then. 2 JUDGE JORDAN: Cross-examination from 3 the Office of the Public Counsel? 4 MR. SMITH: Yes. 5 CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. SMITH: 6 Ο. Mr. Thomas, are you the correct 7 person to talk to about this two-way tracker? 8 Α. I am not. 9 So there's no one under Indian Hills, Ο. 10 no company witness that is here today to be crossed 11 on this two-way tracker? I'm not saying that. I'm just saying 12 Α. 13 I'm not the right person. 14 Okay. Let's talk, I quess, about Q. 15 what was in your testimony and things you can 16 answer. One thing that I brought up in my 17 opening -- were you here during that time? I think 18 you were. 19 A. Yes, I was. 20 You're aware about these customer Ο. 21 complaints and the road damage that the leak 22 repair/replacement has caused, are you not? 23 I am. Α. 24 Q. What have you done to try to remedy 25 that problem?

1 Α. A couple different things, but first 2 I must say that the roads, because of the number of 3 leaks over the years, are in very poor condition to 4 begin with. So it's a very subjective discussion 5 when you talk about damage to the roads. 6 Having said that, what we have done, 7 we have an agreed-to repair practice for the roads 8 where the materials and the processes is 9 consistent. That agreement is with the property owners association. And in addition to that, we 10 11 have focused down to one contractor who's going to 12 do the repairs for speed, but -- and when I talk 13 about the repairs, I'm talking about the repairs to 14 the mains and the service connections or the 15 replacements themselves and the bedding. The 16 actual asphalt repairs themselves we have 17 contracted out with the property owners 18 associations themselves to complete the repairs. 19 I'm sorry. I thought I heard two Q. 20 different things. So do you have a contract or 21 does the property owners association have the 2.2 contract, or is it just for the certain part of the 23 road repair? 24 So I'll clarify. Whenever we talk Α. 25 about a repair, immediately -- or as soon as

1	possible we need to make the repair to the main or
2	the service connection, and as part of that repair
3	you put the bedding material back in, and that's to
4	protect the piping, to make sure that the piping's
5	protected long-term, and to provide the proper
6	subsurface material for a good asphalt repair.
7	That is with that is exclusively with one
8	contractor right now.
9	The asphalt cannot be repaired until
10	some number of weeks later, approximately two weeks
11	is what we have in the agreement with the property
12	owners association, and that is to give time for
13	proper settlement of that bedding material. The
14	asphalt repairs themselves, we have contracted with
15	a separate entity, being the property owners
16	association of Indian Hills.
17	Q. So it's more than a repair practice,
18	then? You do have an agreement with the HOA?
19	A. There's an agreement with, you know,
20	agreed-to language and diagrams.
21	Q. Was that disclosed to Office of the
22	Public Counsel, to your knowledge?
23	A. I don't know.
24	Q. When was that agreement entered into?
25	A. I don't know for sure, but I want to

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1 say end of summer period. 2 There's been discussions about Ο. 3 drilling of wells. Was that part of this 4 agreement? 5 Α. No. 6 Ο. It's true that certain of your 7 customers are drilling their own wells; is that 8 correct? 9 Yes. Α. 10 Q. Has the company had any -- has it 11 made any attempts to stop the drilling of wells by 12 customers? 13 Α. We have not made any attempts. 14 The repair practice that you've Q. 15 entered into with the homeowners association, I 16 guess my concern is, is the quality that was agreed 17 to with the homeowners association, why did you need to have that, I guess, if you already had it 18 19 as your -- part of your business practice to repair 20 the roads? Why was this entered into? 21 Α. We did not need to have that. 22 There's no requirement on our part to have that. 23 The property owners association approached us, and 24 among many things at Indian Hills where they need 25 to make improvements, roads are one of those, and

1 the property owners association has been in a 2 separate exercise trying to get a program, I guess, in place with their residents to do a road 3 4 improvement program. 5 And they asked us to agree to a 6 specified or certain means of -- and then when I 7 talk about the repair, just the bedding material 8 after we make a repair, they asked us to agree to 9 something so they could build internal support 10 among their residents to say, hey, we've agreed to a consistent method that's been looked at and 11 12 approved by engineers, we like this, and they can 13 show that to their residents. 14 Okay. Another thing that came up in Q. 15 my opening, there was a customer comment P201705478 16 by Mr. Matt Joplin in April of this year. I don't 17 know if I missed it or read over it somehow, but he 18 seemed really upset that his meter and maybe some 19 of his neighbors' meter pits did not appear to be To your knowledge, has Mr. Joplin 20 replaced. been -- have you had contact with him or been able 21 22 to investigate that claim? 23 I have not spoken with Mr. Joplin, Α. 24 no. 25 Have you investigated that, anything Q.

similar to this? 1 2 I have not investigated similar to Α. 3 that. No, I have not. 4 I guess would you be willing to Q. 5 investigate something similar to this in the 6 future? 7 Certainly I would. Α. 8 You hadn't -- sorry. I say you, but Ο. 9 Indian Hills Company had meters installed across the community; isn't that correct? 10 11 Α. That is correct. 12 My understanding is the meters were Q. 13 not working before; is that correct? 14 Α. That is my understanding as well. 15 What was the cost for that? Ο. I do not have those numbers. I do 16 Α. 17 not know that. 18 Were the meters a safety decision or Ο. 19 why did those go first? Why couldn't you have 20 phased in that as maybe a later project? 21 Α. That decision preceded my involvement 22 with Indian Hills, so I don't know the answer to 23 that. But I know there was a discussion between 24 company and Staff, and that was a joint decision to do that, but I don't know the details behind it. 25

1	Q. I was reading through Mr. Spratt's
2	testimony. I found another interesting thing. The
3	company replaced a 20,000 gallon storage tank with
4	storage allowing for up to 263,000 gallons of
5	storage. Does that sound right?
6	A. Yes.
7	Q. What is the DNR requirement for
8	storage, to your knowledge? Is it one day worth of
9	storage or what is the requirement?
10	A. There's peak storage, and I and I
11	can't recall the exact amount, the exact time
12	period for the number of people served for the
13	storage, and I don't have it with me right now.
14	Q. Do you know if DNR would require you
15	to have this level of storage if you had a backup
16	well or if that matters?
17	A. So I believe that that 263,000 gallon
18	storage was absolutely necessary based on, you
19	know, what I've heard in the past, and given the
20	backup well, if there's a backup I think
21	Q. It's okay if you don't know.
22	A. I don't know the answer to that.
23	Q. That's fine.
24	A. And I think it actually would also
25	come to a cost/benefit analysis of what's cheaper,

the additional storage or another well. Just based 1 2 on my knowledge, I think drilling an additional 3 well and put another full setting in there is more 4 costly than the additional storage. 5 Do you know if work papers exist Q. 6 related to how the storage capacity was built? 7 You mean how the quantity was? Α. 8 Q. Right. Exactly. 9 I do believe that on our engineering Α. study that was determined, where the engineer was 10 asked to look at the violations, the DNR violations 11 12 and determine what it takes to bring us back into 13 compliance, I believe that's how the number of 14 the -- the quantity of storage was arrived. 15 So that wasn't done based on the rate Ο. 16 design usage numbers that we're using in this case, 17 to your knowledge? 18 Could you ask that question again? Α. 19 Well, I guess I'm wondering if we're Q. using 3,000 gallons of storage for rate design, by 20 21 my calculation that would allow for about three and 22 a half days worth of storage. That seems like an 23 awful lot. 24 So I was not involved with the rate Α. 25 design, so I can't speak to that. But my

1 understanding is the storage level is just 2 determined by using Missouri DNR standards. 3 Okay. About the leak repair costs Q. 4 themselves, as I understand it, the utility 5 increased the pressure on the system to meet the 6 DNR standards, true? 7 That's correct. Α. 8 And didn't that increase in pressure, Ο. 9 that was one of the factors, among others, such as old assets, that caused this increase in leak 10 11 repairs; is that a fair statement? That's fair. That's one of the 12 Α. 13 factors, the pressure. 14 Did the utility, to your knowledge, Q. 15 do any planning in advance of executing its 16 decision to increase the water pressure to mitigate 17 the leak repair that has now taken place? 18 Not to my knowledge, and I don't know Α. 19 that anyone would know that that level of pressure 20 increase would create as many leaks as it did. Ι 21 don't know how you would know that in advance. 22 Do you know who I might ask to find Q. 23 out if the utility had done any planning in 24 advance? 25 Α. No.

1 Q. Did you read Mr. Spratt's testimony? 2 Α. Yes. 3 Now, he's testified that he Q. 4 personally knew of 40 documented leak complaints on 5 the system since 2011 relating to the system. Did 6 the company try to, I guess, interact with Staff about finding -- were they aware that this was a 7 8 leaky system? 9 Α. I believe the company was aware of 10 the many deficiencies of this system. Specifically 11 am I aware of the level of awareness around the leaks? I don't know that. 12 13 Did the company ever approach DNR Q. 14 about creating a schedule of compliance to avoid 15 putting -- raising the pressure on this system all 16 at one time, or do you know if that's possible? 17 Α. I'll answer. To my knowledge, I don't know -- I don't know if anybody approached 18 19 the DNR about that or not. Do I know if it's 20 possible? No. Have I ever heard of it? No. 21 Is there another Staff witness who 0. 22 would know? Or sorry. Not Staff. I'm sorry. 23 Another company witness who would know? 24 Mr. Cox. Α. 25 Mr. Cox might know. Do you have Q.

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1 Ms. Grisham's rebuttal testimony with you by 2 chance? 3 I should. Α. 4 Q. If you would turn to page 5, lines 21 5 through 24. 6 Α. Which page was that? 7 Page 5, lines 21 through 24, I 0. 8 believe. 9 MR. COOPER: Of which? 10 THE WITNESS: Begins a review of? MR. SMITH: Of her rebuttal 11 12 testimony. 13 MR. SMITH: Yeah, it should be review 14 of documentation. 15 THE WITNESS: I have that. 16 MR. SMITH: Okay. Are you there, 17 Mr. Cooper? 18 MR. COOPER: Yes. 19 BY MR. SMITH: 20 Do you generally agree with this Ο. 21 statement: That a review of documentation provided 22 to dates regarding repair invoices show that not 23 all entries in the expense accounts and general 24 ledger are truly repair expense. On some invoices 25 line replacement is classified as and charged to

1	expense when it should be recorded as plant in
2	service. Other items included expenses invoice are
3	not recoverable through rates, including an
4	instance where the contractor agreed to repair a
5	water leak on the customer portion of the line but
6	then billed the company for it.
7	Do you agree with that her
8	statement there?
9	A. I can't speak to that because I
10	haven't been part of any of the accounting.
11	Q. Have you been a part of any of the
12	recordkeeping?
13	A. I've been part of the recordkeeping
14	strictly in terms of documentation of the leaks
15	themselves, quantity.
16	Q. So you're more focused on big picture
17	quantity and not the micro level of whether
18	something's a repair or a replacement on the
19	invoice; is that fair?
20	A. That's correct.
21	Q. Are you actually on site? I'm sorry.
22	A. Let me just clarify something. I am
23	focused more on the operational side of things and
24	also managing the contractors and reviewing their
25	invoice. In terms of how they're classified or

