| 1  | Page 1  |
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| 3  |   |
| 4  | AUDIO RECORDING                                     |
| 5  | IN RE: MISSOURI COALITION FOR FAIR COMPETITION AND  |
| 6  | COREY MALONE  |
| 7  | VS.   |
| 8  | UNION ELECTRIC COMPANY, DBA AMEREN MISSOURI         |
| 9  | CASE NO. EC-2023-0037                               |
| 10 | JANUARY 26, 2024                                    |
| 11 | VOLUME 1  |
| 12 |   |
| 13 |   |
| 14 |   |
| 15 | (Due to the quality of the recorded media, portions |
| 16 | were unable to be transcribed and include inaudible |
| 17 | portions. The transcript may also include           |
| 18 | misinterpreted words and/or unidentified speakers.  |
| 19 | The transcriber was not present at the time of the  |
| 20 | recording; therefore, this transcript should not be |
| 21 | considered verbatim.)                               |
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| 24 | TRANSCRIBED BY: MELISSA EICKEN                      |
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Page 2
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                Today's January 26th, 2024.
                                              It's 10:00
                  The commission has set this time for a
 8
    o'clock a.m.
 9
    procedural conference in the case captioned as
    Missouri Coalition for Fair Competition and Corey
10
11
    Malone, complainants, versus Union Electric Company,
12
    doing business as Ameren Missouri, respondent.
13
    the commission file number EC-2023-0037.
14
                My name is Ken Seyer. I'm the regulatory
    law judge in this matter, and we will begin by the
15
16
    attorneys making their entries of appearance, starting
17
    with you, Mr. Barrett.
                MR. BARRETT:
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                               Thank you, Mr. Seyer.
19
                My name is David Barrett, B as in boy,
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    A-R-R-E-T-T.
                  I'm an attorney here in Jefferson City,
21
    and it is my privilege to represent the Missouri
2.2
    Coalition for Fair Competition and Mr. Malone.
23
                LAW JUDGE SEYER:
                                   All right.
                                               Thank you.
24
                Counsel for staff?
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                            Carolyn Kerr, K-E-R-R, attorney
                MS. KERR:
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- 1 for Missouri Public Service Commission.
- 2 LAW JUDGE SEYER: All right. And for
- 3 | Ameren Missouri?
- 4 MS. MOORE: Thank you, Your Honor.
- 5 Appearing on behalf of Ameren Missouri is
- 6 Jennifer Moore and Jennifer Hernandez.
- 7 LAW JUDGE SEYER: All right. Thank you.
- 8 Are there any matters that the parties want
- 9 to take up before I get into why I called this
- 10 | procedural conference?
- 11 MR. POSTON: Judge, this is Marc Poston
- 12 | with OPC.
- 13 LAW JUDGE SEYER: Oh, I'm sorry.
- 14 MR. POSTON: This is Marc Poston with OPC.
- 15 | I'm just letting you know I'm here.
- 16 | LAW JUDGE SEYER: Yeah. I'm sorry. I -- I
- 17 | did kind of skip over you.
- 18 | MR. BARRETT: If I might, Mr. Sir.
- 19 LAW JUDGE SEYER: Yes. Mr. Barrett.
- 20 MR. BARRETT: I really think that this --
- 21 | for being familiar with the record, I really think
- 22 | this is kind of my fault. I had assumed that the
- 23 commission's referral of this matter to staff for a
- 24 report, after Ameren filed its motion to dismiss, that
- 25 | we were sort of in the posture of waiting for what was

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going to happen, and so I did not take advantage of the time that might have been available to engage in discovery because as I am sure you are well aware, this is actually my first PSC case, and I have to plead ignorance. I've been an attorney for more than 30 years, but it has not been my privilege to practice in front of you, and so I made that assumption that may not have been a wise one, and I -- to the extent that an apology is due for that, I extend it.

