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              BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMISSION
 2
                    OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI
 3
     In the Matter of the Petition of
     Union Electric Company d/b/a
     Ameren Missouri for a Financing
 4
                                         )File No. EF-2024-0021
     Order Authorizing the Issue of
     Securitized Utility Tariff Bonds
 5
     for Energy Transition Costs
 6
     Related to Rush Island Energy
     Center.
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                             * * * * * * * * * * * * * *
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                                VOLUME 6
12
                                HEARING
13
                TAKEN AT THE GOVERNOR OFFICE BUILDING
14
                           200 MADISON STREET
15
                      JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI 65101
16
                              APRIL 17, 2024
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     PRESIDING JUDGE:
     JOHN CLARK
21
     COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:
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     KAYLA HAHN, Chair
23
     JASON HOLSMAN, Commissioner
     MAIDA COLEMAN, Commissioner
24
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	Evidentially Hearing	April 17, 2024
1		Page 2
2	INDEX	
3	SHAWN LANGE Direct Examination by Ms. Mers	PAGE 7
	Direct Examination by Ms. Mers	,
4	BRAD FORTSON Direct Examination by Ms. Mers	10
5	Questions by Judge Clark	12
6	Recross Examination by Mr. Lowery Redirect Examination by Ms. Mers	22 28
	-	_ 0
7	MATT MICHELS Cross Examination by Ms. Mers	39
8	Questions by Chair Hahn	43
	Cross Examination by Mr. Williams	49
9	Recross Examination by Ms. Mers	54
	Redirect Examination by Mr. Lowery	57
10		
	MITCH LANSFORD	5 1
11	Questions by Commissioner Holsman	71
12	KEITH MAJORS	- 4
1 2	Questions by Commissioner Holsman	74 77
13	Recross Examination by Ms. Tatro	/ /
14	JOHN ROBINETT	
1 -	Direct Examination by Mr. Williams	78
15	Cross Examination by Ms. Tatro	80
16	Questions by Commissioner Holsman	87 90
16	Questions by Judge Clark Recross Examination by Mr. Pringle	92
17	Redirect Examination by Mr. Williams	93
Ι,	Redirect Brammacion by Mr. Williams	73
18	MITCH LANSFORD:	0.0
19	Cross Examination by Mr. Williams Questions by Commissioner Holsman	99 104
	Questions by Judge Clark	111
20	Recross Examination by Mr. Williams	115
21	Redirect Examination by Mr. Lowery Questions by Commissioner Holsman	117 119
4 1	Recross Examination by Mr. Williams	125
22	Redirect Examination by Mr. Lowery	128
23		
24		
25		



Evidentiary Hearing April 17, 2024

	Evidentiary Hearing	April 17, 2024
1		Page 3 PAGE
2	KEITH MAJORS Cross Examination by Mr. Lowery	131
	Questions by Commissioner Holsman	138
3	Questions by Judge Clark Recross Examination by Mr. Williams	145 151
4	Redirect Examination by Mr. Pringle	152
5	JOHN RILEY Direct Examination by Mr. Williams	154
6	Cross Examination by Mr. Lowery Questions by Judge Clark	155 157
7	Questions by Commissioner Holsman	159
8	Questions by Judge Clark	176
9	MITCH LANSFORD Questions by Judge Clark	194
10	KEITH MAJORS	107
11	Cross Examination by Ms. Tatro	197
12	JOHN RILEY Questions by Judge Clark	181
13	Cross Examination by Ms. Tatro Redirect Examination by Mr. Williams	189 191
14	MITCH LANSFORD	
15	Questions by Judge Clark	194
16	KEITH MAJORS Cross Examination by Ms. Tatro	197
	Questions by Commissioner Holsman	207
17	Recross Examination by Mr. Williams Recross Examination by Ms. Tatro	219 225
18	Questions by Commissioner Holsman	228
19	Recross Examination by Ms. Tatro Redirect Examination by Mr. Pringle	230 231
20	ANGELA SCHABEN	
21	Direct Examination by Mr. Williams Cross Examination by Ms. Tatro	233 234
22	Questions by Judge Clark Redirect Examination by Mr. Williams	251 254
23		
24		
25		



г		April 17, 2024
1	JAMES WILLIAMS	Page 4 PAGE :
_	Direct Examination by Ms. Tatro	256
2	Questions by Commissioner Holsman	256
3	Cross Examination by Mr. Pringle Cross Examination by Mr. Williams	263 263
3	Cross Examination by Mr. Williams	203
4	MITCH LANSFORD	
	Questions by Commissioner Holsman	268
5	Questions by Judge Clark	269
6	JAMES WILLIAMS	
	Direct Examination by Mr. Lowery	270
7	Voir Dire Examination by Mr. Lowery	274
	Questions by Commissioner Holsman	277
8	Questions by Judge Clark	284
	Questions by Commissioner Holsman	293
9	Recross Examination by Mr. Pringle	295
10	Recross Examination by Mr. Williams	296
10	Redirect Examination by Mr. Lowery	299
11	KEITH MAJORS	
	Questions by Judge Clark	303
12	Recross Examination by Mr. Lowery	305
13	CEDRIC CUNIGAN	200
14	Direct Examination by Mr. Pringle	308 310
1 4	Questions by Judge Clark Recross Examination by Mr. Lowery	312
15	Recross Examination by Mr. Lowery	312
	JOHN ROBINETT	
16	Direct Examination by Mr. Williams	315
	Questions by Commissioner Holsman	317
17	WANTED TO DAYLOR	
18	MANZELL PAYNE Direct Examination by Mr. Williams	318
10	Questions by Commissioner Holsman	320
19	Recross Examination by Mr. Williams	321
		0
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| TODGE CLARK. Let'S 90 off the record. Good               |
|----------------------------------------------------------|
| morning. Today April 17, 2024. The current time is       |
| 9:02 a.m. This proceeding is being held in Room 310 of   |
| the Governor Office Building. The Commission has set     |
| aside this time today for day three of the Ameren        |
| Securitization Hearing. And that is In The Matter of     |
| the Petition of Union Electric Company doing business as |
| Ameren Missouri for a Financing Order Authorizing the    |
| Issuance of Securitized Utility Tariff Bonds for Energy  |
| Transition Costs related to Rush Island. And that is     |
| File No. EF-2024-0021.                                   |
|                                                          |

My name's John Clark. I'm the Regulatory
Law Judge presiding over this hearing today. There are
not Commissioners down here yet, but there will be
Commissioners that are coming in and out through the day
and there are Commissioners that will join us via Webex,
both to observe the proceedings and to ask questions.
We have a new court reporter again today. We seem to be
switching court reporters each day. So the first time
you get up or so, if you're a witness, be sure that the
court reporter catches your name. At this time, I'm
going to ask counsel to enter their appearance on behalf
of their parties, stating with Ameren Missouri.

MS. TATRO: Wendy Tatro.

MR. LOWERY: Jim Lowery, also on behalf of



- 1 | Ameren Missouri.
- JUDGE CLARK: Ms. Tatro, Mr. Lowery, thank
- 3 | you. On behalf of the Staff of the Commission.
- 4 MS. MERS: Nicole Mers on behalf of the
- 5 | Commission and Travis Pringle will be appearing on some
- 6 | issues later today as well.
- JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Ms. Mers. On
- 8 behalf of the Office of Public Counsel.
- 9 MR. WILLIAMS: Nathan Williams appearing on
- 10 behalf of the Office of the Public Counsel and the
- 11 Public.
- 12 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Mr. Williams. On
- 13 | behalf of Midwest Energy's Consumers Group?
- MR. OPITZ: Good morning, Your Honor. Tim
- 15 Opitz on behalf of MECG.
- 16 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Mr. Opitz. I do
- 17 | not see an attorney for Missouri Industrial Energy
- 18 | Consumers. They had requested to be excused except for
- 19 | a single issue, and so they are not expected to be here
- 20 | at this point. Renew Missouri, likewise, asked to be
- 21 | excused, except for their singular issue. So they have
- 22 | been. Natural Resources Defense Council requested to be
- 23 excused from the entire hearing. That was granted.
- 24 | AARP and Consumer Council of Missouri.
- MR. COFFMAN: Thank you, Your Honor. I'm

| 1  | John B. Coffman appearing on behalf of AARP and also on  |
|----|----------------------------------------------------------|
| 2  | behalf of the Consumers Council of Missouri.             |
| 3  | JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Mr. Coffman. And                 |
| 4  | the Sierra Club had similarly asked to be excused from   |
| 5  | the entire hearing and that was granted. Are there any   |
| 6  | preliminary matters that the Commission needs to take up |
| 7  | at this time? I hear and see none.                       |
| 8  | When we left off yesterday, we left off with             |
| 9  | Issue 5, Planning for NSR Outcome. And we were about     |
| 10 | ready to start our second witness and that would be      |
| 11 | Staff's witness. Staff, you may go ahead and call your   |
| 12 | witness.                                                 |
| 13 | MS. MERS: Staff calls Shawne Lange to the                |
| 14 | stand.                                                   |
| 15 | JUDGE CLARK: Would you raise your right                  |
| 16 | hand to be sworn? Do you solemnly swear or affirm that   |
| 17 | the testimony you're about to give at this evidentiary   |
| 18 | hearing is the truth?                                    |
| 19 | THE WITNESS: I do.                                       |
| 20 | JUDGE CLARK: Staff, you may proceed.                     |
| 21 | SHAWNE LANGE,                                            |
| 22 | being first duly sworn, produced and examined, testified |
| 23 | as follows:                                              |
| 24 | DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MS. MERS:                          |
| 25 | Q. Can you please state and spell your name for the      |

record?