1	booked, I'm not part of that process.
2	Q. In terms of keeping written records,
3	are you in charge of that?
4	A. Could you be more specific?
5	Q. Yes, I can. I'm sorry. Written
6	records, for example, when there's a dispatch to
7	
8	you get a phone call or they say they have a leak,
	they need you to come out. I understand there's a
9	separate service for that, but I guess do you
10	review those records? Are records being created,
11	to your knowledge?
12	A. So that's been an evolution. The
13	evolution really started with contractors either
14	through customer call-ins reporting a leak or
15	contractors themselves identifying a leak. They
16	kept a record of those, and then I would review
17	those upon receiving that documentation from the
18	contractor.
19	That was an imperfect system with a
20	few deficiencies because the contractors made
21	mistakes in terms of certainly the addresses where
22	the leak occurred. So I've become much more
23	involved in that, and recently we brought online a
24	computerized maintenance management system, which
25	is a work order based system, and now any time

1	there is a leak and this is actually online and
2	started about a month ago. Now any time there is a
3	leak, the first thing that happens is an
4	investigative work order is issued where the
5	contractor has to investigate it and determine
6	whether or not there is a leak and what the actual
7	address is, and then based on that, another work
8	order is generated to repair it.
9	As part of that work order process
10	there's before, during and after pictures to
11	further document that. And then when the work
12	order finally gets closed out, now we have a report
13	date of when the leak was reported, a closed date
14	of when the leak was repaired, along with a
15	confirmation of an address. So we've come we're
16	much better now than we were when we started.
17	Q. Approximately, if you can give me a
18	range of dates, when did that recordkeeping system
19	evolve to the level that you're speaking of?
20	A. To the level I just spoke of now, I
21	think our startup was the first week of October of
22	that system. That was the startup and that was not
23	the date it arrived to perfection. That was the
24	startup.
25	Q. Of this year, correct?

1	A. Yes.
2	Q. Do you use two different contractors,
3	one to repair and another one to replace?
4	A. We endeavor to use one contractor,
5	but it just depends. If the frequency of leaks is
6	greater than that one contractor can address, we'll
7	bring in a second contractor, or if there were to
8	be a very large main break that the one contractor
9	can't handle, then we'd bring in a secondary
10	contractor for that as well. So it just depends.
11	Q. And at the beginning when pressure
12	increased on the system, would it be fair to
13	assume, and actually I would like your testimony on
14	this, that the company did have more than one
15	contractor?
16	A. That is correct. There were more
17	than one contractor.
18	Q. And would that overflow work only be
19	for repairs or would that also be for replacement
20	of the secondary contractor?
21	A. I guess as a scenario it could be for
22	replacement, but it would just be overflow. The
23	one contractor we have, we primarily want to use
24	them for everything, both repairs and replacements.
25	Q. When they're out in the field, so to

1	speak, do they have the discretion to make the
2	repair right when they come there or do they have
3	to is there a process by which they have to get
4	your approval? How does that work?
5	A. So particularly, and even more well
6	defined when we kicked off the computerized
7	maintenance management system, that question came
8	up among the contractors, and we said by all means
9	if there's a leak that's interrupting service,
10	proceed with the repair. Do not wait on us to get
11	that done. Just ensure you do the proper
12	documentation to show where it is and when it
13	occurred or when you found it and when it was
14	repaired. We did not want to hold up service for
15	an approval process.
16	Q. And are you saying that's a new
17	practice in October where you gave the contractors
18	full discretion?
19	A. No, I'm not saying it's a new
20	practice at all. I think that's always been the
21	understanding. My point to you is that we just
22	reclarified that as part of bringing on the
23	computerized maintenance management system.
24	Q. So before it wasn't clearly stated as
25	between you and the multiple contractors in which

1 your company was engaged? 2 Α. I can say honestly it was well 3 understood that if you see a leak that's 4 interrupting service, repair it. 5 I think I'd like to approach with Q. 6 respect to -- well, this document isn't offered 7 yet, but it's on Mr. Spratt's schedule of his 8 direct dash D3. I suppose this will be offered 9 later, but I have copies if you'd like. Would you prefer that? 10 Sure. I'll take the color ones. 11 Α. Ι have the black and whites here. 12 13 MR. SMITH: Commissioner, Judge, 14 would you like a copy? JUDGE JORDAN: Yes. This item will 15 16 be marked as Exhibit 223. 17 (OPC EXHIBIT 223 WAS MARKED FOR IDENTIFICATION BY THE REPORTER.) 18 19 BY MR. SMITH: 20 Mr. Thomas, do you recognize this Ο. 21 exhibit? 22 I do. Α. 23 And, in fact, on several of these Q. 24 photos isn't that your handwriting? 25 Α. Yes, it is.

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1 Q. Is it on all the photos? Α. 2 Yes, it is. 3 Now, you did not personally take Q. 4 these photographs; is that correct? 5 Α. That is correct. 6 Ο. However, you have seen a number of --7 did you see these items firsthand, these lines? 8 Α. I did not see them firsthand in the 9 ground during the repair, but I've seen these physically as examples of specimens, yes. 10 11 Q. And do these appear to be a true and 12 correct copy of, I guess, an example of service 13 line for each of these items? 14 Α. These are true representations of 15 some of the types of leaks that are -- that existed at Indian Hills, yes. 16 17 I think you answered my question Ο. 18 better than I asked it. I appreciate that. 19 MR. SMITH: I would offer this into evidence as OPC Exhibit 223. 20 21 JUDGE JORDAN: Objections? 22 (No response.) 23 JUDGE JORDAN: OPC Exhibit 223 is 24 entered into the record. 25 (OPC EXHIBIT 223 WAS RECEIVED INTO

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1
     EVIDENCE.)
 2
     BY MR. SMITH:
 3
                  Now, earlier you had said that these
            Q.
 4
     contractors have full discretion to go ahead and
5
     repair. Your handwriting says that that's typical,
 6
     right, these are typical lines?
7
                  My document's cut off. I can't see
            Α.
 8
     exactly what I wrote on there. Is it prior,
9
     typical? I can't read what that --
10
                  Let me see if we have a better
            Q.
11
     version.
12
                  MS. MERS: Is the same one in
13
     Staff's?
14
                  MR. SMITH: It's the same as
15
     Mr. Spratt's direct testimony, I believe.
                                                 May I
16
     approach?
17
                  JUDGE JORDAN: You may.
18
                  THE WITNESS: Okay. So to -- to
19
     clarify, what I'm saying in that is that is a
20
     typical repair made by the prior owner.
                                              That is
21
     what that is intended to say, because what they did
22
     primarily, and maybe entirely but I'll say
23
     primarily, was to dig it up, put another clamp on
24
     it and bury it again.
25
    BY MR. SMITH:
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Q. I guess my question is, when one of these contractors comes across one of these lines and they have full discretion to proceed with the repair and they don't need to ask for approval, are they just going to put an octuplet clamp on it and bury it?

7 As a matter of fact, when I Α. No. No. 8 originally brought these pictures and showed them 9 as examples, those are examples of the types of 10 prior repairs that are we replacing. So ideally in 11 any situation, any leak situation like this, we 12 will want to replace it, not repair it. And if 13 time allows where we're not -- there's not a 14 backlog of other leaks that are causing service 15 interruption or in some cases where you don't have to bore underneath a road, we will have it replaced 16 17 at that time. That is the understanding that we 18 have with the contractors.

Q. And how is that understanding conveyed? Is there an agreement? Is there training modules that they undergo? How do they know? Because earlier I thought you said it was based on discretion.
A. Well we -- you know, is there -- what

25 we did, we had -- or I had the meeting with the

1	contractors and I conveyed the I conveyed that
2	we primarily want to, when it's appropriate,
3	replace service connections versus repair. And
4	when I say if it's appropriate, certainly in
5	examples like this where there's multiple clamps,
6	it's appropriate if time allows and without
7	interrupting other service. So it was a verbal
8	communication that I had with the contractor,
9	specifically set up, by the way, to communicate
10	our, you know, the repair policy of Indian Hills.
11	Q. I'm crossing off some questions here.
12	Would you agree that not to say there aren't
13	untrustworthy contractors out there and there are
14	trustworthy contractors. I'm sure there's some of
15	both. But would you agree there's a financial
16	incentive to push repairs if you're in the business
17	of making repairs?
18	A. I'm pausing because I don't I just
19	don't think in those terms. I believe that our
20	company and the contractors that we deal with
21	endeavor to do its best for the consumer. If
22	you're saying that there that someone could try
23	to manipulate the system to their benefit by doing
24	more repairs and replacements, I guess you would be
	more repairs and repracements, i guess you would be
25	correct, but that is that's not something I'm

1	familiar with.
2	Q. I'm just wondering if there's nothing
3	in writing, and I guess I'm just wondering the
4	incentives there.
5	A. Well, if I might, you know, I'm very
6	pleased about the computerized maintenance
7	management system that I discuss, and it's good to
8	note that it's not just for Indian Hills. It's
9	cloud based, system-wide. And me and my position
10	with Central States Water Resources with wanting to
11	have the visibility to the things that you just
12	spoke about, I'm extremely pleased about this,
13	particularly with the before, during and after
14	components of pictures and the level of
15	documentation. It makes me feel personally much
16	more in control and comfortable about what was
17	going on in our operations.
18	Q. Can I ask how much that software or
19	program cost?
20	A. Sure. I will do it to the best of my
21	ability. I think it's a fantastic bargain. The
22	full implementation and training was around, I want
23	to say \$13,000, and there's a \$6,000 per year fee.
24	Q. And who is the vendor for that
25	contract?

1	A. It's called E-Mate, and it owned
2	by the parent company is Fluke, which Fluke is
3	kind of a leading tool, like amp meter and
4	electrical component company. They're very well
5	known.
6	Q. Does that fee cover a single license
7	or multiple licenses?
8	A. That's another great thing I really
9	like about this. So there are four licenses
10	currently, but you can have up to 16 users. And
11	you don't and it's not it's not exclusive
12	like they only allow four on at one time. All 16
13	can be on at one time, and at the end of the year,
14	if they look and see that through the course of the
15	year those 16 people, those 16 multiple users used
16	more than four full-time equivalents, then at the
17	end of that year you negotiate adding additional
18	license to that. So I really like that component,
19	too.
20	So all the contractors that we have,
21	they could all be on the system at the same time.
22	And just a little more about it, it actually has a
23	hand it's driven off a handheld smart phone.
24	The operator can use it while they're actually in
25	the field on the site.

1	Q. It sounds like we're in agreement
2	that the lines that are in those pictures would
3	it would be more economical to replace those rather
4	than to repair those multiple times?
5	A. So I believe absolutely it's the
6	right thing to do to replace these lines versus
7	repair them if it's possible at that time, without
8	creating additional service interruptions or
9	depending upon the if the main is actually
10	located on the other side of the road from where
11	this is and depending upon the cost of boring
12	underneath it and getting there, you know, it may
13	not be feasible at that time. But in general,
14	yeah, absolutely we want to replace these and not
15	repair them.
16	Q. So all those caveats to what you just
17	said, I assume that is part of what was verbally
18	conveyed to these contractors?
19	A. I think that the essence of what was
20	conveyed to the contractors is don't wait on us to
21	get somebody back in service. Having said that, if
22	you're going to make a judgment call on a repair
23	versus a replacement and it's one of the outliers
24	like I talked about, we need to have a discussion
25	about that.