Well, I don't know that LAW JUDGE SEYER: an apology is necessary, but what -- the main reason I wanted to get the parties together today is because -well, let me -- let me back up, and just for the sake of the record, just very briefly, summarize that I believe your complaint on behalf of your clients alleges that Ameren Missouri has violated the Fair Competition Law, Sections 386.754 through 386.764 of the Revised Statutes of Missouri alleging that Ameren Missouri has engaged in HVAC services. But staff -staff's memorandum that was filed back on April 12th of 2023, what is relevant for what I want to cover today, staff states that the commission is the wrong forum in which to file this action and -- and the position is that the commission has no authority to enforce -- enforce the provisions of the Fair

Competition Law.

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2 So, again, for the sake of the record, back 3 on December 13th, I issued an order on behalf of the commission directing staff to file a joint proposed 4 5 procedural schedule by January 8th. That would be on behalf of all the parties, and essentially, that is 6 7 What I got was on -- on your behalf, not what I got. 8 Mr. Barrett, was a proposed scheduling order 9 suggesting that an April 1st deadline for the parties 10 to propound data requests, and a May 17th deadline to conduct depositions, a June 28th deadline for written 11 12 testimony and deposition designations. And staff and Ameren Missouri filed a joint motion to adopt a 13 14 procedural schedule that only listed a -- an initial 15 briefs deadline March 21st and April 3rd deadline for 16 reply -- or March 21st deadline for filing initial 17 briefs, and April 3rd deadline for filing reply briefs. 18 19

So the way I took those filings was kind of the old quote from a movie, failure to communicate. What we have here is, a failure to communicate. And so I look at those pleadings as -- as unresponsive to the commission's order and -- but I also kind of look at it as possibly the parties disagree on whether the commission is the proper forum and disagree as to the



- 1 commission's authority in this matter. But that issue
- 2 | is not yet before the commission to decide. What is
- 3 | before the commission is a complaint with facts upon
- 4 which the parties apparently disagree which, to me, is
- 5 | a contested case which must be decided after a
- 6 hearing.
- 7 | So I'd kind of like some feedback from the
- 8 parties as to whether I am wrong in my thinking on
- 9 that.
- 10 MR. BARRETT: As the petitioner's attorney,
- 11 do you want me to go first?
- 12 LAW JUDGE SEYER: Sure.
- 13 MR. BARRETT: Yeah. I think you're
- 14 | absolutely correct. Ms. Moore and I had a chance to
- 15 | visit. I have greatly appreciated her cooperation and
- 16 her courtesies throughout these proceedings long
- 17 | though they may be, but I think that's the difference
- 18 | that we're at. I think it's not to speak for
- 19 her, but I think Ms. Moore's position is, there's a
- 20 | very narrow issue of jurisdiction, using the term very
- 21 | lightly, to be determined and that -- with all the
- 22 | time that has passed to the extent that I had wanted to
- 23 | collect evidence to present at a contested hearing
- 24 before the commission, that I had been dilatory in
- 25 | doing that for the reasons I explained -- the reasons

- 1 I explained previously or the reason that I took no
  - 2 action pending the resolution of what I think was
  - 3 | initially a motion to dismiss that they filed.
  - 4 LAW JUDGE SEYER: That's correct.
- MR. BARRETT: And to the extent that we're
- 6 going to have a contested issue, we've had several
- 7 opportunities to meet as parties. We called them
- 8 settlement conferences for a couple of different
- 9 reasons, but I think I have a pretty good
- 10 understanding of the facts. What I need now is an
- 11 opportunity to collect evidence that supports those
- 12 | facts in a contested hearing posture. And that's all
- 13 | I have to say about that, just so I can pass the
- 14 baton.
- 15 MS. MOORE: I -- did you want me to go
- 16 | ahead and --
- 17 LAW JUDGE SEYER: Sure. If you'd like to
- 18 | weigh in on this.
- 19 MS. MOORE: Yeah. I think here, when we go
- 20 | to the narrow issue of jurisdiction, the initial
- 21 | complaint is whether --
- 22 | LAW JUDGE SEYER: Let me -- let me
- 23 | interrupt you, and for the sake of the record, you're
- 24 Ms. Moore on behalf of Ameren; correct?
- MS. MOORE: Correct. Thank you. I'm