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- A. My name is Shawne, S-H-A-W-N-E, Lange, L-A-N-G-E.
- Q. And did you file testimony in this case that
  has been marked -- it's your rebuttal testimony
  marked as Exhibit 108 and surrebuttal testimony
  marked as Exhibit 109?
  - A. Yes.
  - Q. And do you have any corrections to that testimony?
- 11 A. Not to my knowledge.
- Q. And is that testimony true and accurate to the best of your knowledge and belief?
  - A. Yes.
  - Q. And if I asked you those same questions today, would your answers be the same?
- 17 A. Yes.
  - MS. MERS: This is Mr. Lange's last time on the stand, so I will go ahead and offer his Exhibit 108, rebuttal testimony, and Exhibit 109, surrebuttal testimony for the record.
- JUDGE CLARK: Are there any objections to
  admitting the rebuttal testimony of Shawne Lange,
  Exhibit 108, and the surrebuttal testimony of Shawne
  Lange, Exhibit 109, on to the hearing record?



| 1  | examination questions from Ameren Missouri?              |
|----|----------------------------------------------------------|
| 2  | MR. LOWERY: No questions, Judge.                         |
| 3  | JUDGE CLARK: Are there any Commission                    |
| 4  | questions? This is twice for you. I have no questions    |
| 5  | for you, Mr. Lange. I found your testimony quite clear.  |
| 6  | So since nobody has any questions, you may step down.    |
| 7  | THE WITNESS: Thank you.                                  |
| 8  | JUDGE CLARK: Staff, you may call your next               |
| 9  | witness.                                                 |
| 10 | MS. MERS: Staff calls Brad Fortson to the                |
| 11 | Stand.                                                   |
| 12 | JUDGE CLARK: Will you raise your right                   |
| 13 | hand? Do you solemnly swear or affirm that the           |
| 14 | testimony you're about to give in this evidentiary       |
| 15 | hearing to be true?                                      |
| 16 | THE WITNESS: I do.                                       |
| 17 | BRAD FORTSON,                                            |
| 18 | being first duly sworn, produced and examined, testified |
| 19 | as follows:                                              |
| 20 | DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MS. MERS:                          |
| 21 | Q. Can you state and spell your name for the             |
| 22 | record?                                                  |
| 23 | A. Brad, B-R-A-D, J. Fortson.                            |
| 24 | Q. Did you prepare or cause to be prepared               |
| 25 | rebuttal testimony that has been marked as Exhibit       |



| 1  | 104 and corrected rebuttal testimony that has been     |
|----|--------------------------------------------------------|
| 2  | marked as Exhibit 105?                                 |
| 3  | A. I did.                                              |
| 4  | Q. And do you have any further corrections to          |
| 5  | that testimony?                                        |
| 6  | A. I do not.                                           |
| 7  | Q. Is the information contained within true and        |
| 8  | accurate to the best of your knowledge and belief?     |
| 9  | A. It is.                                              |
| 10 | Q. And if I asked you those same questions today,      |
| 11 | would your answers be the same?                        |
| 12 | A. Yes.                                                |
| 13 | MS. MERS: This is Mr. Fortson's last                   |
| 14 | time on the stand, so I will also offer Exhibit 104    |
| 15 | and 105 into the record.                               |
| 16 | JUDGE CLARK: Are there any objections to               |
| 17 | admitting Exhibit 104, the rebuttal testimony of Brad  |
| 18 | Fortson, or Exhibit 105, the corrected rebuttal        |
| 19 | testimony of Brad Fortson on to the hearing record? I  |
| 20 | hear and see no objection. Exhibit 104 and Exhibit 105 |
| 21 | are admitted on to the hearing record.                 |
| 22 | MS. MERS: I tender the witness for cross.              |
| 23 | JUDGE CLARK: Is there any cross examination            |
| 24 | from AARP or the Consumers Council of Missouri?        |
| 25 | MR. COFFMAN: No. Thank you, Your Honor.                |

| 1  | JUDGE CLARK: Any questions from MECG?               |
|----|-----------------------------------------------------|
| 2  | MR. OPITZ: No. Thank you, Your Honor.               |
| 3  | JUDGE CLARK: Any cross examination from the         |
| 4  | Office of Public Counsel?                           |
| 5  | MR. WILLIAMS: Not at this time. Thank you.          |
| 6  | JUDGE CLARK: Any cross examination from             |
| 7  | Ameren Missouri?                                    |
| 8  | MR. LOWERY: No questions, Judge.                    |
| 9  | JUDGE CLARK: Any Commission questions?              |
| 10 | QUESTIONS BY JUDGE CLARK:                           |
| 11 | Q. I just have maybe one or two questions for       |
| 12 | you. We'll see where we go. And you were here       |
| 13 | yesterday when I maybe unfairly questioned          |
| 14 | Ms. Eubanks?                                        |
| 15 | A. I was.                                           |
| 16 | Q. Do you want to give me your take on why this     |
| 17 | is why this is a separate and distinct issue from   |
| 18 | the plant retirement?                               |
| 19 | A. Yeah. So I think Ms. Eubanks did a good job      |
| 20 | of trying to explain sort of the situation. I think |
| 21 | a couple issues got sort of lumped together.        |
| 22 | Ultimately, my testimony was filed for historic     |
| 23 | background of IRP planning and Ms. Eubanks          |
| 24 | referenced my testimony as support for her proposal |
| 25 | for the hold harmless.                              |



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| so, dicimatery, i think the issues may likely        |
|------------------------------------------------------|
| have been able to have been put together in a        |
| different and better, more clear, concise way. But   |
| ultimately my testimony being what it was, you know, |
| I think the bigger picture to me on this issue is    |
| more so the hold harmless piece of it and could that |
| have been included somewhere else more clearly. It   |
| probably could have been.                            |

Q. I'm going to say again -- and I think I was maybe a little unfair yesterday -- myself and I believe the Commissioners, too, deeply appreciate the fact that you guys go through the hard process of delineating the issues so that the Commission knows exactly the decisions that it needs to make.

And so I know that's a hard process because it involves a meeting of the minds of all the parties and, you know, that's hard in a case where, you know, you're not reaching a settlement and we're here at the hearing.

So, again, I want to express that I really do genuinely appreciate everything and it is impossible to get everything perfect. And most of my questions, again, center around my inability to understand the issue.

But I do think there's some very valuable

stuff in there, and especially in regard to the IRP,
because obviously this is not -- we are not
assessing the prudence of their IRP planning, but
you're trying to give a historical background
towards the prudence of their decision or, I guess
you might say, failure to make a decision to plan

for a possible negative court outcome.

- So what I would like for you to do, if you could give me a little background, since you do have the knowledge about the IRP planning process, in that can you kind of meld the IRP -- what Ameren was doing with their IRPs as it relates to those three court decisions?
- A. Sure. And that's really exactly where I was going with my testimony, was to point out, in my opinion, and I think factually, you know, with the 2011, '14 and '17 triennial IRPs, the Company didn't explicitly plan or state that they were planning for a negative outcome of the NSR litigation.

The Company will contend that they do have -they did have models that showed an early retirement
of Rush Island in the year 2024, which happens to be
the outcome of, you know, what ultimately happened.
But my point was, it wasn't explicitly stated that
that's what they were planning for.



It was -- you know, the models that were planned for Rush Island early retirement, they did have certain models that showed the scrubbers being installed, but for a carbon tax in the 2024, 2025 planning years.

So my testimony, you know, was really intended just to show that the -- I believe that the planning could have potentially -- well, one, could have ultimately been planned for a negative NSR litigation outcome. That wasn't, in fact, what was done.

I believe those models would have -- the outputs -- outcomes of those models could have been different by some amount. I think certain assumptions would have changed if you're, you know, specifically looking at the negative outcome as opposed to early retirement due to a carbon tax.

I can't sit here and list or even state what the Company may or may not have done differently. It just seemed to me for purposes of this case, pointing out that I thought what was potentially a lack of planning for that outcome.

You know, the Company has mentioned -Mr. Lowery in my deposition and Mr. Michels in his
surrebuttal testimony that Staff didn't raise any

concerns or allege any deficiencies throughout that timeframe, specifically in regards to the Company not modeling it in that -- for that certain outcome.

I can't speak to -- you know, for several of those years why that may have been. And it may have ultimately been that Staff didn't have a -- you know, a concern, given that they didn't know how the outcome was going to be. Again, the testimony was more for just a historical background from, I guess, my point of view.

- Q. I believe I remember reading in your testimony that you had asked Ameren why they hadn't planned for a negative court outcome and that the response you received back was that it was not their policy in their IRP planning to include pending litigation; is that correct?
- A. Yes, that was my understanding. And I know that the Sierra Club had sent the Company a data request asking that specifically and got that response. I recall that response through discussions with the Company. But they did respond to a data request to the Sierra Club stating that.
- Q. Did they tell you why?
- A. No more so than just, you know, it was -- my understanding was, it was the policy of the Company



that, you know, that was -- that was pending litigation. That was a pending issue that I understood they didn't feel was appropriate to plan for while it was pending.

- Q. I believe I remember reading in Mr. Mitchell's testimony that they believed they were just following the rules for IRPs to minimize the revenue requirement. Does that make sense in regards to planning for negative legal outcomes? That's not a very well-worded question.
- A. I think I -- I think I understand where you're going. I don't disagree with Mr. Michels' characterization of NPVRR and that being the primary driver of comparing those plans.

And, again, I mean, they would have likely ultimately compared the NPVRRs of any plan, of any modeling that they did, including had they done a plan specifically for the negative outcome of Rush Island litigation.

But ultimately what he said makes sense. I don't know that he mentioned it or was speaking necessarily to planning for the negative NSR litigation outcomes, but his characterization was fair.

Q. Now, no amount of IRP planning would have made

a difference at the end of the day in regard to whether they have to close plant or not?

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A. That's true. And I think you got to that late yesterday, when I think you said we are where we are. And, yeah, the IRP planning, I offered up thoughts of, you know, had they planned differently, maybe there could have been a smoother transaction once that outcome was final.

Again, that was more suggestions or thoughts as opposed to, you know, this is how it would have -- you know, there would have been a smoother transaction -- or transition. But, yeah, ultimately we are where we are because of the Court order and what Ameren is now required to do with Rush Island.

Q. I went home and I gave this issue a lot of thought, because, as I've indicated, I've had some difficulty wrapping my head around it. And one of the questions I asked Ms. Eubanks, you know, which essential bucket the harm went into it. And I think my supposition at the time was, well, it can't be both. But then I went home and I said, why can't it be both. That doesn't -- you know.

And then I considered if the Commission is determining that the plant retirement may be prudent, but the NSR is not, it might be another way

for Staff to get to that harm.

However, and especially it seems to me when coming at it through the failure to plan for a negative outcome, even if the Commission were to agree with Staff, it seems that even more so than the plant retirement issue, that what harm would come over this multi-year process would be highly speculative and absolutely nonquantifiable. Do you believe that's a fair assessment.

A. I do think currently that's a fair assessment. I think there was certain potential harms, at least maybe a harm, that Ms. Eubanks spoke to that may have a more clear quantification. But I think you're exactly right, there's -- there could be a number of potential harms that could come about because of -- because of the negative outcome and going forward.

I think one of our -- Staff's biggest concerns was, you know, if the Commission were to find that what Ameren is doing with the retirement of Rush Island, it being -- you know, if they determine it's prudent, our concern was that an order could read that could imply that -- you know, limits or even precludes Staff from bringing or raising further issues or prudency issues in future proceedings.

| And I think that's sort of where some of the        |
|-----------------------------------------------------|
| testimony has sort of you know, trying to guide     |
| the Commission. If you determine it to be prudent   |
| and Staff has no is staff's position is, you        |
| know, that it is prudent for Ameren to comply with  |
| the Court order and to retire Rush Island           |
| accordingly, we just want to preserve our right to  |
| bring up further issues potentially for harm in the |
| future.                                             |

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Q. And I actually thought about that last night as well. So many of the things that staff has pointed out that it's attempting to preserve, it seems like that Staff is doing that simply because there's no way to calculate now. And then down the road, maybe closer to the next rate case or even beyond that, that is when those items will become known and knowable.