1 Q. And this system will include photos 2 you said which will help you audit that? 3 Α. Yes. 4 On a going forward basis, though, not Q. 5 for the leak repairs in this case? 6 Α. Yeah, not for anything prior to 7 October. 8 What's the expected time frame for Ο. 9 which -- I guess how long would you say these repairs last that are being, you know, patched on 10 to the Indians Hills infrastructure? 11 I can't answer that. I don't know. 12 Α. 13 Would you say less than a year? Q. 14 Α. I don't know. I would just think 15 there's many factors. 16 Q. Okay. 17 Α. Too many factors to really speculate. 18 So while I'm searching for exhibits, Ο. 19 can you give us an example of how long it would 20 take to replace a service line rather than to 21 repair one? 22 Α. I'll state it like this: To do a 23 replacement, and I'll try to choose the word 24 typical or normal would be three to four times the 25 amount of time to do a service repair. So it could

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1
     definitely take more than a day or as much as two
 2
     to do a replacement versus a repair.
 3
                  MR. SMITH: I have another exhibit,
 4
     which I'll mark as 224.
 5
                   (OPC EXHIBIT 224 WAS MARKED FOR
 6
     IDENTIFICATION BY THE REPORTER.)
 7
     BY MR. SMITH:
 8
                  I'm not sure you're the author of
            Ο.
 9
     these, but it relates specifically to a discussion
     we just had. In particular I'm looking at -- well,
10
11
     I guess before I do that, let me ask you, do you
12
     recognize these data requests?
13
            Α.
                  I do recognize them.
14
                  Did you author any of these data
            Q.
15
     requests?
16
            Α.
                  So 30 I did not.
17
                  30 you did not? I'm sorry. Yeah.
            0.
     Did you author the responses to the data requests,
18
19
     not the actual data requests themselves, if that
20
     clarifies it?
21
            Α.
                  Yes.
22
                  So 30, you did author the response?
            Q.
23
                  Yes.
            Α.
24
            Q.
                  Okay. 31, you did author --
25
            Α.
                  Yes.
```

1 Q. -- response? 2 MR. SMITH: I think 32 and 34 are 3 Mr. Macias and Mr. Cox. I've stapled these two 4 together, but I think since they're separate documents I'd like to just offer the first page of 5 6 this document, 30 and 31, OPC data requests, at 7 this time. 8 JUDGE JORDAN: Do you want us to hold 9 on to that second page? Are you planning to use that later? 10 11 MR. SMITH: I don't think I am, no. 12 You can shred it or -- I don't think there's any 13 confidential information for which you have to be 14 sensitive with how you dispose of it, but I quess I 15 defer to the company. 16 MR. COOPER: I think the only thing 17 about the second page is that the picture is a part of the answer on 31. I think that's how they 18 19 connect. 20 That is a good point. MR. SMITH: 21 JUDGE JORDAN: So you'll be offering 22 what's marked as Exhibit 224, other than the Data 23 Request No. 34; is that correct? And 32, which are 24 on the second page but the picture goes with the 25 response to 31; is that correct?

1 MR. SMITH: If it's not opposed by 2 the parties, I'd like to do that. 3 MR. COOPER: That works for me. 4 JUDGE JORDAN: Okay. Not hearing any 5 objection to Exhibit No. 224 of the Office of the 6 Public Counsel, that will be entered into the 7 record. 8 (OPC EXHIBIT NO. 224 WAS RECEIVED 9 INTO EVIDENCE.) BY MR. SMITH: 10 11 Q. Okay. On DR 31, would you please go 12 to that. 13 Α. Yes. 14 So earlier you said you couldn't say Q. 15 with certainty whether leak repairs would provide a 16 benefit in excess of a year, couldn't say for sure? 17 I did say that, because of the number Α. of variables. There's just so many. What was the 18 condition the material, the pressure that's being 19 20 seen at that one particular location. There's just 21 a number of many variables. 22 Do you have Mr. Spratt's testimony, Q. 23 his exhibit on repair logs? 24 Α. I do. 25 Would you please flip to that. Q.

1 Α. I'm here. 2 Would you go to item 167 and take a Q. 3 look at that. 4 Α. I see it. 5 Okay. Would you agree that this is a Q. 6 dispatch log recording repairs and replacements or 7 both? 8 Α. Yeah. 9 Better question, what is this? Ο. 10 So the source of this is from our Α. 11 operations maintenance contractor, and this is the 12 list of the addresses. And so yes, what he -- what 13 is recorded on the right-hand side are the comments that were received from the customer when they 14 15 called in the leak. 16 Ο. And that says leak repair fifth time; 17 isn't that true? 18 Α. That's what it says, yes. 19 So there's a concern about these leak Ο. 20 repairs, I think you're understanding, and you 21 don't have any testimony on the two-way tracker; is 22 that correct? 23 That's correct. Α. 24 I'd also like to --Q. 25 Mr. Cox probably is the best person Α.

1	from our company to talk about the two-way tracker.
2	Q. Thank you. I had previously marked
3	Exhibit 221 and was holding that. I believe you're
4	the witness who is appropriate to ask additional
5	data requests of to authenticate those data
6	requests. It's been a little bit of a challenge to
7	try to separate these out, so I apologize.
8	Let me present you with what it is
9	that I'm looking at. I believe it's already been
10	passed out. So this is Exhibit 221. Do you
11	recognize this?
12	A. I do.
13	Q. And what is it?
14	A. These are OPC DRs, along with
15	responses.
16	Q. Okay. And who's the author of those
17	responses for DR 50 through 55?
18	A. I am the author of the response for
19	50. I am the author for the response of 51. I am
20	the author of response for 52. I'm also the author
21	of response for 53. I do not believe I am the
22	author of response for 54. That is not me.
23	MR. SMITH: Okay. May I have a
24	moment with counsel off the record?
25	JUDGE JORDAN: Yes. Let's take a

1 moment to go off the record. We'll take a break 2 and resume in five minutes. 3 (A BREAK WAS TAKEN.) 4 JUDGE JORDAN: And we're back on the 5 record with the Office of Public Counsel 6 cross-examining Mr. Todd Thomas. BY MR. SMITH: 7 8 When we were off the record, we had Ο. 9 discussed Exhibit 221. Subject to an agreement 10 between OPC, Staff and the company, OPC would like 11 to offer Exhibit 221 up to DR -- I guess everything 12 except Data Request 56 and 57 of Exhibit 221. 13 JUDGE JORDAN: Any objections? 14 (No response.) 15 JUDGE JORDAN: Hearing no objections, then OPC's Exhibit 221, other than responses to 16 17 Data Requests No. 56 and 57, will be entered into 18 the record. 19 (OPC EXHIBIT 221 WAS RECEIVED INTO 20 EVIDENCE.) 21 BY MR. SMITH: 22 Mr. Thomas, earlier we were Q. 23 discussing that one customer who reported to your 24 contractor that this was their fifth leak repair. 25 DR 50 provides a little more detail in terms of the

1 company's responses as to why multiple addresses 2 appear multiple times. 3 As I interpret this data request, is 4 it fair to say that the company's response is that 5 initially when they acquired this system, the 6 recordkeeping policies weren't perhaps quite as good as they should have been and there were -- is 7 8 that a fair rationale for this, or how would you 9 put it? I think -- I think that's fair. 10 Α. Τ 11 think it's also fair to say since July I've become 12 a lot more involved with the accuracy of those 13 records, you know, by reviewing the contractor's 14 information and then, as we stated, now in October 15 with the computerized maintenance management system 16 will be even better. 17 I should also say that really preparing for this, I sat down with the contractor 18 19 and look at the contractor records, and I'm 20 confident that the quantity of leaks is accurate. 21 It's just the addresses, the locations of the leaks 22 that are not accurate. 23 I thought earlier in your testimony Ο. 24 you said that you had a macro perspective and 25 didn't actually look at the micro level invoices.

1	A. I did preparing for this, yes.
2	Q. I guess if so now your testimony
3	is that you have reviewed those invoices?
4	A. I must have misunderstood what you
5	said, but what I'm telling you is I went back and
6	looked with the contractor at the records and I'm
7	confident of the quantity of the leaks.
8	Q. I thought earlier you had said that
9	that was a question for someone else, the
10	accounting questions.
11	A. I do not code and enter invoices into
12	our system.
13	Q. I guess now that I know that that's
14	your answer, I guess turning back to that question,
15	do you agree with Staff witness Ms. Grisham's
16	rebuttal testimony at page 5, lines 21 through 24,
17	talking about the repair expenses and replacement
18	expenses and how those were misclassified? Do you
19	want to turn to the testimony again?
20	A. Yeah. This is her direct testimony?
21	Q. This is her rebuttal testimony. I
22	thought when I asked that you said that you hadn't
23	reviewed those invoices.
24	All right. So this is page 5,
25	lines 21 through 24, Ms. Grisham's rebuttal

1 testimony. 2 Α. So while I'm looking for this, 3 restate your question. 4 Do you agree with lines 21 through Q. 24? 5 6 Α. I have to start from the beginning 7 here on my rebuttal. I had it previously. It's in 8 here. I'm taking some time. Do you want to just 9 provide me with a copy of it? 10 Q. Yeah, I can do that. 11 Α. I found it. I'm sorry. 12 You beat me to it. Q. 13 Okay. Page 5. Α. 14 If you would be so kind as to Q. Okay. 15 go to lines 21 through 24, and my question is, do 16 you agree with Staff witness Ms. Grisham given that 17 you have reviewed the invoices? 18 Α. My response I quess is very similar. 19 When I reviewed the invoices, I'm not the one that 20 entered them into the accounting system, so I don't 21 know whether or not things need to be reclassified 22 or not. That is all that I'm saying. 23 Well, if you don't know how they Ο. 24 should or should not be classified, then how do you know the total number is correct? 25

1	A. I know the total number's I know
2	the total number's correct by going through the
3	different invoices with the contractor saying, yes,
4	this was a leak, yes, this was a leak, yes, this
5	was a leak, no, this address is not correct but
6	there was work done here to repair a leak. That's
7	what I know.
8	Q. Okay. I think we'll move on from
9	that. Have you read the second stipulation?
10	A. I have not, no.
11	Q. Have you read the first stipulation?
12	A. No.
13	Q. Really? Okay. Didn't expect that.
14	Based on water talk or water cooler talk around
15	your office, are you aware that there's supposed to
16	be this five-year plan to replace much of the
17	infrastructure as prudent and necessary?
18	A. I'm aware that we're going to, which
19	is totally prudent, do a study, a replacement study
20	to go and determine how we're going to go through
21	and replace certain sections of main and service
22	lines. That has not been completed yet.
23	Q. To your knowledge?
24	A. We'll utilize our engineer to help us
25	with that.

1 Q. In addition to this study, to your 2 knowledge -- to your knowledge, is there any sort of five-year plan to replace much of the 3 4 infrastructure? Currently there's not a plan in 5 Α. 6 place. 7 To your knowledge or --0. 8 Α. Currently there is not a set plan in 9 place in terms of how to go about and strategically replace specific sections in order to do that, and 10 11 there's certainly -- there's just not enough 12 information to do that right now. 13 Let me be more careful with how I ask Q. 14 my question. Are you aware of an agreement to 15 create a five-year plan to replace much of the 16 infrastructure such as those pictures that we 17 discussed earlier? And you're referring to the agreement 18 Α. 19 in the most recent stipulation? 20 Are you aware of any agreement? Ο. 21 Α. I know that in the most recent 22 Stipulation & Agreement there is a -- we are going 23 to create a replacement plan for mains and service 24 connections, yes. 25 Okay. So would it be fair to say the Q.