Page 8

| 1  | sorry, Your Honor. No problem. I should have said     |  |  |  |  |
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| 2  | that.   |  |  |  |  |
| 3  | I think it goes down to the issue, as the             |  |  |  |  |
| 4  | complaint alleges that we violated the act, and       |  |  |  |  |
| 5  | there's an exemption under the act where we're        |  |  |  |  |
| 6  | offering energy efficiency programs where HVAC        |  |  |  |  |
| 7  | services are a part of those programs, and under that |  |  |  |  |
| 8  | provision of the law, the company is exempted from    |  |  |  |  |
| 9  | violating the act. So the way that the company        |  |  |  |  |
| 10 | perceives that is this is a legal issue for the       |  |  |  |  |
| 11 | parties to brief. I don't know what contested issues  |  |  |  |  |
| 12 | or, you know, what contested facts there are. Just as |  |  |  |  |
| 13 | staff, you know, laid out issues in the report, the   |  |  |  |  |
| 14 | company doesn't have any issues or you know,          |  |  |  |  |
| 15 | doesn't challenge any of those facts. I don't know if |  |  |  |  |
| 16 | it's the complainant's issue that some of those facts |  |  |  |  |
| 17 | can be contestable, but, you know, we we have a       |  |  |  |  |
| 18 | record before us, and I think the the next step now   |  |  |  |  |
| 19 | is to brief the commission, and that's why staff and  |  |  |  |  |
| 20 | the company came to an agreement on the the           |  |  |  |  |
| 21 | schedule, and so I don't know, Carolyn, staff, does   |  |  |  |  |
| 22 | do you want to weigh in or at anything?               |  |  |  |  |
| 23 | MS. KERR: Sure. This is Carolyn Kerr on               |  |  |  |  |
| 24 | behalf of staff. I mean, we agree with with Ameren    |  |  |  |  |
| 25 | as far as that issue goes. Excuse me.                 |  |  |  |  |



| Τ. | In addition, I mean, we you know, after                |
|----|--|
| 2  | we submitted our report, there has been, you know,     |
| 3  | months to do discovery, ask follow-up questions.       |
| 4  | We've tried to have some settlement discussions.       |
| 5  | Those really have gone nowhere. You know, it's         |
| 6  | it's staff's not going to get in between, you know,    |
| 7  | the the complainant and the company as to whether,     |
| 8  | you know, there's any any settlement, you know, how    |
| 9  | they're going to settle this case, but, you know,      |
| 10 | it at one at a few points there was, you know,         |
| 11 | some discussion on, you know, how is there a way       |
| 12 | that the two parties can, you know, work something     |
| 13 | out, and nothing seemed to to work out. So, you        |
| 14 | know, if we're going to go to a hearing, let's just go |
| 15 | to a hearing and try to figure something out, but I    |
| 16 | don't know that anyone's figured out what the actual   |
| 17 | issue is. You know, we've had time during those        |
| 18 | you know, in between those settlement discussions or   |
| 19 | whatever you want to call them to to do you            |
| 20 | know, send DRs or do depositions or whatever, but it   |
| 21 | doesn't seem to be you know, it the question           |
| 22 | seem to be, what's the legal issue? And and not,       |
| 23 | you know, what the facts are. You know, and so, you    |
| 24 | know, like our report said, this this is really a      |
| 25 | legal issue, and that's why we submitted the the       |



- schedule we did. We did ask -- you know, run that by

  Mr. Barrett to see whether he would sign off on that,

  so we could have a joint -- a truly joint procedural

  schedule to be filed with the -- with the commission,

  and Mr. Barrett didn't want to agree with that, which

  is, you know, perfectly fine. And so he filed his -
  his own and that -- that's kind of how we got to where
  - You know, I don't think this -- if we do go to a hearing, I -- you know, I -- I don't think we should wait, you know, another six months to even start it. We should, you know, go ahead and schedule something, you know, very soon. But, you know, I agree with what Ms. Moore said, this really is a -- is a legal question.
- MR. BARRETT: If I might, Mr. Sir?

  LAW JUDGE SEYER: Uh-huh.

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we were, where we are.