Is staff using its hold harmless provision in this case, beyond what's been said about customers, and I don't want to go into any in camera information -- well, if you're going to go into in camera information, let me know so I can go in camera.

But is -- and I heard Ms. Eubanks say yesterday these are amounts that we have a pretty

| reasonable idea that the estimates are fairly solid. |
|------------------------------------------------------|
| Is Staff wanting to preserve the nonquantifiable     |
| harm for the future, it have the Commission make     |
| some sort of decision here, and as to that that      |
| perhaps Staff could use later?                       |

A. Yeah. I mean, I think that's exactly -exactly what we're hopeful for. The Commission can
make its decision as far as Rush Island and
securitization in this case as were -- you know,
intended to be, but, again, there are -- again, we
don't know how many -- you know, what, if any, harm
will come, you know, in the future.

I think Ms. Eubanks and/or others have mentioned certain remedies yet to be determined, you know, from the outcome of the litigation. There will be some amount of money likely. It could be a substantial amount of money that comes with those remedies, depending on how Ameren determines to handle those costs and potential proposals for cost recovery from ratepayers. If Staff is of the position that it shouldn't be recovered from ratepayers, we want to be able to take that position and bring that forth in front of the Commission.

JUDGE CLARK: Thank you. Those are all the questions I have. Any recross based on Bench questions

| 1  | from AARP or CCMO?                                   |
|----|------------------------------------------------------|
| 2  | MR. COFFMAN: No, Your Honor.                         |
| 3  | JUDGE CLARK: Any recross from MECG?                  |
| 4  | MR. OPITZ: No. Thank you, Your Honor.                |
| 5  | JUDGE CLARK: Any recross from the Office of          |
| 6  | the Public Counsel?                                  |
| 7  | MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you, no.                         |
| 8  | JUDGE CLARK: Any recross from Ameren                 |
| 9  | Missouri?                                            |
| 10 | MR. LOWERY: Just a little bit, Your Honor.           |
| 11 | RECROSS EXAMINATION BY MR. LOWERY:                   |
| 12 | Q. Mr. Fortson, you understand, do you not, that     |
| 13 | Sierra Club was and, I guess, is a party to the      |
| 14 | District Court litigation, right?                    |
| 15 | A. I do.                                             |
| 16 | Q. And you understand well, let me back up.          |
| 17 | The Company filed a motion for protective order in   |
| 18 | the 2020 IRP when it actually did submit specific    |
| 19 | alternatives that assumed Rush Island would retire   |
| 20 | in 2024 because of an NSR loss, right? Let me        |
| 21 | rephrase the question.                               |
| 22 | In the 2020 IRP docket, the Company filed            |
| 23 | alternative resource plans that assumed that it lost |
| 24 | the NSR case and assumed that as a result of the     |

loss of the NSR case, it would retire the plant in

2024; did it not?

## 2 A. It did.

- Q. And that is, in fact, what has happened,
- 4 | right?

1

- 5 A. That's what's happened, yes.
- 6 Q. And Sierra Club was a party to the District
- 7 | Court case, right?
- 8 A. Right.
- 9 Q. Sierra Club was a party to the IRP, the 2020
- 10 | IRP, right?
- 11 A. Right.
- 12 Q. And before it filed those scenarios, it asked
- 13 | the Commission to enter a protective order to
- 14 prevent really anybody beyond the Sierra Club
- 15 | lawyers, who were actually trying the -- or involved
- 16 | in the IRP case -- in other words, not all the
- 17 | Sierra Club experts and people in the Sierra Club
- 18 that are involved in the Beyond Coal campaign and
- 19 | all these other things, right?
- 20 A. Right.
- 21 Q. Filed a motion for a protective order to
- 22 prevent Sierra Club from disseminating that
- 23 | information to the detriment of the Company, right?
- 24 A. That's right.
- Q. And the Commission agreed with that request



|    | Evidentiary Hearing April 17, 202                   |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|----|-----------------------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| 1  | Page 24<br>and entered the protective order, right? |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2  | A. They did.                                        |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 3  | Q. And the reason is, the Company was concerned     |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 4  | that it might be hamstrung or there might be issues |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 5  | caused in the District Court litigation to its      |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 6  | detriment?                                          |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 7  | JUDGE CLARK: Mr. Lowery, you're testifying          |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 8  | MR. LOWERY: Well, it is cross examination,          |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 9  | but I'll try to                                     |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 10 | JUDGE CLARK: Go ahead.                              |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 11 | MR. LOWERY: I'll try to move I'll try to            |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 12 | make it a little more concise, Judge.               |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 13 | Q. (By Mr. Lowery) Was concern that if Sierra       |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 14 | Club had access to that information, being a party  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 15 | of the District Court case, that it might be        |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 16 | detrimental to the Company's position in the case,  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 17 | right?                                              |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 18 | A. I don't remember what the reasonings the         |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 19 | Company offered, but, yeah, I'm sure that's right.  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 20 | Q. And you understand why the Company was           |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 21 | concerned about that, right?                        |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 22 | A. I do.                                            |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 23 | Q. I think at the end of the Judge's questions      |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 24 | you were talking maybe entirely about this          |  |  |  |  |  |  |



transmission hold harmless proposal that Ms. Eubanks

has; is that right?

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## A. Hold harmless in general, yes.

- Q. And I think the Judge was, based on
- 4 | Ms. Eubanks' testimony, was suggesting, well,
- 5 | Ms. Eubanks says that the alleged harm that Staff
- 6 | alleges relating to those costs is more certain than
- 7 | maybe some of these other future alleged harms that
- 8 | the Staff has been talking about, right?

# A. I think that's right.

- 10 Q. It's true, is it not, that in the 2014 IRP
- 11 | docket, in the 2017 IRP docket, in the 2020 IRP
- 12 | docket, in none of those dockets did the Staff ever
- 13 | raise a concern or an issue or claim a deficiency in
- 14 | the Company's planning relating to transmission
- 15 upgrades, did it?

#### 16 A. Not that I'm aware of.

- 17 Q. When the Company changed its preferred
- 18 | resource plan in 2022 to call for the retirement of
- 19 Rush Island in 2024, Staff didn't advise the Company
- 20 or the Commission in any way that the Staff thought
- 21 | the Company should have been planning earlier or
- 22 | differently about these transmission upgrades, did
- 23 | it?

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### 24 A. I believe that's true.

Q. Would you agree that the transmission



| upgrades, they can't actually be done until a        |
|------------------------------------------------------|
| retirement decision is made, MISO studies the impact |
| at that time and then says what the transmission     |
| upgrades need to be?                                 |

- A. I don't know exactly how that whole process works, really.
- Q. Would you agree the transmission system is dynamic and the conditions on it change from year to year based on plant retirements, other plant retirements, not just Ameren Missouri, transmission upgrades that have happened, generation additions?

  Would you agree with that?

#### A. Seems reasonable.

- Q. If the Company had done earlier planning around this and if that planning suggested you could put in transmission upgrades for "x," let's say "x" is less than what they actually cost, but the Company was going to have to retire the plant earlier in order to put those transmission upgrades in at an earlier time at a lower cost, wouldn't that have necessitated retiring the plant earlier?
- A. I don't know all the variables and I don't want to speak for -- go against, step on toes of anything that Ms. Eubanks said.
- Q. Well, you don't know is what your testimony



is?

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### A. That's fair.

- Q. If Mr. Michels said that was the case, would you disagree with him?
- A. I guess that depends. I don't know for sure, in taking into account all the variables and the circumstances, I don't know if I would disagree or not.
- Q. Well, so the truth is that you don't know whether or not putting transmission upgrades in hypothetically earlier at a hypothetical lower cost, you don't know whether that, on a net basis, would have been better for customers or not, do you?

#### A. I don't know.

Q. Because if it meant that the plant needed to retire earlier and thus stop producing margins that flow back through the FAC to customers earlier, if those margins were going to be more than any hypothetical transmission cost savings, customers would actually be worse off saving a few bucks on the transmission upgrades and foregoing those margins; isn't that right?

MR. WILLIAMS: Judge, I object. I believe he's getting way beyond the scope of the Commission questioning.



| 1  | JUDGE CLARK: Sustained.                                  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|----|----------------------------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| 2  | MR. LOWERY: Judge, I'm going to stop my                  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 3  | cross examination at this point. I do just want to       |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 4  | point out because you asked a number of questions of     |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 5  | Mr. Fortson about his testimony. I could probably go on  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 6  | for 45 minutes and establish facts that are already in   |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 7  | the record in Mr. Michels' surrebuttal testimony and I'm |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 8  | not going to do that, burden the record with that, but I |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 9  | would encourage you, for balance on this issue, to       |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 10 | certain look at that.                                    |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 11 | JUDGE CLARK: Yes, I certainly will. Just                 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 12 | because I mentioned a part of somebody's testimony, that |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 13 | doesn't open their entire testimony up to recross.       |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 14 | MR. LOWERY: No, I understand that.                       |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 15 | JUDGE CLARK: You have no further questions?              |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 16 | MR. LOWERY: I do not. Thank you.                         |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 17 | JUDGE CLARK: Any redirect from Staff?                    |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 18 | MS. MERS: Yes.                                           |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 19 | REDIRECT EXAMINATION BY MS. MERS:                        |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 20 | Q. Going back to the discussion you had with the         |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 21 | Bench, you were talking about the kind of                |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 22 | nebulousness around the decision points in this case     |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 23 | and how they were broken up into issues; do you          |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 24 | recall that?                                             |  |  |  |  |  |  |

I do.

25

A.

| Q. And would you agree that well, let me        |
|-------------------------------------------------|
| rephrase that. I'm in cross mode still. In your |
| opinion, are there how many distinct decision   |
| points are there?                               |
| A. Distinct decision points, as far as this cas |

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## se?

Yes, that culminated and had a changing -- I quess if you look at it as a decision tree. Is that Would something like the decisionmaking process behind the 2007 and 2010 projects be like a first part on that decision tree?

MR. LOWERY: I'm going to object that this is beyond the scope of the Bench's questions. think you asked anything about the NSR permitting decisions at all. At best you asked about the witness's opinion about whether the Company had planned its IRP in later years appropriately or not.

I was just trying to clarify MS. MERS: because I -- and I apologize if I misunderstood, but it seemed like that there has been some confusion on how Staff and parties have thought if decisions were all together and you could view them as imprudent or if certain ones could be viewed prudently and certain ones could be viewed imprudently and then how that hold harmless interacts with it.