1 company didn't consult with you before agreeing to 2 a five-year plan in the first stipulation? 3 Α. No, that's not fair to say. We 4 all -- we all talk about these things, and I can 5 say regardless of a Stipulation & Agreement, that's 6 absolutely the most prudent thing to do is create a 7 replacement plan, and that was going to happen 8 anyway. 9 But you don't know if that Ο. 10 replacement plan has a length? 11 Α. I don't know the length. 12 MR. SMITH: All right. No further 13 questions. 14 JUDGE JORDAN: Questions from the Bench for this witness? 15 16 COMMISSIONER KENNEY: No questions. 17 Thank you. 18 JUDGE JORDAN: Redirect? 19 MR. COOPER: Yes, your Honor. 20 REDIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. COOPER: 21 You were asked questions previously Ο. 22 about meters and meter pits. How many meters 23 were -- not a number, but were all the meters 24 replaced? 25 A. Yes, all the metes were replaced.

1 Q. Is that true of the pits as well? 2 Α. No, it is not. 3 Fairly substantial difference in the Q. 4 two numbers? Yes, quite a bit. 5 Α. 6 Ο. You were asked some questions about 7 the design of the system. Did you design the 8 system yourself? 9 Α. No, I did not design the system myself. We used a professional engineer to do the 10 11 design. 12 And dos that professorial engineer Q. 13 design the system to DNR standards? 14 The professional engineer designs to Α. 15 meet the minimum DNR standards to comply with all 16 the DNR regulations. 17 Is there a permitting process that Ο. goes along with that? 18 19 Α. Absolutely. 20 You were shown some pictures, in Ο. 21 particular one that has a number of metal clamps on 22 the line. Do you remember that? 23 I do. Α. 24 And those were referred to as Q. 25 repairs, I think, correct?

1 Α. Yes. 2 Are those repairs that would have Q. 3 been made under Indian Hills? 4 Α. No. We do not conduct or our 5 contractors do not conduct repairs like that. In 6 a -- in the case of a repair that we would make, we 7 would cut out the section and use more of a saddle 8 clamp. We would never use those twist-on clamps 9 that you see in the pictures. 10 Ο. So even when you're talking about 11 repair, you're actually cutting out a section of 12 the line and replacing that section of the line? 13 Α. That's correct. Even if it's small, 14 a number of inches, you're cutting out that 15 section. 16 Ο. And when you talk about a 17 replacement, then, is it a larger section than what 18 we just discussed? 19 Α. When I talk about a replacement, I'm 20 talking about all the way from the main to the 21 meter, that full replacement. 22 And that's part of the reason that Q. 23 you said it would take substantially more time to 24 do a replacement than a repair? 25 That is correct. Α.

1 0. You talked about software, some work 2 order software and a cost for that. Is that software that will only be used by Indian Hills or 3 4 will it be used by all the First Round 5 subsidiaries? 6 It's used by all First Round Α. 7 subsidiaries. And I might add, the costs that I spoke about, those -- that's not just for Indian 8 9 Hills. That's for all the subsidiaries as well. 10 So that's a total that would 0. 11 presumably be allocated in some portion to the 12 subs? 13 Α. That's correct. 14 MR. COOPER: That's all the questions 15 I have. 16 JUDGE JORDAN: You may step down. 17 Next witness. MS. MERS: Staff calls David Spratt 18 19 to the stand. 20 (Witness sworn.) 21 JUDGE JORDAN: Thank you. Direct. 22 DAVID SPRATT testified as follows: 23 DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MS. MERS: 24 Q. Can you please state and spell your name for the record. 25

1 Α. David Spratt, S-p-r-a-t-t. 2 And whom are you employed by and in Q. 3 what capacity? 4 Α. I'm a Utility Operations Technical 5 Specialist 2 in the water and sewer department for 6 the Missouri Public Service Commission. 7 And did you cause -- prepare or cause 0. 8 to be prepared certain direct testimony marked as 9 Exhibit 105 and certain surrebuttal testimony marked as Exhibit 113? 10 11 Α. Yes, I did. 12 And do you have any corrections to Q. 13 that testimony? 14 Α. No, I do not. 15 If I asked you those questions today, Q. 16 would your answers be the same? 17 Α. Yes, they would. 18 Are those answers true and accurate 0. 19 to the best of your knowledge and belief? 20 Α. Yes, they are. 21 MS. MERS: I'd like to enter Staff 22 Exhibit 105 and 113 into the record. 23 JUDGE JORDAN: Any objections? 24 MR. SMITH: No objection. 25 MS. MERS: And then I tender the

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witness for cross. 1 2 JUDGE JORDAN: I will admit those 3 exhibits into the record. 4 (STAFF EXHIBITS 105 AND 113 WERE 5 RECEIVED INTO EVIDENCE.) 6 JUDGE JORDAN: And cross-examination 7 from Indian Hills. 8 MR. COOPER: No questions, your 9 Honor. 10 JUDGE JORDAN: Cross-examination from Office of the Public Counsel? 11 12 MR. SMITH: Yes. Thank you. 13 CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. SMITH: 14 Mr. Spratt, you were in the courtroom Q. 15 earlier, correct? 16 Α. Yes. 17 So you heard a lot of discussions Q. about schedules that were put in your testimony? 18 19 Α. Correct. 20 Did you also hear the discussion Q. 21 about the storage capacity? 22 Α. Yes. 23 Did you have an opinion on that Q. 24 subject? 25 A. I know we've always talked about DNR

1	requires or requests a full day storage. What that
2	number is based on their data, we don't know
3	exactly. We'd have to look at a full day, average
4	day, peak day, those kind of numbers. I think
5	having the additional storage if it's over capacity
6	is good because it keeps the pump from running and
7	saves wear and tear on the pump.
8	Q. If it were at what point would it
9	not be good? Is there a point where they could
10	build so much capacity where there could be doubts
11	about the prudency?
12	A. Oh, I'm sure there would be. You'd
13	need an engineer to study that.
14	Q. In your opinion, now, you're a water
15	operator; is that right?
16	A. Yes.
17	Q. And so you have studied DNR standards
18	as part of that?
19	A. Yes.
20	Q. Have you you're also familiar with
21	storage tank capacity for small systems?
22	A. Yes.
23	Q. I mean, do you have an idea of what
24	other small utilities build out or what, you know,
25	what you've seen in terms of I guess I'm trying

1	to figure out, where's the line between a large
2	capacity that could be good and a really large
3	capacity that could be an overbuild. Do you have
4	an opinion on that?
5	A. I think many of our systems are under
6	capacity. They don't have enough storage for what
7	they have. I think a lot of times when you realize
8	that your system's not working, your stand pipe
9	isn't full when it happens, so you don't have a
10	full day's storage. I think you would be at a
11	certain point when you would have less than a full
12	day of storage when you realize it.
13	Q. For DNR, do they calculate usage for
14	purposes of that emergency capacity differently or
15	is that something the company self reports? How is
16	that
17	A. DNR has a formula for it, but I don't
18	know what it is.
19	Q. Okay. I'd like to turn to your
20	testimony. Let me get it in front of me so I can
21	direct you to the right page.
22	A. Okay.
23	Q. I believe it's your direct at page 3.
24	A. Okay.
25	Q. Yes, this is the right one. Lines 10

1 through 22, spilling over onto the next page 4, 2 lines 1 through 5. 3 Α. Okay. 4 In particular, really I think my Q. 5 focus of my questions are this lines 10 through 13. 6 And I read this to say that it would be better for 7 system integrity to replace service connections as 8 leaks are discovered rather than repair the service 9 connections. Is that -- do you stand behind that 10 testimony? 11 Α. Yes, I do. 12 Also, would you go to your Q. 13 surrebuttal testimony. 14 Α. Okay. 15 Q. Page 1. Are you there? 16 Α. Yes. 17 And if you would look to, I guess --Ο. it's a short surrebuttal. It's two pages. 18 So I 19 think it's around the middle of page 1, spilling 20 into page 2. As I read that, it seems to sort of 21 qualify your direct. Is that fair? 22 Α. I would say so. 23 So I guess I'm just trying to clarify Ο. 24 what it is that is your recommendation. Are you on 25 the one hand recommending, as you say in your

1	direct, that replacements ought to happen as these
2	repairs are discovered? On the other hand, are you
3	saying that that shouldn't actually happen?
4	A. Well, I believe Mr. Thomas covered it
5	pretty well. Repairs are going to be a necessary
6	thing. There are some repairs that are going to be
7	fairly substantial, leaks that are going to be
8	fairly substantial and repairs are going to have to
9	be made. Replacing the service would take too long
10	to do, where a repair could fix it quickly and stop
11	a large leak from happening which is causing
12	property damage or possible loss of pressure to the
13	system.
14	Q. What, in your opinion, is the time
15	frame on a replacement versus repair?
16	A. It would depend on the severity of
17	the leak.
17 18	<pre>the leak. Q. Do you have a range of time based on</pre>
18	Q. Do you have a range of time based on
18 19	Q. Do you have a range of time based on your experience? Would it be under a day for
18 19 20	Q. Do you have a range of time based on your experience? Would it be under a day for either one? For a service line keep in mind, not a
18 19 20 21	Q. Do you have a range of time based on your experience? Would it be under a day for either one? For a service line keep in mind, not a main.
18 19 20 21 22	 Q. Do you have a range of time based on your experience? Would it be under a day for either one? For a service line keep in mind, not a main. A. Length of time to repair or replace
18 19 20 21 22 23	 Q. Do you have a range of time based on your experience? Would it be under a day for either one? For a service line keep in mind, not a main. A. Length of time to repair or replace

1 length of it. 2 Okay. Would it -- I guess my Q. 3 question is, would it be under a day to repair it 4 versus to replace it? 5 Α. Oh, I would think it would be much 6 quicker to repair it, yes. 7 What about to replace it? Ο. 8 Α. Again, it depends on the length and 9 the severity. 10 Q. So more than two days? 11 Α. I wouldn't think more than two days, 12 no. 13 So I guess you're saving possibly Q. 14 24 hours, maybe 36 hours, which could mean a lot if it's a home? 15 16 Α. Sure. 17 That could create flooding. I quess Ο. 18 in the event that one of these stopgap repairs is 19 done, what's the next step? Do you repair it and 20 then you replace it right away, or how does that 21 work based on your recommendation? 22 Well, talking with the company, I Α. 23 think they try and line up as many repairs or 24 replacements as they can. A repair obviously is 25 going to be something that has to be done right

away if it's causing a major leak. But as far as 1 2 replacements go, you wouldn't just replace one on 3 the spot. You would try and set up a systematic 4 approach to it. 5 Okay. So would that systematic Q. 6 approach involve replacing one of the recently 7 repaired lines? 8 Α. It could. 9 And is it your recommendation that it Ο. should? 10 11 Α. Not necessarily. It depends on how 12 it ranks in order of severity of the leaks and 13 damage to the system in other area. 14 Would you go to page 4 of your direct Q. 15 testimony. 16 Α. Sure. 17 So I had mentioned this but I didn't Ο. 18 get into it. The lines 1 through 3 that starts 19 with, it is staff's opinion, can you read that into 20 the record? 21 Α. It is Staff's opinion that it would 22 be less expensive to replace a service connection 23 while the ditch is open and a backhoe is on site 24 than to dig in the spot numerous times and make 25 minor repairs.

1	Q. So do you stand behind that
2	testimony?
3	A. I do.
4	Q. Okay. So I guess it is your
5	recommendation that you're leaning more toward
6	replacement than repairs, or I'm still kind of
7	confused.
8	A. Given the age of the system and the
9	quality of the material that was used, yes, we'd
10	like to see them replaced to prevent leaks. In
11	this case when you've got a pipe like we saw in the
12	pictures that had been repaired numerous times,
13	that's something you want to replace because the
14	cost of mobilization of a backhoe to get out there
15	and do the small repair, if you do that multiple
16	times it's going to be a lot more costly than it
17	would be just to replace it.
18	Q. I can't ask you questions about the
19	two-way tracker, I assume?
20	A. I don't know anything about it.
21	Q. I can't ask anyone questions about
22	that, then. You don't have any testimony on the
23	two-way tracker, do you?
24	A. No, I don't.
25	Q. If you're able do you understand