- 18 MR. BARRETT: This is David Barrett again.
  - I completely agree with what Carolyn and Jennifer said. Although we disagree on what the proper positioning is, I don't think there's any disagreement about where we've been or what has gone on. Again, my view was simply, if there's simply a legal issue that is going to be resolved in some sort of summary proceeding, whether -- in civil court, it



Page 11

might be called a motion to dismiss or a motion for summary judgment, then I think the issue -- the legal issues, I agree, are clear.

order, you were looking to do a hearing on the merits of the issue and -- with the legal issue being a -- one of those things to be resolved, but to the extent that we're going to go into the merits, that's where I think there's a -- a need for the evidence to be memorialized, but if this is a -- if you're going to be reaching a summary decision on whether the commission has authority, there's no need to go through that exercise to gather evidence, if the commission's the wrong place to present the evidence in the first place.

the -- the situation is that the commission does not have a -- a motion for summary determination before it. And there are these -- these facts in dispute, and so I believe that there needs to be a procedural schedule that leads to an evidentiary hearing, you know, and has deadlines for direct testimony, rebuttal testimony, et cetera. A list of issues. Position statements. And leading up to an evidentiary hearing to take place no later than the end of July, let's



- Page 12
- 1 say. That would give you some time for discovery, but
- 2 | would get an evidentiary hearing on the calendar,
- 3 because our calendar's starting to fill up. So that's
- 4 kind of the way I look at the case.
- 5 And so, you know, I hope to -- at the close
- 6 of this conference today I would look at it as letting
- 7 | you all know that that's the position of the
- 8 commission. I'll issue an order that, again, asks for
- 9 a joint procedural schedule, and hopefully, you all
- 10 can agree on a procedural schedule that has those
- 11 types of deadlines, so.
- 12 MS. MOORE: Your Honor, this is Jennifer
- 13 | Moore. I -- I'm going to go back to the issue. Maybe
- 14 Mr. Barrett could help. What -- what facts are in
- 15 | dispute? I'm aware we haven't -- we haven't disputed
- 16 anything in that staff report.
- MR. BARRETT: And that's where my comfort
- 18 level is low here. I don't know how much, Mr. Seyer,
- 19 you want to hear about the facts of the case as I
- 20 perceive them and what I intend to prove.
- 21 LAW JUDGE SEYER: Well, you know, I -- I
- 22 don't think this is the proper -- proper time to hear
- 23 anything beyond what you've alleged in your complaint.
- MR. BARRETT: And Ms. Moore has always been
- 25 | very available to me. Just because we're not going to

- 1 talk about it right now doesn't mean I'm not going to
- 2 talk to her or Ms. Kerr as we work this out. I've
- 3 known Ms. Kerr for decades, and Ms. Moore seems to --
- 4 and Ms. Moore seems to be of the same extraordinary
- 5 | caliber.
- 6 LAW JUDGE SEYER: All right. So like I
- 7 | said, what I would -- what I would like to do is,
- 8 issue an order, again, asking for a joint procedural
- 9 | schedule. My question to you is, how long do you --
- 10 and I'm directing this to everyone. How long do you
- 11 | need to file that schedule?
- 12 MR. BARRETT: This is David again.
- 13 Perhaps, being the most ignorant in the room, I might
- 14 | suggest mid-February?
- 15 MS. KERR: I'm going to be on --
- 16 unavailable after the 16th, like the second half of
- 17 | February. So if we can get it done by the 15th, I'd
- 18 | be fine.
- 19 LAW JUDGE SEYER: Ms. Moore, is that
- 20 | acceptable?
- MS. MOORE: Yes, Your Honor.
- 22 And I just want to make sure I heard
- 23 | correctly. You're proposing that we work from -- work
- 24 on a procedural schedule with having hearings in July
- 25 | in mind with a proposed date?