JUDGE CLARK: I did discuss that when



| 1  | discussing my confusion with the issue.                |
|----|--------------------------------------------------------|
| 2  | MR. LOWERY: I didn't think that was the                |
| 3  | question she asked, though, but                        |
| 4  | JUDGE CLARK: What was your question again?             |
| 5  | It kind of got lost when you hit decision tree.        |
| 6  | MS. MERS: And I could probably phrase it               |
| 7  | better, too, which would help.                         |
| 8  | Q. (By Ms. Mers) I'm not going to be able to say       |
| 9  | it the same way, but it was essentially, would the     |
| LO | decisionmaking process behind the 2007 and 2010        |
| L1 | project be the kickoff of where this all starts?       |
| L2 | MR. LOWERY: Same objection. If the                     |
| L3 | criticism is we didn't plan for an NSR loss, we didn't |
| L4 | even have an NSR case at that time.                    |
| L5 | JUDGE CLARK: That question does seem a                 |
| L6 | little out of scope, so I will sustain that objection. |
| L7 | Q. (By Ms. Mers) You were asked about you had          |
| L8 | a discussion with the Bench about if the IRP no        |
| L9 | matter what time the IRP had planned, it couldn't      |
| 20 | have prevented the closure. Do you recall that?        |
| 21 | A. I do.                                               |
| 22 | Q. Could an IRP that incorporated closure earlier      |
| 23 | lead to different past plant investments?              |
| 24 | A. Yes.                                                |
|    |                                                        |

Q.

And you had discussions with the Judge about

- 1 | the speculative nature of the harm from this. If no
- 2 | disallowances were made, what value would you find
- 3 | in addressing these kinds of issues for moving
- 4 | forward in future planning?

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- A. Can you help me with that a little bit, maybe?
- Q. Is there value to addressing this issue other than monetary value?
  - A. Addressing this issue or potential harm in future proceedings?
  - Q. Encouraging utilities to incorporate planning earlier decisions?
  - A. I mean, I think ultimately the outcome that where we're at now could definitely, you know, lead to utilities taking certain things more into account going forward as far as planning to try and help mitigate any issues, you know, any -- you know, that transition to a new plan. And a lot of this is, you know, I will admit, sort of hypothetical, but maybe it leads to better planning.
- Q. And while you were explaining -- you explained
  a little bit about the IRP process, but did agree
  that there are speculative unknowns, I guess, at
  this point. But does long-term planning
  transition -- it turns into implementation at some
  point; would you agree?

| Α. | What | was | the | last | part? |
|----|------|-----|-----|------|-------|
|----|------|-----|-----|------|-------|

- Q. At some point utilities, when you've reviewed IRPs, that long-term planning transitions into implementations of projects. Is that your experience that you've seen?
  - A. Sure.

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- Q. And does that involve -- do you usually see more firm details on that?
- A. More firm details throughout the IRP planning process?
- Q. Better assumptions on cost or changes like site information the more it's moved through the IRP process?

JUDGE CLARK: Can you clarify this question for me? I'm not really understanding the question.

MS. MERS: I'm poorly trying to -- IRP processes build on each other and the sooner an IRP would consider a potential outcome, the more they study that, the next IRP and the one after that, even if there's no building or construction, would have more assumptions, more costs, more information for parties and Ameren and whoever to evaluate and look at so we would know the potential -- we would know sooner the harm from anything, how this court decision could impact planning decisions in the, you know, 2020s and prior.



- I'm going to turn to your discussion with counsel for Ameren. Do you remember covering discussion of the 2020 IRP?
- Yeah, we talked about it. Α.

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- Q. And that timing?
- 2 A. Yes.

- 3 Q. When did Ameren lose the first case, first
- 4 | District Court case?
- 5 A. There's been a lot of dates thrown out. Was 6 it 2017?
- 7 Q. Right.
- 8 A. I think was the initial decision.
- 9 Q. You also had to -- it was around that date. I
- 10 | actually don't have it written down myself, either.
- 11 You had a discussion about Sierra Club's impact on
- 12 being both a party to the District Court's case and
- 13 parties to cases before the Commission. Do you
- 14 | recall that?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. Are there ways to address confidentiality
- 17 | issues and still properly plan for the future?
- 18 A. I would assume so, yes.
- 19 Q. You were also asked about Staff's past filings
- 20 in IRP cases. Do you recall that?
- 21 A. I do.
- 22 Q. How do Staff's views incorporate changing
- 23 | market, economic, or operating conditions?
- 24 A. Can you say that again?
- Q. How do Staff's view incorporate changing



- 1 market, economic or operating conditions?
- 2 A. As far as...
- 3 Q. Over time.
- 4 A. Staff views that they change over time.
- Q. So -- okay. Yes. So views can evolve and
- 6 | would you agree that they should evolve based on new
- 7 information, new market conditions, new economic
- 8 | conditions or new operating conditions?
- 9 A. Absolutely.
- 10 Q. Do you recall, was there a Rush Island
- 11 | investigation done by Staff after the IRP's
- 12 Mr. Lowery spoke to you about?
- 13 A. At some point, yes, there was.
- 14 Q. In your opinion, could that have impacted
- 15 | Staff's view on this situation?
- 16 A. Sure.
- 17 Q. Do you recall if transmission costs were
- 18 | discussed in that?
- 19 A. In the investigation?
- 20 | O. Uh-huh.
- 21 A. I don't recall. It's very likely, but I don't
- 22 recall.
- MS. MERS: That's all I have. Thank you.
- JUDGE CLARK: Mr. Fortson, you may step
- 25 down and you are excused. Next witness is Ameren

1 Missouri's. Please call your next witness. 2 We call Matt Michels to the MR. LOWERY: 3 stand. 4 JUDGE CLARK: I believe I've been saying 5 Mitchells for three days now. 6 I subtly once mentioned his MR. LOWERY: 7 name, but you didn't pick up on it, which is fine. 8 JUDGE CLARK: There's a lot I don't pick up 9 on. 10 MR. LOWERY: There's a lot to pick up on, 11 so. 12 Do you so solemnly swear or JUDGE CLARK: 13 affirm that the testimony you're about to give at this 14 evidentiary hearing is the truth? 15 THE WITNESS: I do. 16 Ameren, go ahead. JUDGE CLARK: 17 Judge, this is Mr. Michels. MR. LOWERY: 18 He's already been sworn before and appeared before. 19 This is his last time on the stand, so I'd like to offer 20 Exhibit 14, there's a confidential and public version. 21 Exhibit 15, there's also a confidential and public 2.2 version, which I understand you would provisionally be 23 admitting. And then Exhibit 16, his sur-surrebuttal, 24 which I also understand you would be provisionally 25 admitting?

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| Τ  | JUDGE CLARK. INAU IS COFFECT. INAUK YOU.                 |
|----|----------------------------------------------------------|
| 2  | Any objection to admitting 14, C or P, on to the hearing |
| 3  | record?                                                  |
| 4  | MR. KEEVIL: Judge, this is Jeff Keevil                   |
| 5  | jumping in from outer space. Can I make a response to    |
| 6  | that that Ms. Mers may not be aware of?                  |
| 7  | JUDGE CLARK: Say that again, Mr. Keevil.                 |
| 8  | MR. KEEVIL: I was just saying to say                     |
| 9  | Ms. Mers may not be aware of this because she wasn't     |
| 10 | involved in the ting Monday, in the hearing Monday, but  |
| 11 | Mr. Lowery mentioned several of Mr. Michels' exhibits    |
| 12 | have been objected to or subject to motions to strike,   |
| 13 | and I assume when he says provisionally admitted, that   |
| 14 | that's what he's referring to and that this is not an    |
| 15 | attempt to forget about those motions to strike hanging  |
| 16 | out there.                                               |
| 17 | JUDGE CLARK: Mr. Keevil, we've already                   |
| 18 | admitted something provisionally today. I believe        |
| 19 | Ms. Mers is quite aware of the motions to strike.        |
| 20 | JUDGE CLARK: All right. Exhibits 14-C,                   |
| 21 | 14-P, those are the direct testimony of Matt Michels.    |
| 22 | There's Exhibit 15-C and 15-P, which is the surrebuttal  |
| 23 | of Matt Michels to which there's been a motion to        |
| 24 | strike.                                                  |
| 25 | MS. MERS: Correct.                                       |

Page 38 1 I authorized the Company to JUDGE CLARK: file sur-surrebuttal, but that is also subject to that 2 3 motion to strike. If the motion to strike is granted, 4 obviously the sur-surrebuttal disappears. So is there 5 any objection to admitting his direct testimony on to 6 the record and the surrebuttal testimony and 7 sur-surrebuttal admitted provisionally? 8 MS. MERS: Not admitted provisionally as 9 we've been doing with the other ones. JUDGE CLARK: 10 Subject to the motions to strike? 11 12 Right. MS. MERS: 13 JUDGE CLARK: All right, I hear none. 14 Exhibit 14, C and P, Exhibit 15, C and P, and Exhibit 15 16. 14 is admitted. 15 and 16 are provisionally 16 Go ahead, Ameren, or did you tender your admitted. 17 witness? 18 MR. LOWERY: I will now, Judge. Thank you. 19 JUDGE CLARK: Any cross examination from 20 MECG? 21 MR. OPITZ: No thank you, Your Honor. 2.2 JUDGE CLARK: Any cross examination from 23 AARP and I'm just going to refer to Consumer Council of 24 Missouri as CCMO, if that's okay? 25 MR. COFFMAN: Yeah. I have no questions.



Page 39 1 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you. Any cross 2 examination from the Commission Staff? 3 MS. MERS: Yes. 4 MATT MICHELS, 5 being first duly sworn, produced and examined, testified 6 as follows: 7 CROSS EXAMINATION BY MS. MERS: 8 0. Good morning. 9 Good morning. Α. 10 Ο. Do you recall yesterday that we spoke about Ameren Missouri's load and planning reserve margins 11 12 and in that discussion you agreed in the 2020 IRP 13 summer load and planning reserve margins what -- the 14 lowest point in the future was 7,339 megawatts? 15 That sounds familiar. Α. 16 Ο. And did you -- were you here for Mr. Birk's 17 testimony? 18 Α. I was not. 19 If he discussed a 7,800 megawatt summer load 0. 20 and planning reserve margin, would that surprise 21 you? 2.2 Α. No. 23 And Ameren's load does not go down that much 0. 24 year to year, correct?



That's correct.

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Α.

- 1 Q. And were you aware that since at least the --
- 2 | as early as NERC's 2021 -- 2020 to 2021 winter
- 3 | reliability assessment that the MISO region was
- 4 | identified as at risk for extreme weather?
- 5 A. Yes.
- Q. And does the Commission's IRP rule require the Company to consider extreme weather?
- 8 A. Yes, it does.
- 9 Q. Were you -- did you respond or provide any
  10 information in Staff's investigatory docket on -11 preceding this case?
- 12 A. I don't know whether I did or not.
- Q. Did you attach a data request to your testimony in this case from that study or that workshop?
  - A. I believe I did because that data request was referred to in one of the testimonies to which I was responding. I don't remember which.
- Q. Okay. I was just trying to clarify. It's your surrebuttal testimony. If you want to try to pull that up to follow along.
- 22 A. What page?