```
1
     the concept of a two-way tracker?
 2
            Α.
                  Probably not enough to speak on it.
 3
                  MR. SMITH: Okay. No further
 4
     questions.
 5
                  JUDGE JORDAN: Questions from the
 6
     Bench?
 7
                  COMMISSIONER KENNEY: No questions.
8
     Thank you.
9
                  JUDGE JORDAN: Redirect?
10
     REDIRECT EXAMINATION BY MS. MERS:
11
            Q.
                  Can you calculate the storage needs
     of Indian Hills without meters?
12
                  No, because you need to know what the
13
            Α.
14
     demand is.
15
                  All right. DNR has mandated water
            Ο.
16
    pressure requirements, right?
17
            Α.
                  Yes.
18
                  Do you recall prior to Josiah's --
            0.
19
    Mr. Cox' company taking over complaints about water
20
    pressure?
21
            Α.
                  Yes.
22
                  I'm going to clarify a statement you
            Q.
23
            On page 3 of your direct, that information
    made.
24
     was provided to you because it's the company
25
    belief. So you're saying you stand behind the
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1 information that the company -- that that is the 2 information the company gave you or is it your 3 understanding from their testimony; is that 4 correct? 5 Α. Yes. 6 0. Do you see any contradiction between 7 recommending replacements and also recommending 8 that you do not believe that all repairs going 9 forward are improving? Well, I think repairs are still going 10 Α. 11 to be necessary. 12 So you don't see -- there's no Q. 13 contradiction in those positions? 14 Α. No. 15 Were you in the room when Mr. Todd Ο. 16 Thomas was on the stand earlier? 17 Α. Yes. 18 And did you hear him testify that 0. 19 some replacements can't be done because of road --20 the condition of the road, the location of the 21 pipe, whether it's across the street or not? 22 Α. Yes. 23 Do you agree with that testimony? Q. 24 I do. Α. 25 You had some questions regarding your Q.

1 statement about it being more efficient to replace 2 when there's a backhoe there, correct? 3 Α. Correct. 4 Will all replacements necessarily Q. 5 involve a backhoe and a ditch or will there be some 6 that there's not going to be an open ditch and you 7 can't take advantage of those efficiencies? 8 Given the depth of the lines, they Α. 9 could be opened with a shovel, but it would take 10 time. MS. MERS: I have no further 11 12 questions. Thank you. 13 JUDGE JORDAN: You may stand down. 14 Next witness. 15 MS. MERS: Staff calls Stephen 16 Moilanen to the stand. 17 (Witness sworn.) 18 JUDGE JORDAN: Thank you. 19 STEPHEN MOILANEN testified as follows: 20 DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MS. MERS: 21 Can you please state and spell your Q. 22 name for the record. 23 My name is Stephen Moilanen. First Α. 24 name spelled S-t-e-p-h-e-n, last name 25 M-o-i-l-a-n-e-n.

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1
            Q.
                  And who are you employed by and in
 2
     what capacity?
 3
                  I'm employed as a Utility Regulatory
            Α.
 4
     Engineer for the Public Service Commission of
 5
     Missouri.
 6
            0.
                  And you are also qualified as a PE,
 7
     correct?
 8
            Α.
                  Yes.
 9
                  And did you in this case prepare or
            Ο.
10
     cause to be prepared certain testimony marked as
     direct testimony Exhibit 103 and rebuttal testimony
11
12
     marked as Exhibit 109?
13
                  I wrote testimony. I can't recall
            Α.
14
     what exhibit it's marked as, but I did write
15
     testimony.
16
            Q.
                  Do you have any corrections to that
17
     testimony?
18
            Α.
                  No.
19
                  And if I asked you the same questions
            Q.
20
     today, would your answers be the same?
21
            Α.
                  Yes.
22
                  And are those answers true and
            Q.
23
     accurate to the best of your knowledge and belief?
24
            Α.
                  Yes.
25
                  MS. MERS: At this time I'd like to
```

```
offer Staff Exhibit 103 and Staff Exhibit 109 into
 1
 2
    the record.
 3
                  JUDGE JORDAN: Any objections?
 4
                  MR. SMITH: No objection.
 5
                  MS. MERS: And then I'd tender the
 6
     witness for cross.
7
                  JUDGE JORDAN: Staff Exhibit 103 and
8
     109 are entered into the record.
9
                  (STAFF EXHIBITS 103 AND 109 WERE
10
    RECEIVED INTO EVIDENCE.)
                  JUDGE JORDAN: Cross-examination from
11
12
     Indian Hills?
13
                  MR. COOPER: No, your Honor.
14
                  JUDGE JORDAN: Cross-Examination from
    Office of the Public Counsel.
15
16
                  MR. SMITH: Very briefly.
17
    CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. SMITH:
18
            O. Good afternoon.
19
            A. Good afternoon.
20
                  Looking through your testimony, it
            Q.
21
     was a little unclear to me. Would you recommend
22
     rate base treatment for any of the expenses
23
     discussed in your testimony?
24
            Α.
                  That's a better question for Jennifer
    Grisham, Staff witness Jennifer Grisham.
25
```

```
1
            Q.
                  So you don't have the answer to that?
            Α.
 2
                  No.
 3
                  MR. SMITH: No other questions.
 4
                  JUDGE JORDAN: Ouestions from the
5
     Bench?
 6
                  COMMISSIONER KENNEY: No questions.
 7
                  JUDGE JORDAN: Redirect?
8
     REDIRECT EXAMINATION BY MS. MERS:
9
                  Your testimony is regarding the
            Q.
10
    treatment of future repair expense, correct?
11
            Α.
                  No.
                       It's regarding the expenses that
12
     have already occurred. Actually, I'm sorry, I take
13
     that back. It's regarding both actually.
14
     Basically, I testified that repairs shouldn't be a
15
     part of plant regardless.
16
            Q.
                  Thank you for the clarification.
17
            Α.
                  You're welcome.
18
                  JUDGE JORDAN: You may step down.
19
     Next witness.
                  MS. MERS: I'm sorry. Staff calls
20
21
     recalls Jennifer Grisham to the stand, please.
22
                                 Let me make sure for
                  JUDGE JORDAN:
23
    the record that Staff Exhibits 103 and 109 are
     entered into the record. This witness is already
24
    under oath, so we'll go ahead with direct.
25
```

1 MS. MERS: I have no direct, and I 2 tender the witness for cross. 3 JUDGE JORDAN: Cross-examination from 4 Indian Hills? 5 MR. COOPER: No, thank you. 6 JUDGE JORDAN: Cross-Examination from 7 the Office of the Public Counsel? 8 MR. SMITH: Yes, I will have some 9 cross. JENNIFER GRISHAM testified as follows: 10 11 CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. SMITH: 12 Ms. Grisham, good afternoon. Q. 13 Α. Good afternoon. 14 Are you familiar with this two-way Q. tracker? 15 16 Α. I am not. You would need to speak 17 with Ms. Kim Bolin. 18 I was looking through your testimony, Ο. 19 and I don't think I saw the word regulatory asset, 20 but is that essentially what your recommendation 21 is? 22 Α. Regarding? 23 I guess I understand there's an Q. 24 extraordinary amount of leak repair expense for 25 which you recommended an amortization with a return

1 of and on. Is that for that amount, are you -- is 2 regulatory asset a correct description? 3 I don't know that we -- in our Α. 4 discussions it was every called a regulatory asset. 5 Just that due to the extreme costs, that that was 6 something that should be amortized over instead of 7 placed into. 8 When you say amortized, does that Ο. 9 include -- does that mean rate base treatment, the return off and on, or do you know the answer to 10 11 that? 12 Α. Yes. 13 Q. Can you clarify what the -- yes, it 14 does include a return of and on? 15 Α. Yes, I believe so. 16 Q. Okay. And you can take some time if 17 you want to reference your testimony. Why was 18 three years selected rather than say five years or 19 ten years if this is a large extraordinary expense? 20 Α. I believe as the case went on, it 21 was -- I'm trying to remember. I believe we 22 started at five years and then we moved down to 23 three years for the amortization period for this 24 leak repair expense. Yeah. 25 As far as you're aware, would the Q.

1 stipulation include this amount or would that all 2 be captured in this two-way tracker or do you know? 3 That I don't know. Α. 4 MR. SMITH: No further questions. 5 JUDGE JORDAN: Questions from the 6 Bench? 7 COMMISSIONER KENNEY: No questions. 8 QUESTIONS BY JUDGE JORDAN: 9 I've got one question. Where does Ο. the number three -- I don't think I got that --10 11 three years for amortization of this item come 12 from? 13 In my direct testimony on page 3, Α. 14 line 7 specifically is where it says three years. 15 Okay. I don't have that document in Ο. 16 front of me. I'm wondering what the standard is 17 that supports that. Is there an accounting or finance standard that shows that that number for 18 19 use in amortization is reasonable? 20 No. I believe that that is an Α. 21 internal Staff decision as far as instead of five 22 years over three years when deciding that. 23 Okay. How does Staff decide that? Q. 24 Through a discussion with senior Α. 25 staff as far as my discussion with Ms. Bolin and

1 Mr. Oligschlaeger as far as what would be deemed 2 appropriate in this case. 3 That sounds like a discussion amongst Q. 4 experts --Yes. 5 Α. 6 0. -- in accounting and finance? 7 Yes. Α. 8 And that's the consensus and opinion? Q. 9 Α. Yes. 10 JUDGE JORDAN: Thank you. That's all 11 I have. 12 OUESTIONS BY COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: 13 For clarification, please, I was at Q. 14 the local public hearing, and I believe that I 15 thought that suggestion of three years -- of 16 course, I'm not in the question and answer, you 17 know, time frame, but I was of the opinion from 18 testimony that night that the request came from the 19 company. Is that incorrect based on what you're 20 saying, the three-year time frame amortization? 21 MR. SMITH: Commissioner, if I may. 22 I was also at that local public hearing. My 23 recollection, because three years was discussed, 24 and this is based on my recollection, so take that 25 for what it's worth, but I think there may have

1	been a perhaps misunderstanding with some of the
2	customers. I think they were of the opinion that
3	the overall revenue requirement when you multiply
4	it by three years would equal the amount of the
5	investment in the overall system, when, in fact, it
6	actually includes other accounting items, such as
7	to have a certified water operator. I don't know
8	if that's specifically what's you're talking about,
9	but I noticed that was a common
10	COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: Yeah. It came
11	up several times during the evening, but it's in my
12	notes and my notes are upstairs. So I just wanted
13	to verify what I recollect.
14	THE WITNESS: I would agree with
15	Mr. Smith there, that the three-year period that
16	we're discussing is applicable to two separate
17	things. Whereas, in this case we're talking about
18	amortizing a certain amount of the repair expense
19	over three years, whereas customers were more
20	concerned with you take revenue requirement times
21	three years and the company makes back what they've
22	invested into the system.
23	COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: But your
24	explanation to the judge that this is the opinion
25	of Staff and his comment that this was discussed by

1 experts I think clarifies it for me. So thank you. 2 JUDGE JORDAN: Did my question 3 generate any recross from -- I'm sorry. Are you 4 done? 5 COMMISSIONER COLEMAN: I am. 6 JUDGE JORDAN: Recross from Indian 7 Hills? 8 RECROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. COOPER: 9 Only in just a bit of clarification. Ο. 10 Ms. Grisham, it's correct, isn't it, that the 11 company's actually opposed the amortization that 12 you're referring to, correct? 13 Α. That is correct. 14 MR. COOPER: That's all I have. 15 JUDGE JORDAN: Any recross from the 16 Office of the Public Counsel? 17 MR. SMITH: No, thank you. 18 JUDGE JORDAN: Redirect? 19 REDIRECT EXAMINATION BY MS. MERS: 20 Ms. Grisham, when you set Ο. 21 amortization periods with the advice and counsel of 22 senior accounting experts, do you consider things 23 such as the appropriate time, how long it would 24 take them to recover the expense or the possibility 25 of how long they'll be out for a rate case, in

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Page 339
```

```
1
     between rate cases?
 2
            Α.
                  Yes.
 3
                  MS. MERS: No further questions.
 4
                  JUDGE JORDAN: You may be excused.
 5
     Next witness.
 6
                  MR. SMITH: OPC calls John Robinett.
 7
                   (Witness sworn.)
 8
     JOHN ROBINETT testified as follows:
 9
     DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. SMITH:
10
            Q.
                  Mr. Robinett, would you please state
11
     and spell your first and last name for the court
12
     reporter.
13
                  John A. Robinett, R-o-b-i-n-e-t-t.
            Α.
14
            Q.
                  What is your job title, Mr. Robinett?
                  I'm employed by the Missouri Office
15
            Α.
16
     of Public Counsel as a Utility Engineering
17
     Specialist.
18
                  And for how long have you been
            Ο.
19
     employed by the Office of the Public Counsel?
20
            Α.
                  Since August of 2016.
21
            0.
                  And what was -- where did you work
22
     before that?
23
                  Prior to that, I worked for the
            Α.
24
     Commission Staff.
25
                  Have you filed testimony in this
            Q.
```