Page 14

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                LAW JUDGE SEYER:
                                   Correct.
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                MS. MOORE:
                             Okay.
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                LAW JUDGE SEYER: And if -- and I --
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    personally, I'm not a -- if I had my preference, I
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    prefer to have a hearing here in our building in the
                   But if that is not the consensus, if --
 6
    hearing room.
 7
    if the parties want to conduct the hearing online or
 8
    some hybrid version of online and in person, make sure
 9
    you put that in the proposed procedural schedule.
10
                All right.
                             Those -- that's really the --
11
    the topics that I wanted to cover today.
                                               Is there
12
    anything else that the parties want to discuss today?
13
                MR. BARRETT:
                               Just between counsel, if I
    might, while we're still on the phone, Mr. Seyer, the
14
15
    rest of my day is full. What I propose doing is
16
    sending a -- an e-mail to counsel on Monday so we can
17
    get together and sort out these issues.
18
                LAW JUDGE SEYER:
                                   All right.
19
                MS. KERR:
                            That's fine.
20
                LAW JUDGE SEYER:
                                   Okay.
                                          If there is
21
    nothing further, then I'll adjourn this conference,
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    and we'll go off the record.
23
                MS. KERR:
                            Okay.
                                   Thank you.
24
                               Nothing from the petitioner.
                MR. BARRETT:
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                LAW JUDGE SEYER:
                                   Thank you.
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| 1  | (Audio ended.) | Page 15 |
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| L3 |                |         |
| L4 |                |         |
| L5 |                |         |
| L6 |                |         |
| L7 |                |         |
| L8 |                |         |
| L9 |                |         |
| 20 |                |         |
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| 1  | CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER                               |
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| 5  | Date:2/2/2024   |



|                         | actual 9:16                    | —  | clear 11:3                        |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| 1                       | addition 9:1                   | В  | clients 4:15                      |
| <b>10:00</b> 2:7        | adjourn 14:21                  | back 4:13,20 5:2                         | <b>close</b> 12:5                 |
| <b>12th</b> 4:20        | adopt 5:13                     | 12:13                                    | Coalition 2:10,22                 |
| <b>13th</b> 5:3         | advantage 4:1                  | <b>Barrett</b> 2:17,18,19 3:18,19,20 5:8 | <b>collect</b> 6:23 7:11          |
| <b>15th</b> 13:17       | <b>agree</b> 8:24 10:5,        | 6:10,13 7:5 10:2,                        | comfort 12:17                     |
| <b>16th</b> 13:16       | 14,19 11:3 12:10               | 5,16,18 12:14,17,                        | commission 2:8,                   |
| <b>17th</b> 5:10        | agreement 8:20                 | 24 13:12 14:13,24                        | 13 3:1 4:22,24<br>5:4,25 6:2,3,24 |
| <b>1st</b> 5:9          | ahead 7:16 10:12               | baton 7:14                               | 8:19 10:4 11:12,                  |
|                         | alleged 12:23                  | begin 2:15                               | 17 12:8                           |
|                         | <b>alleges</b> 4:16 8:4        | <b>behalf</b> 3:5 4:15 5:3,6,7 7:24 8:24 | commission's                      |
| <b>2023</b> 4:21        | alleging 4:18                  | boy 2:19                                 | 3:23 5:23 6:1<br>11:14            |
| <b>2024</b> 2:7         | Ameren 2:12 3:3,               | briefly 4:14                             | communicate                       |
| <b>21st</b> 5:15,16     | 5,24 4:16,18 5:13<br>7:24 8:24 | briefs 5:15,17,18                        | 5:20,21                           |
| <b>26th</b> 2:7         | anyone's 9:16                  | building 14:5                            | <b>company</b> 2:11 8:            |
| <b>28th</b> 5:11        | apology 4:9,11                 | business 2:12                            | 9,14,20 9:7                       |
|                         | apparently 6:4                 | business 2.12                            | Competition 2:1                   |
| 3                       | appearance 2:16                | C  | 22 4:17 5:1                       |
| <b>30</b> 4:6           | Appearing 3:5                  |  | complainant 9:7                   |
| <b>386.754</b> 4:17     | appreciated 6:15               | calendar 12:2                            | complainant's<br>8:16             |
| <b>386.764</b> 4:17     | <b>April</b> 4:20 5:9,15,      | calendar's 12:3                          | complainants                      |
| 3rd 5:15,17             | 17                             | caliber 13:5                             | 2:11                              |
| 31 <b>u</b> 5.15,17     | asks 12:8                      | <b>call</b> 9:19                         | complaint 4:15                    |
| 8                       | assumed 3:22                   | <b>called</b> 3:9 7:7 11:1               | 6:3 7:21 8:4 12:2                 |
|                         | assumption 4:7                 | captioned 2:9                            | completely 10:19                  |
| <b>8th</b> 5:5          | attorney 2:20,25               | Carolyn 2:25 8:21, 23 10:19              | <b>conduct</b> 5:11 14:           |
| Α                       | 4:5 6:10                       |  | conference 2:9                    |
|                         | attorneys 2:16                 | <b>case</b> 2:9 4:4 6:5 9:9 12:4,19      | 3:10 12:6 14:21                   |
| <b>A-R-R-E-T-T</b> 2:20 | <b>audio</b> 15:1              | cetera 11:23                             | conferences 7:8                   |
| <b>a.m.</b> 2:8         | authority 4:24 6:1             | challenge 8:15                           | consensus 14:6                    |
| absolutely 6:14         | 11:12                          | chance 6:14                              | contestable 8:17                  |
| acceptable 13:20        | aware 4:3 12:15                | City 2:20                                | contested 6:5,23                  |
| act 8:4,5,9             |                                | civil 10:25                              | 7:6,12 8:11,12                    |
| action 4:23 7:2         |                                | JIVII 10.20                              | cooperation 6:15                  |