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Q. I apologize, I don't have the schedule number.

In your 2021 analysis of Rush Island retire versus

25 retrofit analysis, did you change any carbon pricing

from the 2020 IRP?

2 Α. No.

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- Q. And in that same analysis, did you make any changes to natural gas pricing from the 2020 IRP?
- Α. No.
- And in that analysis, did you make any 0. assumption changes to reflect the change in social, environmental, and governance outlooks from the 2020 IRP?
  - Α. Could you repeat that, please?
- In your 2021 analysis of Rush Island's retire 0. versus retrofit, did you make any assumption changes to reflect changes in either social or environmental or governmental policy outlooks from the 2020 IRP?
- Α. No. Those are things that we normally review as part of our annual update process. We had determined that the ranges that we had used in the 2020 IRP were still valid. So at the time that we did the 2021 retire versus retrofit analysis, we had recently determined that those were still good.
- Did you update assumptions to -- you did update assumptions on the costs to operate Rush Island in the future and assumed cost of the scrubbers in that analysis, correct?
- 25 I believe so, yes. Α.



- Q. And did you use the Kenneth Snell Expert FGD report?
  - A. I believe that was the source for one of the assumptions that we used, since we used several levels of assumptions for cost for scrubbers.
  - Q. And did you use other studies?

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- A. Yes, although I can't remember which ones at this point.
- Q. Okay. I think some of those names might be confidential anyway, so. I don't think this is, but I think Mr. Lowery will stop me if it is. Was that other study done by Black & Veatch?
- A. I honestly don't recall at this point.
- Q. Okay. And do you recall if it was done by Shaw?
  - A. I don't know. You know, we had done the analysis in 2021. I did a refresh analysis for my surrebuttal testimony, so we were looking at lots of different estimates at different points in time and I don't recall now which ones were used when.
  - Q. And was 2021 also the date of the transmission work papers provided or the transmission studies provided that were used in the analysis?
  - A. So are you asking me when had the transmission studies been performed that were used as the basis



| 1  | for the assumptions in the retire versus retrofit  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|----|----------------------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| 2  | analysis?                                          |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 3  | Q. Yes.                                            |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 4  | A. They had been done since the time of the        |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 5  | Appellate Court's decision in August of that year. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 6  | So they were fairly new, had been done as part of  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 7  | the MISO process and performed by transmission     |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 8  | planning.                                          |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 9  | Q. Do you recall in your provisionally accepted    |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 10 | sur-surrebuttal discussing Ameren Missouri's       |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 11 | portfolio transition risk that was ordered out of  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 12 | the 2020 IRP?                                      |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 13 | A. I think I know what you're talking about, yes.  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 14 | Q. Was that at the same time done at the same      |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 15 | time as the announcement of Rush Island's          |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 16 | retirement?                                        |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 17 | A. It was filed the same month.                    |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 18 | Q. And was the Commission confirmed in a           |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 19 | footnote?                                          |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 20 | A. I don't know.                                   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 21 | MS. MERS: I think that's all I have.               |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 22 | Thank you.                                         |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 23 | JUDGE CLARK: Any Commission questions?             |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 24 | Chair Hahn, please go ahead.                       |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 25 | QUESTIONS BY CHAIR HAHN:                           |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

- Q. Good morning, Mr. Michels.
- A. Good morning.

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- 3 Q. We've spent a lot of time this morning talking 4 about the IRP process, so I want to talk to you 5 again about that. In your testimony you say that 6 the Commission found the Company's 2020 IRP was in 7 compliance with IRP rules. Can you give me a 8 summary of what it means to be in compliance with 9 IRP rules?
  - A. Sure. It means that the Company has followed the specific provisions in the IRP rules that were promulgated by the Commission, most recently in 2011. So that's at bottom what it means.
  - Q. To your knowledge, what happens to the IRP after you file it with the Commission? Does Staff undertake a review? Tell me what happens in that process after its filed.
  - A. Sure. So once the IRP is filed, Staff and other parties have -- I believe it's 150 days to review the filing to ask data requests. We often have a meeting after the filing and before the 150 days is up, usually fairly soon after the filing, to kind of walk through the filing to orient the Staff and parties to it, what's in it, where to find things. And also to ask questions. Also to invite

them to reach out, whether it's through formal data requests, or just informally talking to us if they have questions.

So during that time they're able to perform their discovery and ask questions and then file reports that allege deficiencies which are violations of the rules or alleged violations of the rules or concerns that they have that may affect the performance of the selection of the resource plan, but not rise to the level of a deficiency.

Following that, the parties have 60 days to work with us on resolving any issues that are identified. And then we make a joint filing at the end of that 60 days to indicate what issues we have resolved. And then the Company responds to any issues that remain unresolved. Those go to the Commission and the Commission makes a determination as to what happens next.

- Q. Okay. I acknowledge this may be a legal question, but, to your knowledge, is an IRP filing considered a contested case before the Commission?
  - A. No, I don't believe it is.
- Q. So if there were potentially a deficiency or Staff may potentially have a different opinion of the Company's planning process, is that ever -- how



would that be brought to the Commission's attention for consideration? Or would it ever be?

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- A. It would be in the joint filing if it's resolved and it would be, I think, also listed in the joint filing as an unresolved issue, and then also in the Company's response.
- Q. To your knowledge, generally as a whole, the Commission does or does not endorse a Company's IRP? You know, we do or do not issue an order approving it?
- A. Not approving the IRP. There is the option for the Commission to acknowledge the IRP as reasonable at the time that it was filed, if it also finds that there are no deficiencies.
- Q. Okay. In your testimony you write that Staff has apparent hostility to the IRP process in general, characterizing it as a little more than an academic exercise. You also say that the Commission is very clear that it has a high emphasis on the IRP process. Do you think that it's possible that it can be both, an academic exercise and also very important? The two are not mutually exclusive?
  - A. I would agree with that.
- Q. You also say there could be a misalignment between the Commission and its Staff regarding the



- 1 importance of the IRP, but if you think that the two
- 2 | are not mutually exclusive, do you then also think
- 3 | that potentially there's not a misalignment, that
- 4 | the two can coexist?
- A. I think the two can coexist. My contention is that Staff, in recent cases, seems to be suggesting that the IRP process isn't important, that it's not just that it is an academic exercise that is
- 9 important, but that it's not important. This has
  10 come up in several recent cases.
- Q. In this case and others, Ameren has used the IRP process in some ways to justify their position, correct?
- 14 A. Correct.

- Q. I'm also summarizing here, but let me know if
  you agree or not. The Staff is also using the IRP
  process in this case to justify their position,
  correct, or no?
  - A. I think they're using the existence of the IRP process as supportive of their position, yes.
- Q. Okay. So both parties are using the IRP process to support positions, though different positions? Yes?
- A. Yes. And I think there is a distinction in how those are being used, one being the analysis,



1 the results, the considerations themselves, and the 2 other being the existence of the process. 3 Ο. Understood. You state in your testimony that 4 staff offered no suggestions for improvement. Ι 5 think it's in relation to the 2020 IRP. Is that 6 something that Staff would typically do? 7 It has in the past. A. Just curious. 8 How recently? O. 9 Oh, it's hard to put a timeframe on it. Α. 10 say it was pre-pandemic, if I could isolate it that 11 way. 12 Well, the world has certainly changed, Ο. 13 especially the utility world since then? 14 Α. Yes. 15 Ο. Okay. 16 CHAIR HAHN: I don't think I have any 17 further questions. Thank you, Mr. Michels. 18 JUDGE CLARK: Are there any other Commission 19 I hear none. questions? 20 MR. WILLIAMS: Judge, this is Nathan 21 Williams for Public Counsel. I haven't had an 2.2 opportunity to conduct any cross yet. 23 JUDGE CLARK: Did I skip over you, 24 Mr. Williams? 25 MR. WILLIAMS: I believe so. I don't

- **Evidentiary Hearing** Page 49 1 anticipate extensive questioning, but I did have a 2 couple, and actually they're along the lines of what 3 Chair Hahn was asking. 4 I did not intend JUDGE CLARK: I apologize. 5 to skip over you. Please, go ahead. 6 CROSS EXAMINATION BY MR. WILLIAMS: There's been a lot 7 Good morning, Mr. Michels. Ο. 8 of discussion about the integrated resource planning 9 and -- well, my first question is, does Ameren 10 Missouri do any resource planning aside from the 11 resource planning it does for purposes of the
- 12 Chapter 22 resource planning requirements the 13 Commission has?
  - I think it's all under the IRP umbrella. There might be analysis that we do that ultimately end up in the integrated resource plan that may or may not have been formally part of it, but once we get to the IRP process, we're bring that together.
  - Was Ameren Missouri doing any NSR litigation contingency analyses relating to resource planning prior to when it showed up in resource planning filings before the Missouri Commission?
  - Α. Can you put a date on that?
  - Let's say 2017. Q.

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25 So when we did our IRPs in 2014 and Α. 2017.



2017 -- and this was discussed earlier -- we avoided looking explicitly at potential NSR outcomes, partly because we just didn't know what the range of possibilities might be.

Certainly we would not have anticipated prior to the District Court's initial order that Labadie mitigation would be part of that order. That's not something we would have been able to anticipate.

But the other were also things that were discussed earlier with respect to Sierra Club's involvement in both the IRP and the NSR litigation.

And so we wanted to make sure that we weren't doing anything that was going to, you know, put the Company and its customers at risk in the litigation process with what we did in the IRP.

You heard Mr. Fortson talk earlier about, you know, the retirement dates that we analyzed in the 2014 and 2017 IRPs. We did look at a retirement in 2024 and he does cite the reasons which the Company did list, which were true at the time for the selection of 2024 as a retirement date, but what wasn't listed in the IRP was also that we had in mind that that could be the timing of when a potential remedy may have to be put into effect.

So even though it wasn't explicitly stated in



| those IRPs, it was certainly something that we had |
|----------------------------------------------------|
| in mind along the way. So when we looked at        |
| retirement in 2014 and 2017, what we found in 2017 |
| was that retirement would not result at that point |
| in a need for or in an imminent need for new       |
| resources. It would be out in the 2030s.           |

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What we found in 2014 was that there could be a need for new resources if the Noranda load remained on the system. And so as we all know, that turned out a little bit differently. And I think we even knew at the time, in 2014, because there was a complaint case that Noranda had brought that that might not be a load that we need to plan for in the future.

So while we weren't always explicit about the planning that we were doing related to potential NSR outcomes, we were thinking about it as we were putting together our IRP analysis.