1 case, WR-2017-0259? 2 Α. I have. 3 And do you have copies of each of Q. 4 your testimony or filings with you? 5 Α. I have only the confidential version 6 of my direct and then the two public versions of 7 rebuttal and surrebuttal, but I don't believe there 8 were confidentials to that. 9 I'll remind the Commission, I have Ο. 10 created an, and the parties, an Exhibit No. 217 to account for the confidential version of 11 12 Mr. Robinett's direct testimony. May I approach? 13 JUDGE JORDAN: You may. It's your 14 witness. You won't need to ask. 15 BY MR. SMITH: 16 Q. All right. I have just handed to the 17 court reporter documents which I premarked as OPC Exhibits 205, 206, 207, plus the 217 number. Did 18 19 you prepare or cause to be prepared the testimony 20 marked as Exhibits 205, 206, 207, 217 representing 21 your direct, rebuttal and surrebuttal testimonies? 22 Α. I did. 23 Do you have any corrections to those Q. 24 testimonies? 25 Α. I do to my direct testimony. At

1 page 1, line 15, instead of three, it should be 2 five years. That is my only correction. 3 Subject to that one correction, if I Q. 4 were to ask you those same questions again, would 5 your answers be the same or substantially the same? 6 Α. They would. 7 MR. SMITH: At this time I'd like to offer Exhibits 205, 206, 207 and 217. 8 9 JUDGE JORDAN: Any objection? Not hearing any, so Exhibits 205, 206, 207 and 217 are 10 entered into the record. 11 (OPC EXHIBITS 205, 206, 207 AND 217 12 13 WERE RECEIVED INTO EVIDENCE.) 14 MR. SMITH: Thank you. OPC tenders 15 this witness for cross-examination. 16 JUDGE JORDAN: Cross-examination from 17 Staff? 18 CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MS. MERS: 19 Good afternoon, Mr. Robinett. Q. 20 Good afternoon. Α. 21 On page 2 of your direct, you talk Q. 22 about a reduction in leaks that Indian Hills has 23 experienced. 24 Α. Yes. 25 Is it possible that the company Q.

1 repaired the highest volume leaks but is still 2 repairing small leaks? 3 Α. I don't know what the company did, 4 no. 5 Q. So you couldn't answer 6 hypothetically? 7 I don't know the severity of the Α. 8 leaks that the company saw, no. 9 Okay. Isn't it true that the number Ο. 10 of leaks is the direct repair costs and not the volume of water lost? 11 I don't know that I've seen that 12 Α. 13 statement anywhere. 14 You're recommending replacing -- or Q. 15 placing repair expense into plant accounts, 16 correct? 17 Yes. But there is also a --Α. 18 I think yes is sufficient, but thank Ο. 19 Are you familiar with the USOA? you. 20 Could I ask specifically which Α. 21 accounts you're asking about? 22 Which USOA? Q. 23 No. Which USOA accounts in general Α. 24 and which USOA? 25 I was going to ask about the USOA for Q.

1 water utilities and just the plant accounts in 2 general, whichever ones you're recommending placing 3 the plant into. 4 Α. Sure. 5 Q. Do you have a copy of the USOA? 6 Α. I do not. 7 MS. MERS: Okay. May I approach? 8 JUDGE JORDAN: You may. 9 (STAFF EXHIBIT NO. 114 WAS MARKED FOR IDENTIFICATION BY THE REPORTER.) 10 BY MS. MERS: 11 12 Do you recognize what I handed you as Q. 13 copy of the USOA for water utilities, specifically 14 pages 37 and 38? And take your time to review it. 15 Α. Is this the amended version or no? 16 Ο. It's the 1973 version. 17 Α. I have no reason to doubt that that's not what this is. 18 19 Can you turn to page 38 of that Q. 20 document? Can you read item three in the list? 21 It's under C. So under operating list, there's a 22 list of items. Read item 3 if you don't mind. 23 Work performed specifically for the Α. 24 purpose of preventing failure, restoring serviceability and maintaining life of plant. 25

1 Q. Would you agree that the company's 2 repair on mains and pipes were work performed 3 specifically for the purpose of preventing failure, 4 restoring serviceability or maintaining the life of 5 plant? 6 Α. Based on a DR response that I have, I 7 don't know that I can agree with that whole 8 statement. 9 Okay. Would you agree that a Ο. 10 definition of repair is work performed to restore 11 service, maintain life or prevent failures? 12 I would say in general, yes, repairs Α. 13 do that. 14 So then going forward, isn't it Q. 15 required by the USOA that repairs be booked in 16 operating and maintenance accounts and not plant? 17 Α. Say that again for me. 18 0. Going forward, the USOA, based on 19 those statements you just read, require that 20 repairs be booked in operating and maintenance 21 accounts and not plant? 22 I guess I don't understand your Α. 23 distinction of between this and booking the plant. 24 You're saying because it's under this --25 You do understand that these are Q.

instructions for what to book? 1 2 For an expense. Α. 3 Yes. And it's listing types of Q. 4 expenses, correct? 5 Α. I believe so, yes. 6 Ο. And No. 3 is a type of expense, which 7 is repair -- or work performed specifically for the 8 purpose of preventing failure, restoring 9 serviceability or maintaining life of plant, 10 correct? 11 Α. That's what it says, yes. 12 So you would agree that items that Q. 13 fall under work performed specifically for the 14 purpose of preventing failure, restoring 15 serviceability or maintaining the life of plant, 16 according to operating expense instructions, must 17 be booked into operating and maintenance accounts? 18 In a rate case, the Commission can Α. 19 order to put this wherever they want. They have 20 that distinction. My recommendation was for rate 21 base. 22 So you're recommending that the Q. 23 Commission does not follow the USOA instructions, 24 then, correct? 25 Α. I think they have the distinction to

determine where something should be booked. 1 2 Q. So yes? 3 Α. The Commission has the -- they have 4 their ability to determine --5 It's a yes or no question. Q. 6 Α. I don't know. 7 MS. MERS: Okay. I'd like to enter 8 that exhibit. I believe it would be 114. 9 JUDGE JORDAN: Yes, that would be Exhibit No. 114. 10 11 MR. SMITH: I guess my only comment here is I see there's this for internal PSC use 12 13 only label on this thing, which I suppose gives me 14 some pause as to that, and it is only a part of a 15 document. 16 MS. MERS: If you like, I can enter 17 the entire USOA into the record after the proceeding. I believe it's quite lengthy, but if 18 19 that is what you would like, then we can do that 20 and specifically note, because the USOA is 21 Commission mandated by rules to be followed. But 22 we can take official notice of those pages and 23 enter the entire USOA into the record. 24 JUDGE JORDAN: If that was an 25 objection, I'm going to overrule the objection. Ι

1	will consider Staff Exhibit 114 to be
2	demonstrative. When there is a reference to the
3	Uniform System of Accounts, the Commission will
4	refer to Uniform System of Accounts as it finds it
5	published in official publication. And in
6	briefing, that's what I'll ask the parties to refer
7	to.
8	MS. MERS: May I approach again?
9	JUDGE JORDAN: You may. And for the
10	record, Staff Exhibit No. 114 is entered into the
11	record.
12	(STAFF EXHIBIT 114 WAS RECEIVED INTO
13	EVIDENCE.)
14	BY MS. MERS:
15	Q. Take your time to review this, but do
16	you recognize this as pages 32 through 34 of the
17	Uniform System of Accounts Class A and B for Water
18	
	published in 1973?
19	A. You said 32 through 35, correct?
19 20	-
	A. You said 32 through 35, correct?
20	 A. You said 32 through 35, correct? Q. I'm only referring to pages 32
20 21	 A. You said 32 through 35, correct? Q. I'm only referring to pages 32 through 34. I guess 35 is extraneous. If it helps
20 21 22	 A. You said 32 through 35, correct? Q. I'm only referring to pages 32 through 34. I guess 35 is extraneous. If it helps narrow you down, I'll be asking you about page 33.
20 21 22 23	 A. You said 32 through 35, correct? Q. I'm only referring to pages 32 through 34. I guess 35 is extraneous. If it helps narrow you down, I'll be asking you about page 33. JUDGE JORDAN: While the witness is