| <b>Corey</b> 2:10                  | direct 11:22               | 7:11 11:9,13,14                          | follow-up 9:3                  |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| correct 6:14 7:4,<br>24,25 14:1    | <b>directing</b> 5:4 13:10 | <b>evidentiary</b> 11:21, 24 12:2        | forum 4:23 5:25<br>front 4:7   |
| correctly 13:23                    | disagree 5:24,25           | Excuse 8:25                              | full 14:15                     |
| counsel 2:24                       | 6:4 10:20                  | exempted 8:8                             |                                |
| 14:13,16                           | disagreement<br>10:22      | exemption 8:5                            | G                              |
| couple 7:8                         | discovery 4:3 9:3          | exercise 11:13                           | gather 11:13                   |
| <b>court</b> 10:25                 | 12:1                       | explained 6:25 7:1                       | give 12:1                      |
| courtesies 6:16                    | discuss 14:12              | extend 4:9                               | good 7:9                       |
| cover 4:21 14:11                   | discussion 9:11            | <b>extent</b> 4:8 6:22 7:5 11:7          | greatly 6:15                   |
| D                                  | discussions 9:4,           | extraordinary                            | Н                              |
| <b>data</b> 5:10                   | dismiss 3:24 7:3           | 13:4                                     |                                |
| date 13:25                         | 11:1                       | F  | half 13:16                     |
| <b>David</b> 2:19 10:18            | dispute 11:19<br>12:15     |  | happen 4:1                     |
| 13:12                              | disputed 12:15             | <b>facts</b> 6:3 7:10,12 8:12,15,16 9:23 | hear 12:19,22                  |
| day 14:15                          | DRS 9:20                   | 11:19 12:14,19                           | heard 13:22                    |
| deadline 5:9,10,<br>11,15,16,17    | due 4:9                    | failure 5:20,21                          | hearing 6:6,23<br>7:12 9:14,15 |
| deadlines 11:22                    |                            | Fair 2:10,22 4:16,                       | 10:10 11:5,21,24               |
| 12:11                              | E                          | 25                                       | 12:2 14:5,6,7                  |
| decades 13:3                       | <b>e-mail</b> 14:16        | familiar 3:21                            | hearings 13:24                 |
| December 5:3                       | EC-2023-0037               | fault 3:22                               | Hernandez 3:6                  |
| decide 6:2                         | 2:13                       | February 13:17                           | Honor 3:4 8:1<br>12:12 13:21   |
| decided 6:5                        | efficiency 8:6             | feedback 6:7                             | hope 12:5                      |
| decision 11:11                     | Electric 2:11              | <b>figure</b> 9:15                       | HVAC 4:19 8:6                  |
| deposition 5:12                    | end 11:25                  | figured 9:16<br>file 2:13 4:23 5:4       | hybrid 14:8                    |
| depositions 5:11<br>9:20           | ended 15:1                 | 13:11                                    |                                |
|                                    | energy 8:6                 | filed 3:24 4:20                          | I                              |
| designations 5:12<br>determination | enforce 4:25               | 5:13 7:3 10:4,6                          | ignorance 4:5                  |
| 11:18                              | engage 4:2                 | filing 5:16,17                           | ignorant 13:13                 |
| determined 6:21                    | engaged 4:19               | filings 5:19                             | initial 5:14,16 7:2            |
| difference 6:17                    | entries 2:16               | fill 12:3                                | initially 7:3                  |
| dilatory 6:24                      | essentially 5:6            | fine 10:6 13:18                          | intend 12:20                   |
|                                    | evidence 6:23              | 14:19                                    |                                |