- Q. So what's disclosed in your integrated resource plan filings doesn't necessarily include all of the factors you took into consideration when you did your resource analyses?
- A. Well, it was certainly reflective of the factors that we considered, but, as I said, we always also had in mind that that may mesh with the

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| Evidentiary Hearing April 17, 2024                 |
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| potential timing of a remedy in the NSR case and   |
| that retirement may be one of those options.       |
| Q. And the remedy you're referring to with regard  |
| to Labadie, that was putting on some emissions     |
| control equipment?                                 |
| A. Dry sorbent injection. Correct.                 |
| Q. What impact would that have on the              |
| availability of Labadie, if any, or power output?  |
| A. It would not have necessarily an impact on      |
| Labadie's continued operation, although operating  |
| the dry sorbent injection system would have some   |
| impacts on the net output of the plant. It would   |
| also result in incurring some significant costs as |
| well.                                              |
| MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you. No further                |
| questions at this time.                            |
|                                                    |

JUDGE CLARK: Since I skipped over counsel, we're going to go back to Bench questions. I do have a few questions for you, Mr. Michels. I haven't skipped anybody else, have I? Thank you. For my questions, I think we're going to have to go in camera. So let's go in camera.

(In camera testimony)

Any recross from MECG? JUDGE CLARK:

MR. OPITZ: Thank you, Your Honor. No.

Page 53 1 JUDGE CLARK: Any recross from AARP, CCMO? 2 Thank you, Your Honor. MR. COFFMAN: No. 3 JUDGE CLARK: Any recross from the Commission Staff? 4 5 Just very, very briefly. MS. MERS: 6 remember, we are out of in camera, so do not ask about 7 specific numbers. 8 MS. MERS: I'll try to avoid all numbers, 9 except for this first one, but they are not confidential 10 ones. 11 RECROSS EXAMINATION BY MS. MERS: 12 Do you recall discussing with Chair Hahn the 0. 13 IRP process? 14 Α. Yes. 15 And do you recall stating that you guys 16 provided the filing and then Staff and other parties 17 had 150 days to review? 18 Α. Yes. 19 How many pages and schedules are usually in an 2.0 IRP filing? 21 It's hundreds. Α. 2.2 0. And work papers? 23 Α. The work papers are pretty voluminous because of the nature of the analysis. 24 25 You commented in that discussion with Chair



Q.

- 1 Hahn about some recent cases and how you
- 2 | characterize Staff's view of things in them. Do you
- 3 | recall?
- 4 A. Yes.
- Q. Were those cases CCN cases in which Staff opposed Ameren being granted a CCN?
- 7 A. One of them was.
- 8 Q. You also discussed with Chair Hahn the value
- 9 of an IRP, if it's an academic exercise, if it's
- 10 | informative, can it be both. Do you recall this?
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. Would you agree that the informative nature of
- 13 | the IRP depends on how detailed or specific that
- 14 | information is?
- 15 A. Sure.
- 16 Q. And you had -- again, trying to avoid numbers.
- 17 But you had some discussion with the Judge regarding
- 18 | the timing of -- I think I can say transmission
- 19 | study. Do you recall that?
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 | Q. And you believed it was completed in fall,
- 22 | November of '21, 2021?
- 23 A. Yes.
- Q. Was that your statement? And do you recall
- 25 | when Ameren filed its change of preferred plan?

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- Q. And do you recall when -- scratch that question. For those studies, do you know -- sorry, I'm trying to think out loud. You said it was after the Appellate Court case decision, correct?
- A. What was that?
  - Q. The transmission studies were completed?
- 8 A. Yes.

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- Q. When were they issued, started?
- 10 A. When were what issued?
- Q. The transmission studies. Did you begin them at that same year?
- 13 A. Yeah, I believe that was all done following
  14 the District Court decision.
  - Q. And do you recall what year Ameren's first court -- the first District Court opinion came down in?
- 18 A. I believe it was 2017.
- Q. And do you recall when the Circuit Court that affirmed it, that opinion came down?
- 21 A. I believe that was August 2021.
- Q. You included -- scratch that.
- MS. MERS: That's all I have. Thank you.
- JUDGE CLARK: Any recross from Public
- 25 | Counsel?



| 1                                | MR. WILLIAMS: No. Thank you.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2                                | JUDGE CLARK: Any redirect from Ameren                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 3                                | Missouri?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 4                                | MR. LOWERY: Yes. Thank you, Your Honor.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 5                                | REDIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. LOWERY:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 6                                | Q. I'm going to try to go in reverse order,                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 7                                | primarily. Hopefully I won't jump around too much.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 8                                | You were asked some questions by Ms. Mers just                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 9                                | now about how many pages an IRP filing is. Do you                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| LO                               | recall that?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| L1                               | A. Yes.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| L2                               | Q. You said hundreds, I think; is that right?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|                                  | A. Yes.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| L3                               | A. 165.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>L3</b><br>L4                  | Q. What familiarity does Staff have with a given                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| L4                               | Q. What familiarity does Staff have with a given                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| L4<br>L5                         | Q. What familiarity does Staff have with a given triennial IRP filing, if any, before it's filed?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| L4<br>L5<br>L <b>6</b>           | Q. What familiarity does Staff have with a given triennial IRP filing, if any, before it's filed?  A. So we usually have a workshop at some point                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| L4<br>L5<br>L <b>6</b>           | Q. What familiarity does Staff have with a given triennial IRP filing, if any, before it's filed?  A. So we usually have a workshop at some point after we've developed our assumptions and before we                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| L4<br>L5<br>L6<br>L7             | Q. What familiarity does Staff have with a given triennial IRP filing, if any, before it's filed?  A. So we usually have a workshop at some point after we've developed our assumptions and before we complete the analysis of resource plans. That's                                                                                                                                          |
| L4<br>L5<br>L6<br>L7<br>L8       | Q. What familiarity does Staff have with a given triennial IRP filing, if any, before it's filed?  A. So we usually have a workshop at some point after we've developed our assumptions and before we complete the analysis of resource plans. That's actually required by the IRP rules. And we also                                                                                          |
| L4<br>L5<br>L6<br>L7<br>L8       | Q. What familiarity does Staff have with a given triennial IRP filing, if any, before it's filed?  A. So we usually have a workshop at some point after we've developed our assumptions and before we complete the analysis of resource plans. That's actually required by the IRP rules. And we also provide drafts of certain chapters required by the                                       |
| L4<br>L5<br>L6<br>L7<br>L8<br>L9 | Q. What familiarity does Staff have with a given triennial IRP filing, if any, before it's filed?  A. So we usually have a workshop at some point after we've developed our assumptions and before we complete the analysis of resource plans. That's actually required by the IRP rules. And we also provide drafts of certain chapters required by the rules to Staff and the other parties. |

stand-in for the chapter on demand side resources.

Also transmission and distribution assumptions.

So those are provided usually about, I'll say, five to six months in advance of the filing. In the case of the 2023 IRP, we also met with Staff and Office of Public Counsel to kind of go through a preview of the filing and answer questions.

- Q. How do -- you provide a number of chapters and information, I think, you said. How does that information change, if it does change very much, between when you provide those drafts and when you file the IRP, I think you said, maybe five months later?
- A. Usually very little, if any, in the draft chapters that we provide in advance.
- Q. Your IRP, I think there were questions and issues came up about your work papers, I believe, when Ms. Mers was asking you questions. Do you remember that?

#### A. Yes.

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- Q. What familiarities does Staff and the other parties of the IRP have with the Company's IRP work papers and modeling?
- A. It's hard to know. I do know that from the IRP filing, the structure doesn't usually change much, and certainly we've been using the same IRP



| 1  | model that calculates things like revenue            |
|----|------------------------------------------------------|
| 2  | requirements and rates that we use to support our    |
| 3  | decision for selection of the preferred plan since   |
| 4  | 2014.                                                |
| 5  | Q. I guess you don't know to what extent Staff       |
| 6  | does or has dug into those models in the past? Is    |
| 7  | that fair? You don't know exactly?                   |
| 8  | MS. MERS: I would object to that as                  |
| 9  | speculation.                                         |
| 10 | MR. LOWERY: I didn't ask him to speculate            |
| 11 | as to what they know.                                |
| 12 | JUDGE CLARK: Would you rephrase your                 |
| 13 | question for me? I mean, would you let me know what  |
| 14 | your question is, please.                            |
| 15 | MR. LOWERY: Yeah, I'll try.                          |
| 16 | Q. (By Mr. Lowery) Do you know what level of         |
| 17 | familiarity Staff has with those models and work     |
| 18 | papers? You know you've provided the same ones, but  |
| 19 | do you know what level of familiarity they have with |
| 20 | them?                                                |
| 21 | A. It's hard to know for sure.                       |
| 22 | JUDGE CLARK: I'm fine with that                      |
| 23 | question.                                            |
| 24 | Q. Do you have an opinion about whether, assuming    |
| 25 | Staff actually does look at the IRP stuff over the   |

- 1 | years from IRP to IRP, do you have an opinion about
- 2 whether when Staff gets a new set of work papers, a
- 3 | new IRP, they could understand what they're being
- 4 given, given that they've seen it before?
- 5 A. I think a lot of it is sort of similar format.
- 6 The numbers change, but the structure of it more or
- 7 less remains the same.
- 8 Q. Ms. Mers asked you questions about the
- 9 | transmission study that led to the confidential
- 10 | figure the Judge asked you about that I'm not going
- 11 to mention, but you remember what that was, right?
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. And then she asked, which the record reflects
- 14 | this, when the liability decision was made by the
- 15 District Court and when the remedy decision was
- 16 | made, 2017, 2019?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 | 0. Do you have an opinion about whether looking
- 19 at the transmission system at that time would yield
- 20 | the same results or different results or might at
- 21 | least yield the same or different results than if
- 22 | you look at it later?
- 23 A. I would be shocked if they were the same
- 24 between any two points in time in terms of analysis
- 25 and results.

Q. And why is that?

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- A. It's for things that I mentioned in my testimony. I believe it was surrebuttal testimony. The system is always changing. There's changes in transmission infrastructure. There's changes in resources, either additions or retirements. The nature of the additions has an effect as well. So if you do the analysis at one point in time, you're very likely, almost certain, to get a different result than if you did the analysis at a different point in time.
  - Q. The MISO Y process where MISO -- where the utility says we made a decision, we're going to close this plant, we're going to close at this time --

MS. MERS: I would object. I don't believe the MISO Y -- we've talked about District Court opinions and transmission studies, but I don't think the MISO Y process has been a part of anybody's questions.

MR. LOWERY: Well, the MISO Y process,

Judge, is the process by which transmission cost
estimates are actually finally determined. And the
implication of Ms. Mers' questions were that -- about
the dates of the court opinions were, well, couldn't you
have studied it at a different time. And I'm just going

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JUDGE CLARK: Say that again, please.