1	MS. MERS: Yes, I would, please.
2	(STAFF EXHIBIT 115 WAS MARKED FOR
3	IDENTIFICATION BY THE REPORTER.)
4	THE WITNESS: Yes, I have no reason
5	to doubt that this is a true copy of the NARUC USOA
6	for those pages.
7	BY MS. MERS:
8	Q. Can you read on page 33, it will be
9	item C or subsection C, item 1, please.
10	A. Starting at when a minor?
11	Q. Yes, please.
12	A. When a minor item of property which
13	did not previously exist is added to plant, the
14	cost thereof shall be accounted for in the same
15	manner as for the addition of the retirement unit
16	as set forth in paragraph B is that sub 1?
17	Q. Yes.
18	A above in a substantial addition
19	results. Otherwise the charge shall be to the
20	appropriate maintenance expense account.
21	Q. So in other words, if a substantial
22	addition results, it would be booked to the or
23	it would be accounted for in the same manner as an
24	addition, but otherwise it would be booked to
25	maintenance and expense, correct?

```
1
                  MR. SMITH: Objection. I think this
 2
     is calling for the witness to interpret, make legal
 3
     conclusions.
                  MS. MERS: It's the USOA. I believe
 4
 5
     it's accounting standards, not legal standards. I
 6
     think the witness has to interpret them to do his
7
     depreciation schedules. I would hope he'd be able
8
     to interpret them for the purposes of this hearing.
9
                  JUDGE JORDAN:
                                 I'll overrule the
     objection.
10
11
                  THE WITNESS: Could you restate your
12
     question?
13
     BY MS. MERS:
14
                  Yes. Would you agree that basically
            Q.
15
     saying that unless it is substantial addition, that
16
     it should -- if it is not a substantial addition,
17
     it should be charged to maintenance expense
     accounts, correct?
18
19
                  Can I ask what your definition of
            Α.
20
     substantial is?
21
                  I am glad you asked. Would you agree
            0.
22
     that substantial has a common meaning in English?
23
     My definition would be something of considerable
24
     size, importance or worth. Would you agree with
25
    that definition?
```

1	Α.	Sure.
2	Q.	Okay. I was going to say, I have a
3	dictionary i	f it becomes in dispute, but I was
4	hoping we dia	dn't have to go there. Okay. So then
5	with that cla	arification over the meaning of
6	substantial a	addition, do you agree that unless an
7	item is a sul	ostantial addition, it must be booked
8	to an approp	riate maintenance expense account?
9	Α.	That's what it reads there, yes.
10	Q.	Would a clamp or a seal be something
11	of consideral	ole size, importance or worth?
12	Α.	You're talking as the unit as itself?
13	Q.	Yes.
14	Α.	Not including labor?
15	Q.	Yes.
16	Α.	You said clamp or seal?
17	Q.	Yes.
18	Α.	Likely no.
19	Q.	Okay. Would you agree with a one-way
20	tracker for :	repair expense? I should clarify just
21	to be sure.	One way that would return to consumers
22	but not book	if the utility spent more that base
23	amount is my	definition of a one-way tracker.
24	Α.	And I really have no experience with
25	trackers, so	I would feel uncomfortable answering

 Q. If Indian Hills spent more say the next rate case, if they spent \$150,000, which is over what they've spent in this case, on repairs in the test year, would OPC disallow any amounts over 90,000? MR. SMITH: I think I'm going to object to this hypothetical. I don't think it's call for us or this witness to make a future determination on what OPC would do without really any context. Maybe she could rephrase it. I think that JUDGE JORDAN: That sounds like an objection to speculation. Can you rephrase your question? MS. MERS: Sure. BY MS. MERS:
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<pre>14 objection to speculation. Can you rephrase your 15 question? 16 MS. MERS: Sure.</pre>
15 question? 16 MS. MERS: Sure.
16 MS. MERS: Sure.
I/ DI MS. MERS:
18 Q. I think that the nature of this
19 question, and I can withdraw if necessary, but
20 since he's an expert, I thought hypotheticals would
21 be appropriate. But if it is a if you went
22 through all the invoices in a hypothetical future
23 case and they were all prudent repairs that
24 occurred in a test year and say the total was
25 \$150,000, considering the base amount of 90,000 set

1 in this case, would you disallow the difference 2 between the base amount set in this case and the 3 hypothetical future amount? 4 Α. I don't know. 5 MS. MERS: Okay. I think that's all 6 I have. Thank you for your time. 7 JUDGE JORDAN: Cross-examination from 8 Indian Hills? 9 MR. COOPER: Thank you, your Honor. 10 CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. COOPER: 11 Q. Mr. Robinett, were you in the hearing 12 room when Mr. Smith gave his opening statement this 13 morning? 14 Α. Yes, I was. 15 I think I heard him say with some Ο. 16 definition, I guess, that -- or not with 17 definition, but definitively that leak repair will go up. Did you hear him say that, that leak repair 18 19 expense will go up? 20 I don't specifically recall that. Α. Ι 21 think that might have been related to Mr. Thomas' 22 testimony about since the rate -- so the extended 23 period after the true-up. 24 Of course the transcript I guess will Q. 25 solve that eventually. But the reason that I

1	thought I heard that, and it kind of made me
2	curious, was that I see in your rebuttal testimony
3	you indicate that OPC does not believe that annual
4	maintenance expenses for leak repairs realized for
5	this case will be of the same magnitude going
6	forward. Do you remember that?
7	A. Can you specifically point me to it?
8	Q. I can. This would be in your
9	rebuttal testimony, page 1, lines 18 to 20.
10	A. Okay. I'm there.
11	Q. So accurate statement, I take it,
12	that you that OPC does not believe that annual
13	maintenance expenses for leak repairs that have
14	been realized for this case will be of the same
15	magnitude going forward?
16	A. With the understanding that the
17	company is doing replacements, I would envision
18	that leak repairs would be down, yeah.
19	Q. And similarly, I think, in your
20	direct testimony you say it's inappropriate to use
21	the current number experienced as the expected
22	value of yearly leak repair maintenance work on a
23	going-forward basis. Is that accurate?
24	A. Yes.
25	Q. And so do I take this correctly that

1	essentially you want to you kind of want to
2	ignore the historical test year and look forward,
3	kind of project forward what you think will happen
4	in the future year; is that accurate?
5	A. No.
6	Q. So what are you saying there?
7	A. Basically, that I saw a high level of
8	leak repairs and that I did not feel comfortable
9	putting in that value as an ongoing number for this
10	company, with the addition of that they are doing
11	replacements of certain lines when possible.
12	Q. So you don't feel comfortable with it
13	because you're projecting your opinion of what that
14	number will be in the future; is that accurate?
15	A. Would you repeat that?
16	Q. Yeah. You said you weren't
17	comfortable with the current number from the
18	historic test year, correct?
19	A. Right.
20	Q. And so you want to use a lesser
21	number on a going-forward basis; is that correct?
22	A. Yes.
23	Q. And that's based upon what you think
24	will happen in regard to the company's approach to
25	repair and replacement; is that accurate?

1	A. Right. If there's replacement, I
2	would assume that there would be less leaks.
3	Q. But you don't know what leak repair
4	will be in the future years, correct?
5	A. I do not, no.
6	Q. And there is a difference of opinion
7	amongst the parties in this case as to what it may
8	be in the future years, correct?
9	A. I believe that to be true, yes.
10	Q. So there is there's a fair
11	variance. We don't know what it will be, correct,
12	and there's a fair variance amongst the opinions of
13	the parties to this case as to what it will be in
14	the future, correct?
15	A. I would say that's true. We don't
16	even know historically what it's been other than
17	the test year.
18	Q. Now, on a different subject, you talk
19	about that you recommend that Indian Hills create a
20	systemic replacement program for system mains and
21	service connections to address the leak issue
22	caused by increases in pressure from the plant
23	upgrades. Have you seen I guess it's been
24	mentioned today, there's two different places in
25	the partial disposition agreement and then in the

```
1
    more recent nonunanimous stipulation, there's
 2
     discussion of engineering plans and that sort of
 3
     thing related to replacement. Have you seen those?
 4
            Α.
                  Specifically, are you talking about
 5
     the initial one, sub 7? I've seen that. I don't
 6
     know that I've really had time to review the
7
     secondary --
 8
                  The nonunanimous stipulation?
            Q.
 9
                  Right.
            Α.
10
                  But at least at a high level, and I'm
            Q.
11
     sure you'd want more detail, but at a high level is
12
     that the sort of study you're referring to in your
13
     testimony?
14
            Α.
                  I believe so, yes.
15
                  MR. COOPER: That's all the questions
16
     I have.
              Thank you.
17
                  JUDGE JORDAN: Ouestions from the
     Bench for this witness?
18
19
                  COMMISSIONER KENNEY: No questions.
20
     Thank you.
21
                  JUDGE JORDAN:
                                 Is there any redirect?
22
                  MR. SMITH: Yes.
23
     REDIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. SMITH:
24
            Q.
                  I'll start in reverse. Mr. Cooper
25
     commented and asked you questions about what will
```

1 happen with leak repair expense. Is there a 2 difference between if leak repair expense will go 3 up versus whether it should go up? 4 Α. Could you state that again? 5 Ο. Is there a difference between if leak 6 repair expense will go up versus whether it should 7 go up, or could there be a difference? 8 Α. Yes. 9 Can the company come in for a rate Ο. 10 case if its leak repair expenses go out of control? It's always at the company's 11 Α. 12 discretion of when they file a rate increase. 13 As a part of your testimony, did you Q. 14 review any recordkeeping practices associated with 15 this utility? The closest that I really got was 16 Α. 17 reviewing what was filed to Mr. Spratt's testimony about the repair log that the company began. 18 19 And what about Ms. Grisham's Ο. testimony about the categorization of replacements 20 21 versus repairs? I really didn't specifically look at 22 Α. 23 that. 24 Earlier in the case, and I think Q. 25 Mr. Cooper's right, it will be borne out by the

1 transcript, but did you read Mr. Phil Macias' 2 testimony? I have. 3 Α. 4 What did he say about the direction Q. of actual leak repair expenses? 5 6 At page 6 of his direct, he discusses Α. 7 that basically that there was an increase in the 8 actual costs over the period after the 12 months 9 ending September of '17. 10 Ο. Just because the company has those 11 actual costs, does that mean that they're prudent? I don't know without further review. 12 Α. 13 And we won't know until another rate Q. 14 case? 15 A. For those outside the test year, yes. 16 Q. There was some discussion of accounting principles. Do you remember that? 17 18 Α. Yes. 19 Staff pointed you in the direction of Q. 20 different items in the NARUC USOA. How do these 21 standards compare with Staff's decision to amortize 22 certain of the leak repair expenses? 23 I don't know specifically. Α. 24 Could it possibly contradict Staff Q. Witness Grisham's recommendation to amortize and 25