| interpreted 11:4                       |   | e Recordiaguary 26, 2024In<br>  <b>memorialized</b> | 5:6,9,24 6:4,8 7:7                                  |
|--|---|---|---|
| interrupt 7:23                         | L   | 11:10   | 8:11 9:12 14:7,12                                   |
| issue 6:1,20 7:6,                      | laid 8:13                                 | merits 11:5,8                                       | pass 7:13   |
| 20 8:3,10,16,25                        | law 2:15,23 3:2,7,                        | mid-february  | passed 6:22   |
| 9:17,22,25 10:24<br>11:2,6 12:8,13     | 13,16,19 4:10,17                          | 13:14   | pending 7:2   |
| 13:8                                   | 5:1 6:12 7:4,17,22<br>8:8 10:17 11:16     | mind 13:25  | perceive 12:20                                      |
| issued 5:3                             | 12:21 13:6,19                             | <b>Missouri</b> 2:10,12, 21 3:1,3,5 4:16,           | perceives 8:10                                      |
| issues 8:11,13,14                      | 14:1,3,18,20,25                           | 18,19 5:13  | perfectly 10:6                                      |
| 11:3,23 14:17                          | leading 11:24                             | Monday 14:16  | person 14:8   |
|  | leads 11:21                               | months 9:3 10:11                                    | personally 14:4                                     |
|  | <b>legal</b> 8:10 9:22,25 10:15,24 11:2,6 | <b>Moore</b> 3:4,6 6:14                             | petitioner 14:24                                    |
| <b>January</b> 2:7 5:5                 |   | 7:15,19,24,25<br>10:14 12:12,13,24                  | petitioner's 6:10                                   |
| Jefferson 2:20                         | letting 3:15 12:6                         | 13:3,4,19,21 14:2                                   | phone 14:14   |
| <b>Jennifer</b> 3:6 10:20 12:12        |   | <b>Moore's</b> 6:19                                 | place 11:14,15,25                                   |
| joint 5:4,13 10:3                      | lightly 6:21                              | motion 3:24 5:13                                    | plead 4:5   |
| 12:9 13:8                              | listed 5:14                               | 7:3 11:1,18   | pleadings 5:22                                      |
| judge 2:15,23 3:2,                     | long 6:16 13:9,10                         | movie 5:20  | points 9:10   |
| 7,11,13,16,19<br>4:10 6:12 7:4,17,     | low 12:18                                 | N   | <b>position</b> 4:24 6:19 11:23 12:7                |
| 22 10:17 11:16                         |   |   | positioning 10:21                                   |
| 12:21 13:6,19<br>14:1,3,18,20,25       | M   | narrow 6:20 7:20                                    | possibly 5:24                                       |
| judgment 11:2                          | made 4:7                                  | number 2:13   | Poston 3:11,14                                      |
| July 11:25 13:24                       | main 4:11                                 | 0   | posture 3:25 7:12                                   |
| June 5:11                              | make 13:22 14:8                           |   | practice 4:6  |
| jurisdiction 6:20                      | making 2:16                               | offering 8:6  | prefer 14:5   |
| 7:20                                   | Malone 2:11,22                            | online 14:7,8                                       | preference 14:4                                     |
|  | Marc 3:11,14                              | OPC 3:12,14 opportunities 7:7                       | present 6:23  |
| K                                      | March 5:15,16                             | ••  | 11:14   |
| <b>K-E-R-R</b> 2:25                    | matter 2:15 3:23                          | opportunity 7:11<br>order 5:3,8,23                  | pretty 7:9  |
| <b>Ken</b> 2:14                        | 6:1                                       | 11:5 12:8 13:8                                      | previously 7:1                                      |
| <b>Kerr</b> 2:25 8:23                  | matters 3:8                               |   | privilege 2:21 4:6                                  |
| 13:2,3,15 14:19,<br>23                 | meet 7:7                                  | P   | problem 8:1 11:4                                    |
| kind 3:17,22 5:19,<br>23 6:7 10:7 12:4 | memorandum<br>4:20                        | part 8:7<br>parties 3:8 4:12                        | procedural 2:9<br>3:10 5:5,14 10:3<br>11:20 12:9,10 |
|  |   |   |   |