MR. LOWERY: Let me just explain the process a little bit. Obviously, this is just an explanatory. I believe Mr. Michels will say that the Y process doesn't start until you make a retirement decision, you pick a retirement date. And it's only then, at that time, under the transmission system conditions that exist then, can you actually get a higher quality good estimate of what the costs are going to be.

And the implication of Staff's question is, well, why didn't you plan for this earlier, why didn't you study it earlier and you might have got a better estimate. And the point is, I'm just undermining, frankly, the point that they're making by having him explain what the actual process is.

MS. MERS: The questions today have been about Ameren's own studies, not about any studies that MISO have done.

MR. LOWERY: But, Judge, the actual cost of these projects are based on actual MISO studies and they

| 1  | Page 6:<br>are basically saying your estimates weren't any good and |
|----|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2  | so cap the recovery based on your estimates that weren't            |
| 3  | actually the MISO studies because the actual work that              |
| 4  | had to be done based on the actual studies may have cost            |
| 5  | more.                                                               |
| 6  | JUDGE CLARK: Bear with me just moment. I                            |
| 7  | remember Mr. Michels briefly mentioning that something              |
| 8  | occurred prior to the MISO retirement process.                      |
| 9  | MR. LOWERY: He actually did.                                        |
| 10 | JUDGE CLARK: I'm going to let you ask your                          |
| 11 | question and I'll give it whatever weight it is due.                |
| 12 | MR. LOWERY: Thank you, Judge. Now I've got                          |
| 13 | to try to figure if I can formulate an intelligent                  |
| 14 | question, Mr. Michels.                                              |
| 15 | Q. (By Mr. Lowery) How does the Company                             |
| 16 | ultimately figure out what transmission investments                 |
| 17 | are going to be needed and are going to cost when a                 |
| 18 | plant retirement happens?                                           |
| 19 | A. It's really to go through that MISO Attachment                   |
| 20 | Y process. So the Company has to submit its                         |
| 21 | Attachment Y application of MISO and then MISO, I                   |
| 22 | believe under the tariff, has six months to review,                 |
| 23 | perform the analysis, and provide the results.                      |
| 24 | Q. Can you can you do that hypothetically when                      |



you haven't decided to retire the plant?

- A. I think there is a Y2 process where you may be able to get an indication, but it's not necessarily going to give you the same answer that you get if you go through the full Attachment Y process.
- Q. Is there an advantage to actually doing the full Y process close in time to when the retirement is going to take place?
- A. Certainly. You will have a better sense that the estimates for the costs and the equipment needs are accurate to what is going to be needed at the time the plant retires.
- Q. Thank you. The Chair asked you a number of questions really sort of about the IRP process and maybe its weight and questions about what Staff does or does not raise. Do you remember those?

#### A. Yes.

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- Q. Why -- well, if it would be important, if you think it would be important, why would it be important for the Staff to raise their concerns, their issues with your planning process as part of the IRP process?
- A. It would just give us better feedback, maybe a better indication of thoughts that would help us to improve our planning in a more timely fashion.
  - Q. Would you be able to take -- if Staff has

concerns about the level of detail or the quality of information in the IRP, would you be able to address those as you move forward in time if Staff doesn't let you know about those?

#### A. We can't address what we don't know.

Q. I think the Chair asked you some questions about this misalignment statement that you made and whether both things could be true; do you remember that?

### A. Yes.

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- Q. In your opinion, is Staff using the IRP in this case in the way that Ameren Missouri has used it in, for example, CCN cases?
- A. No. This is the distinction I was drawing between relying on the process, the analysis, the results to form conclusions about the proper path for future resources versus mentioning the process as a -- as a process.
- MR. LOWERY: Bear with me just a second, Judge, please.
  - Q. You were asked some questions by Ms. Mers during her first round of cross about -- I think she asked you a series of questions about what assumptions from the 2020 IRP were updated for the late 2021 retire versus retrofit analysis. Do you

remember that?

### A. Yes.

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- Q. And just to get the timing right, the 2020 IRP was filed in the fall of 2020 and it was examined and litigated, I guess you would call it, throughout 2021 or a good part of 2021, right?
  - A. That's correct.
- Q. The late 2021 retire versus retrofit analysis is not the only analysis that you have done of the retire versus retrofit question, right?
- A. That's correct.
- Q. Am I correct that you essentially updated all the assumptions from the 2020 IRP for that later analysis and you actually used the 2023 IRP assumptions?
  - A. Yes. I alluded to it earlier in response to one of the questions that we performed an updated retire versus retrofit analysis using the 2023 IRP assumptions. I included the results in my surrebuttal testimony and that's what gave rise to about a billion dollars in savings for retiring versus retrofitting.
- Q. Did the later analysis suggest that your

  December 2021 analysis was right or wrong in terms

  of the decision it led to?



- A. It established that not only was it right, but it was even more beneficial than we had originally determined.
- Q. And I think the last inquiry I'm going to ask you about is, Ms. Mers asked you about Mr. Birk's statement. I think that he thought our peak summer load was about 7,800 megawatts and I think you said that didn't surprise you that he said that?

## A. Right.

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- Q. And I don't know that Ms. Mers said it this way. I can't remember exactly. But I thought she asked you a question about -- that suggested that the 7,800 megawatts was both load and the planning reserve margin. Is that how you understood the question?
- A. Yeah, I think that's right.
- 17 Q. That's right that she asked that question or
- 19 A. That's the way I was interpreting it.
- Q. Okay. And does the 7,800 figure, does it include the planning reserve margin, or is that just the load?
  - A. I don't know since -- since that was a number that, I guess, Mark Birk mentioned while he was testifying. But it sounds like a number that



## includes the planning reserve margin.

Q. Irrespective, the exhibit -- she used, I think, Exhibit 118. It maybe has a figure that's in this ballpark on it for a peak load. That exhibit also shows what the capacity position is including the PRM, right?

### A. Could you repeat the question?

Q. Exhibit 118 shows a peak load. It may show peak generation, but it also shows the Company's capacity position each year, whatever the load is, and the PRM versus the available resources, right?

# A. That's right.

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MR. LOWERY: That's all the questions I have, Judge. Thanks.

JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Mr. Michels.
You can step down. And you are excused.

JUDGE CLARK: It seems like as good a time as any to take about a 10 minute recess. So it is currently 10:38. Let's all come back at 10:50.

(Recess.)

JUDGE CLARK: It is now 10:50. That completes the last issue. I believe we're now on to issue six, which is net plant, what is the net plant and service balance of the retired Rush Island plant, and that is for both, A, if retried September 1st, 2024,

| 1 | and, | В, | if | retired | October | 15th, | 2024. |
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I believe the first witness in this case is Ameren Missouri. So Ameren you may call your first witness. I'm not breaking A and B up in terms of witnesses. If you're a witness and you're up for A, you're also up for B. So, Ameren, call your next witness.

MS. TATRO: Mitchell Lansford.

JUDGE CLARK: Mr. Lansford, if you'll come on down, I'll swear you in again. Do you solemnly swear or affirm that the testimony you're about to give at this evidentiary hearing is the truth?

#### THE WITNESS: Yes.

JUDGE CLARK: Please be seated. Ameren, go ahead.

MS. TATRO: I do not believe this is the first time Mr. Lansford has been on the stand, but I believe all the corrections have been made to his testimony. It is also not the last time he will be on the stand, so I will not yet move for admission. I will instead tender him for cross examination.

JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Ms. Tatro. Any cross examination by MECG? MECG is not currently in the room. Is there any cross exam -- well, AARP and CCMO are not currently in the room. Is there any cross

| 1  | examination by the Commission Staff?                     |
|----|----------------------------------------------------------|
| 2  | MR. PRINGLE: One moment, Judge. Nothing                  |
| 3  | from Staff, Judge. Thank you, court reporter. My name    |
| 4  | is Travis Pringle. This is Keith Majors. He's going to   |
| 5  | be one of our witnesses.                                 |
| 6  | JUDGE CLARK: Sorry, Mr. Pringle. Ms. Mers                |
| 7  | was here earlier. We have had a different court          |
| 8  | reporter every day, so when we have one, please update   |
| 9  | your information.                                        |
| 10 | MR. PRINGLE: My information is the same as               |
| 11 | Ms. Mers.                                                |
| 12 | JUDGE CLARK: You said no questions from                  |
| 13 | OPC?                                                     |
| 14 | MR. WILLIAMS: I actually haven't been asked              |
| 15 | yet, but I don't have any.                               |
| 16 | JUDGE CLARK: Well, I don't want to skip                  |
| 17 | over you again because that would be terrible. So I got  |
| 18 | caught up in the court reporter thing. So any cross      |
| 19 | examination from Public Counsel?                         |
| 20 | MR. WILLIAMS: Nathan Williams for Public                 |
| 21 | Counsel, no. Thank you.                                  |
| 22 | JUDGE CLARK: Any Commission questions for                |
| 23 | Mr. Lansford? Go ahead Commissioner Holsman.             |
| 24 | MITCH LANSFORD,                                          |
| 25 | being first duly sworn, produced and examined, testified |



| as follows | : |
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# 2 | OUESTIONS BY COMMISSIONER HOLSMAN:

- Q. I just want to better understand. We're looking at a 45 day difference and about a five million dollar difference in estimate. What is that -- can you help me understand what that accounts for? I mean, the plant is not in operation right now, correct? Oh, it still is. Okay. So that 45 days, if you did the math, then you could extract how much the value is on a daily basis. Would that be accurate?
  - A. That's right. So that 4 to 5 million dollars represents the depreciation on the plant that would occur from September 1st to October 15th.
  - Q. Okay. October 15th, is there a preference in the two dates as far as the Company's position?
  - A. You know, I think our preference is to securitize the balance that exists upon retirement and, you know, exactly when the plant will retire is subject to some of the MISO processes.
    - O. I see.
  - A. So we're waiting to sort that out.
- Q. So A and B is not really in your control?
- 24 A. That's correct.
- 25 | COMMISSIONER HOLSMAN: All right. Thank

| 1  | you. No more questions.                                  |
|----|----------------------------------------------------------|
| 2  | JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Commissioner. But                |
| 3  | just to clarify for the Commissioner, there's an outside |
| 4  | date by which the plant has to close, correct?           |
| 5  | THE WITNESS: That date, my understanding,                |
| 6  | is October 15th, yes.                                    |
| 7  | JUDGE CLARK: And that's the date the judge               |
| 8  | ordered?                                                 |
| 9  | THE WITNESS: That's exactly correct.                     |
| 10 | JUDGE CLARK: Thank you. Any recross based                |
| 11 | upon Commission questions? MECG was not in the room for  |
| 12 | cross examination. Do you have any recross?              |
| 13 | MR. OPITZ: Nothing. Thank you, Your Honor.               |
| 14 | JUDGE CLARK: Any recross based upon                      |
| 15 | Commission questions from the Staff?                     |
| 16 | MR. PRINGLE: No. Thank you, Judge.                       |
| 17 | JUDGE CLARK: Any recross based upon                      |
| 18 | Commission questions from Public Counsel?                |
| 19 | MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you, no.                             |
| 20 | JUDGE CLARK: Any redirect from Ameren                    |
| 21 | Missouri?                                                |
| 22 | MS. TATRO: None. Thank you, Your Honor.                  |
| 23 | JUDGE CLARK: Thank you for your testimony,               |
| 24 | Mr. Lansford. You may step down. And, Ameren, do you     |
| 25 | have another witness for this? I believe the next        |