1 give rate base treatment to leak repair expenses? 2 Α. If they are recommending recovery on 3 and of, yes. 4 MR. SMITH: No further questions. 5 JUDGE JORDAN: You may stand down. 6 That is our last witness as to the topic of 7 treatment of leak repair expense. Our next topic 8 is extension of electrical service. First witness 9 from Indian Hills. MR. SMITH: I think Ms. Roth is --10 11 we're supposed to -- she's on the schedule as well. 12 That was my fault. I should have caught that right 13 away. 14 JUDGE JORDAN: Let's just have our 15 next witness. 16 MR. SMITH: OPC calls Ms. Keri Roth. 17 JUDGE JORDAN: This witness is under oath already. Do we have some direct? 18 19 MR. SMITH: OPC would like to tender 20 Ms. Roth for cross-examination. 21 JUDGE JORDAN: Any cross-examination 22 from Staff? 23 MS. MERS: Yes. 24 KERI ROTH testified as follows: 25 CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MS. MERS:

```
1
            Q.
                  Ms. Roth, you've worked a few
 2
     electric cases in the past, correct?
 3
                  Electric?
            Α.
 4
            Q. Yes.
 5
            A. A couple.
 6
                  Okay. Are you familiar with the
            Q.
7
     vegetation management trackers that were put into
8
    place?
9
            Α.
                  Yes.
10
            Q.
                  Are you familiar with the plant O&M
     trackers that were put into place?
11
12
            Α.
                  Yes.
                  Did notice of those trackers go out
13
            Q.
14
    to the public?
                  Customer notices?
15
            Α.
16
            Q. I believe that's what --
17
                 Not that I'm aware of.
            Α.
18
            Q.
                  Okay. And just to clarify, trackers
19
     aren't interim rate adjustments, are they?
20
            Α.
                  No.
21
            Q.
                  Would you agree with one-way tracker?
22
                  I don't know. That would take
            Α.
     internal discussion.
23
24
                  Okay. That's fair enough, and that's
            Q.
     all I have. Thank you.
25
```

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```
1
                  JUDGE JORDAN: Cross-examination from
 2
     Indian Hills?
 3
                  MR. COOPER: No questions.
 4
                  JUDGE JORDAN: Questions from the
5
    Bench? Any redirect?
 6
                  MR. SMITH: No redirect.
 7
                  JUDGE JORDAN:
                                 Then you may stand
 8
     down. And was this the last witness for treatment
9
     of leak repair expense?
10
                  MR. COOPER: I believe it is, your
11
    Honor.
12
                  MR. SMITH: Yes, Judge.
13
                  MR. COOPER: We would recall
14
    Mr. Macias for the issue of extension of electrical
15
    service.
16
                  JUDGE JORDAN: Witness is already
17
    under oath. Do we have any direct examination?
18
                  MR. COOPER: Only to tender him for
19
    cross-examination.
20
                  JUDGE JORDAN: Cross-examination from
21
    Staff?
22
                  MS. MERS: No questions.
23
                  JUDGE JORDAN: Cross-Examination from
24
    Office of the Public Counsel?
25
                  MR. SMITH: Yes. Thank you.
```

PHIL MACIAS testified as follows: 1 2 CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. SMITH: 3 Mr. Macias, does Indian Hills own the Q. 4 electric service line extension? 5 Α. No, we do not. 6 Who owns the electric service line Ο. 7 extension? 8 Α. It's my understanding it's Crawford 9 County. 10 MR. SMITH: No further questions. JUDGE JORDAN: Questions from the 11 12 Bench? 13 COMMISSIONER KENNEY: No questions. 14 JUDGE JORDAN: Any redirect? 15 MR. COOPER: Yes, your Honor. 16 REDIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. COOPER: 17 Does the fact that Indian Hills does 0. not own that extension -- well, tell me how that 18 19 impacts your recommendation as to how it should be 20 booked. 21 Α. Actually, it makes no impact at all. 22 It's completely irrelevant. 23 And why is that? Q. 24 The notion of the proper treatment, Α. 25 the proper accounting treatment of that electrical

1 cost is based not on ownership of the line. That 2 doesn't matter. What matters is that we own the 3 equipment which is -- that expense was part of a 4 customary, normal, required expense in order for 5 that capital plant to be in use and usable. So it 6 is traditional in capitalization of a product of 7 equipment that you capitalize not only the 8 equipment itself, you have to own the equipment 9 itself, or in some cases there's an ability to 10 lease the equipment. Get off topic a little bit. 11 But you'll capitalize other things like sales tax. 12 You will capitalize delivery expenses. You will 13 capitalize other special construction. Say a piece 14 of equipment has to be on a special footing or 15 something along those lines. But to capitalize 16 costs, those other ancillary costs that are 17 included in the capital -- the total 18 capitalization, those are ordinary, customary. 19 They are required by GAAP. They're allowable by 20 the USOA, and I believe, in my opinion, it's 21 certainly a normal and reasonable cost to be 22 captured. It's directly identifiable. 23 And again, sort of the key to all of 24 this is that expense was absolutely necessary to 25 place this equipment, make it in use and usable.

1 Without that cost, there would be no point in 2 installing the rest of the gear. 3 MR. COOPER: That's all the questions 4 I have. 5 JUDGE JORDAN: You may stand down. 6 Next witness. 7 MR. COOPER: Indian Hills would call 8 Mr. Thomas. 9 JUDGE JORDAN: This witness is under 10 oath. Is there any direct? MR. COOPER: He would tender 11 Mr. Thomas for cross-examination. 12 13 JUDGE JORDAN: Cross from Staff? 14 MS. MERS: No questions. Thank you. JUDGE JORDAN: Cross from OPC? 15 16 MR. SMITH: No questions. 17 JUDGE JORDAN: Ouestions from the 18 Bench? 19 COMMISSIONER KENNEY: No questions. 20 JUDGE JORDAN: I think you are 21 excused. Next witness. 22 MS. MERS: Staff calls Jennifer 23 Grisham to the stand. 24 JUDGE JORDAN: This witness is also 25 under oath, so we'll go straight to direct.

```
MS. MERS: I tender the witness for
 1
 2
     cross.
 3
                  JUDGE JORDAN: Is there any
 4
     cross-examination from Indian Hills?
                  MR. COOPER: No, your Honor.
 5
 6
                  JUDGE JORDAN:
                                 Is there any
7
     cross-examination from the OPC?
 8
                  MR. SMITH: Yes. Thank you.
 9
     JENNIFER GRISHAM testified as follows:
10
     CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. SMITH:
11
            Q.
                  Ms. Grisham, have you read through
12
    Mr. Robinett's testimony?
            Α.
13
                  I have, yes.
14
            Q.
                  And do you have it there with you?
15
            Α.
                  I do.
16
            Q.
                  Can you go to his rebuttal testimony
17
     at page 2, specifically lines 14 through 25. Would
     you agree that this NARUC USOA account that's
18
19
     discussed in the testimony of Mr. Robinett refers
20
     to ownership of utility assets?
21
            Α.
                  Yes.
22
                  Were you here -- well, I know you
            Q.
23
     were -- earlier when Mr. Macias said that ownership
24
    doesn't matter?
25
            Α.
                  Well, I was having a side discussion,
```

1 so I didn't hear everything he stated. 2 Did you hear the part where he said Q. 3 that this is allowable by USOA? It's okay if you 4 didn't. 5 Α. I really didn't. 6 Ο. Okay. Who owns the electric service 7 line extension? 8 Α. The electric coop, Crawford. 9 Would you go to page 4 of your Ο. 10 rebuttal testimony. 11 Α. Okay. I'm on page 4. 12 Lines 9 through 18, in reading those, Q. 13 it seems as though -- I guess I don't know how to 14 interpret that. Does that mean that you're open to 15 both OPC's approach and the approach you took or are you shifting your position closer to aligning 16 17 with OPC's position there? 18 Α. No. What I was stating there is 19 Staff prefers to put it into plant account 325. 20 However, if the Commission were to decide that this specific issue should be treated as an expense, 21 22 we're not opposed to that. We would like to see it 23 amortized over five years, as OPC has stated. 24 So if the Commission were to find in Q. 25 OPC's favor, you would also seek a five-year

```
1
     amortization?
 2
            A. Correct.
 3
                  MR. SMITH: No further questions.
 4
                  JUDGE JORDAN: Ouestions from the
5
    Bench?
 6
                  COMMISSIONER KENNEY: No questions.
7
                  JUDGE JORDAN: Redirect?
                  MS. MERS: None, your Honor.
 8
9
                  JUDGE JORDAN: You may stand down.
    Next witness. This witness is also already under
10
     oath, so I will go straight to direct from Office
11
12
    of the Public Counsel.
13
                  MR. SMITH: OPC tenders Mr. John
14
    Robinett for cross.
                  JUDGE JORDAN: Cross from Staff?
15
16
                  MS. MERS: No questions, your Honor.
17
                  JUDGE JORDAN: Cross from Indian
18
    Hills?
19
                  MR. COOPER: No questions, your
20
    Honor.
21
                  JUDGE JORDAN: Ouestions from the
22
    Bench?
23
                  COMMISSIONER KENNEY: No questions.
24
                  JUDGE JORDAN: Then you may stand
25
    down. That's the last witness I have on my list
```

1 for today, but that's already proved not entirely 2 accurate, so I'll make sure. Any more witnesses 3 for today? Not hearing about any. 4 I want to raise one matter with the parties, which is that other than the exhibits not 5 listed on exhibit lists, I haven't received a 6 7 single hard copy. So how do the parties want to 8 deal with that? Staff counsel has already said, 9 the words were we'll get them to you later. So when will later be? 10 11 MS. MERS: If you only need one copy, 12 I have them right now. 13 JUDGE JORDAN: Our regulations 14 require a copy for each of the Commissioners. 15 MS. MERS: We can make sure you have 16 five. 17 MR. COOPER: Judge, I guess I want to make sure that I'm understanding. So with the 18 19 prefiled testimony that's been filed 20 electronically, I've provided a copy of that to the 21 court reporter. But are you saying that even as to 22 that prefiled testimony, you want us to provide 23 hard copies for each of the Commissioners and the 24 Law Judge, which would be a little different than 25 my experience in recent years?

1	JUDGE JORDAN: You're saying the
2	court reporter does have a copy of each one? I
3	haven't been able to see.
4	MR. COOPER: Well, you wouldn't have
5	seen because I handed that to her when I walked in
6	this morning. So if that's what we're referring
7	to, then great. But if there's something else that
8	I need to provide, I guess I just need some
9	understanding.
10	JUDGE JORDAN: As long as everyone
11	has provided a hard copy to the court reporter.
12	Like I say, I did not physically see that. All
13	right. That's all I have. Anything else before we
14	go off the record? I'm not hearing anything. I
15	understand that tomorrow we will resume at 8:30
16	with the witness Kim Bolin, is that correct?
17	MS. MERS: Yes.
18	JUDGE JORDAN: And what will the
19	subject of that testimony be?
20	MS. MERS: She will be open to answer
21	any questions about the stipulated EMS run, and she
22	is also the elusive tracker witness.
23	JUDGE JORDAN: Anything else before
24	we go off the record? All right. With that, we'll
25	adjourn for today and we will go off the record.

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CERTIFICATE 1 2 STATE OF MISSOURI)) ss. 3 COUNTY OF COLE) 4 5 I, Kellene K. Feddersen, Certified 6 7 Shorthand Reporter with the firm of Midwest Litigation Services, do hereby certify that I was 8 personally present at the proceedings had in the 9 above-entitled cause at the time and place set 10 forth in the caption sheet thereof; that I then and 11 there took down in Stenotype the proceedings had; 12 and that the foregoing is a full, true and correct 13 transcript of such Stenotype notes so made at such 14 time and place. 15 Given at my office in the City of 16 Jefferson, County of Cole, State of Missouri. 17 18 19 Lelle Fedde 20 21 Kellene K. Feddersen, RPR, CSR, CCR 22 23 24 25

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