13:8,24 14:9 **reply** 5:16,17 **sign** 10:2 today 4:12,22 12:6 14:11,12 proceeding 10:25 report 3:24 8:13 **simply** 10:23 9:2,24 12:16 Today's 2:7 proceedings 6:16 **Sir** 3:18 10:16 represent 2:21 topics 14:11 programs 8:6,7 situation 11:17 types 12:11 requests 5:10 **proper** 5:25 10:21 **skip** 3:17 12:22 resolution 7:2 sort 3:25 10:24 U resolved 10:24 14:17 propose 14:15 11:7 proposed 5:4,8 **speak** 6:18 **Uh-huh** 10:17 13:25 14:9 respondent 2:12 staff 2:24 3:23 unavailable 13:16 proposing 13:23 **rest** 14:15 4:19,22 5:4,12 understanding 8:13,19,21,24 Revised 4:18 propound 5:10 7:10 12:16 room 13:13 14:6 **prove** 12:20 **Union** 2:11 **staff's** 4:20 9:6 provision 8:8 run 10:1 unresponsive **start** 10:12 5:22 provisions 4:25 **starting** 2:16 12:3 S **PSC** 4:4 V statements 11:24 Public 3:1 **sake** 4:13 5:2 7:23 states 4:22 version 14:8 **put** 14:9 schedule 5:5.14 Statutes 4:18 8:21 10:1,4,12 versus 2:11 **step** 8:18 11:21 12:9,10 Q view 10:23 13:9,11,24 14:9 submitted 9:2,25 **violated** 4:16 8:4 question 9:21 scheduling 5:8 suggest 13:14 10:15 13:9 violating 8:9 Sections 4:17 suggesting 5:9 questions 9:3 **visit** 6:15 **send** 9:20 summarize 4:14 **quote** 5:20 sending 14:16 **summary** 10:25 W Service 3:1 11:2,11,18 R **wait** 10:11 supports 7:11 **services** 4:19 8:7 reaching 11:11 waiting 3:25 **set** 2:8 Т reason 4:11 7:1 wanted 4:12 6:22 settle 9:9 14:11 reasons 6:25 7:9 settlement 7:8 talk 13:1,2 weigh 7:18 8:22 rebuttal 11:22 9:4,8,18 term 6:20 **wise** 4:8 record 3:21 4:14 **Seyer** 2:14,18,23 testimony 5:12 5:2 7:23 8:18 3:2,7,13,16,19 work 9:12,13 13:2, 11:22,23 14:22 23 4:10 6:12 7:4,17, things 11:7 22 10:17 11:16 referral 3:23 written 5:11 12:18,21 13:6,19 thinking 6:8 regulatory 2:14 wrong 4:22 6:8 14:1,3,14,18,20, time 2:8 4:2 6:22 11:14 25 relevant 4:21 9:17 12:1,22



**Conference Recording** January 26, 2024Index: years..years Υ years 4:6