| 1  | witness is a Staff witness. Staff, you may call your    |
|----|---------------------------------------------------------|
| 2  | witness.                                                |
| 3  | MR. PRINGLE: Thank you, Judge. Staff calls              |
| 4  | Keith Majors to the stand. And Mr. Majors has also been |
| 5  | on the stand already, corrections have been made, and   |
| 6  | because he will continue to take the stand, I will not  |
| 7  | be entering any testimony at this time. I do tender him |
| 8  | for cross.                                              |
| 9  | JUDGE CLARK: Thank you for being aware of               |
| L0 | what we were doing with the testimony. Do you solemnly  |
| L1 | swear or affirm that the testimony you're about to give |
| L2 | at this evidentiary hearing is the truth?               |
| L3 | THE WITNESS: I do.                                      |
| L4 | JUDGE CLARK: Go ahead, Staff.                           |
| L5 | MR. PRINGLE: Yes, Judge. At this time, I                |
| L6 | tender Mr. Majors for cross examination.                |
| L7 | JUDGE CLARK: Any cross examination from                 |
| L8 | MECG?                                                   |
| L9 | MR. OPITZ: No. Thank you, Your Honor.                   |
| 20 | JUDGE CLARK: There were no questions from               |
| 21 | MECG. Any cross examination from Public Counsel?        |
| 22 | MR. WILLIAMS: No questions at this time.                |
| 23 | Thank you.                                              |
| 24 | JUDGE CLARK: Any cross examination from                 |
| 25 | Ameren Missouri?                                        |



| 1  | Page 7 MS. TATRO: None, Your Honor.                      |
|----|----------------------------------------------------------|
| 2  | JUDGE CLARK: Are there any Commission                    |
| 3  | questions for this witness?                              |
| 4  | JUDGE CLARK: Commissioner Holsman, whenever              |
| 5  | you would like.                                          |
| 6  | COMMISSIONER HOLSMAN: Thank you, Judge.                  |
| 7  | KEITH MAJORS,                                            |
| 8  | being first duly sworn, produced and examined, testified |
| 9  | as follows:                                              |
| 10 | QUESTIONS BY MR. HOLSMAN:                                |
| 11 | Q. Good morning.                                         |
| 12 | A. Good morning.                                         |
| 13 | Q. So Staff has 468.9 million and OPC has 442.8          |
| 14 | million, that's a difference 26.1 million. I'll ask      |
| 15 | OPC the same question, but I'd like to get Staff's       |
| 16 | perspective. Can you speak to just on the                |
| 17 | surface I understand that that's the delta of the        |
| 18 | disallowances that OPC is recommending. Have you         |
| 19 | had a chance to look at their math and, you know,        |
| 20 | see how they arrived at that? Do you have an             |
| 21 | opinion or testimony on their numbers and why            |
| 22 | there's a difference here?                               |
| 23 | A. Unfortunately, I don't. I wish I did. I went          |
| 24 | back and looked at the last numbers in the last rate     |

case and did more or less just a sanity check

comparing Mr. Lansford's numbers that Staff also used as of October 15th. So at this point, I don't have one. I could certainly run those numbers for you and have them at some point during the --

- Q. Let me ask another way. I mean, Staff's numbers at 468.9 are identical to the Company's numbers. Do you feel like your math and the facts that you used to come up with that was an accurate assessment as you see it?
- A. Well, the numbers were derived from Mr. Lansford's testimony which was derived from the plant records and the general ledgers. So in comparing that to the amounts in the last case that were included in the planned service, those seem to be an accurate representation of the actual plant values. And keep in mind, they are projected. The actual plant values that we used were as of June 30th.

So we projected out -- Mr. Lansford projected out. We checked those calculations through October 15th. And that also -- I'm not the entirely sure, you'd have to ask Mr. Robinett, but in the final plant number, the Company did reflect the transfers to other plants and also additions and the removal of the land, the value of the land, since that's

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JUDGE CLARK: Any recross based upon

Commission questions from Ameren Missouri?

MS. TATRO: Yes. Thank you.



| RECROSS | EXAMINATION | BY | MS. | TATRO: |
|---------|-------------|----|-----|--------|
|         |             |    |     |        |

Q. Mr. Majors, Commissioner Holsman asked you a question at the very end talking about the Staff and Company numbers and had you reviewed them. And you mentioned in your answer that there was some projected numbers in there and how you had come to get comfortable with the numbers. Do you remember that conversation?

## A. Yes, I do.

- Q. Is it also true that the statute requires that number to be reconciled as part of this process as it moves forward?
- A. I'm not an attorney, but my understanding of the statute, yes, that's correct.

MS. TATRO: No further questions.

JUDGE CLARK: Any redirect from Staff?

MR. PRINGLE: No redirect, Judge. Thank

you. I'd just ask that Mr. Majors be excused for this

19 | issue.

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JUDGE CLARK: You may step down, Mr. Majors.

21 Thank you for your testimony. I believe the next

22 | witness is Public Counsel's. Public Counsel, please

23 | call your witness.

MR. WILLIAMS: John Robinett, please.

JUDGE CLARK: Mr. Robinett, would you raise



| 1  | your right hand to be sworn? Do you solemnly swear or    |
|----|----------------------------------------------------------|
| 2  | affirm that the testimony you're about to give at this   |
| 3  | evidentiary hearing is the truth?                        |
| 4  | THE WITNESS: I do.                                       |
| 5  | JUDGE CLARK: Please be seated.                           |
| 6  | JOHN ROBINETT,                                           |
| 7  | being first duly sworn, produced and examined, testified |
| 8  | as follows:                                              |
| 9  | DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. WILLIAMS:                      |
| 10 | Q. What is your name?                                    |
| 11 | A. John A. Robinett. And Robinett is spelled             |
| 12 | R-O-B-I-N-E-T-T.                                         |
| 13 | Q. And how is John spelled?                              |
| 14 | A. With an H.                                            |
| 15 | Q. By whom are you employed and in what capacity?        |
| 16 | A. I'm employed by the Missouri Office of the            |
| 17 | Public Counsel as a utility engineering specialist.      |
| 18 | Q. Did you prepare rebuttal testimony that               |
| 19 | includes four schedules that has been marked for         |
| 20 | identification as Exhibit 206 that has been prefiled     |
| 21 | in this case?                                            |
| 22 | A. Yes.                                                  |
| 23 | Q. Would you make any changes to that testimony          |
| 24 | for it to be your testimony here today?                  |
| 25 | A. I have no edits.                                      |



| 1 | Q. | Is | it, | in | fact, | your | testimony | here | today? |
|---|----|----|-----|----|-------|------|-----------|------|--------|
|---|----|----|-----|----|-------|------|-----------|------|--------|

## A. It is.

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MR. WILLIAMS: With that, I offer Exhibit 206. It's confidential and a public version. And I'll point out that although Mr. Robinett is listed on another issue, that is one that is not contested.

JUDGE CLARK: So you would to go ahead and move for admission at this time?

MR. WILLIAMS: Yes.

JUDGE CLARK: I'm just asking because my last number was a 204. Was there a 205 I missed?

MR. WILLIAMS: Mr. Payne's rebuttal testimony.

JUDGE CLARK: Thank you.

MS. TATRO: Your Honor, if I may?

JUDGE CLARK: Yes.

MS. TATRO: It appears to me that

19 material and supplies. I thought there was some issues

Mr. Robinett is testifying on decommissioning and

with that. So I'm not sure that's a correct statement.

Issues 11 -- is that 11? I can't read from here -- 11

22 and 12.

MR. WILLIAMS: I apologize then. I will

24 | hold off on that exhibit at this time.

JUDGE CLARK: Okay. I will hold on that.

- Page 79 1 But I will tender MR. WILLIAMS: 2 Mr. Robinett for examination. 3 JUDGE CLARK: Any cross examination from 4 MECG? 5 Thank you, Your Honor. MR. OPITZ: No. 6 JUDGE CLARK: Any cross examination from the 7 Commission Staff? 8 MR. PRINGLE: No, Judge. Thank you. 9 JUDGE CLARK: Any cross examination from 10 Ameren Missouri? 11 MS. TATRO: Yes. Thank you. 12 CROSS EXAMINATION BY MS. TATRO: 13 Good morning. 0. 14 Good morning. Α. 15 Ο. So, Mr. Robinett, I want to make sure we start 16 off on the same page with your recommendation here. 17 And OPC's position on net plant is not to include 18 any amount invested at Rush Island after the 19 December of '21 decision to retire. Is that a fair
- 21 Yes. That's based on the depreciation study 2.2 carried forward. I did not put any additions or 23 retirements in after that point.

2.0

summary?

24 And ultimately in the position statement that 0. 25 OPC filed in this case, that number was quantified



|    |         | Evidentiary meaning                       | April 17, 2 |
|----|---------|-------------------------------------------|-------------|
| 1  | at 27   | million; is that right?                   | Page 8      |
| 2  | Α.      | I think the difference is roughly 27 mill | ion,        |
| 3  | yes.    |                                           |             |
| 4  | Q.      | Okay. Do you have any idea of the average | 2           |
| 5  | level   | of rate base investment that's made at Ru | sh          |
| 6  | Island  | l in, let's say, 2018 through 2020?       |             |
| 7  |         | MR. WILLIAMS: I'm going to object to      | o that      |
| 8  | questic | on as vague, in that average over what?   |             |
| 9  | Q.      | Let me rephrase. Do you know how much ra  | te          |
| 10 | base i  | nvestment was made at Rush Island in 2018 | ?           |
| 11 | A.      | As we sit here, no.                       |             |
| 12 | Q.      | Do you know how much rate base investment | was         |
| 13 | made a  | at Rush Island in 2019?                   |             |
| 14 | A.      | No.                                       |             |
| 15 | Q.      | Same question for 2020?                   |             |
| 16 | A.      | No.                                       |             |
| 17 | Q.      | Same question for 2021?                   |             |
| 18 | A.      | No.                                       |             |
| 19 | Q.      | Same question for 2022?                   |             |
| 20 | A.      | No.                                       |             |
| 21 | Q.      | I guess I have to ask the last one. Same  |             |
| 22 | questi  | on for 2023?                              |             |
| 23 | A.      | I mean, between 2022 and 2023, it's rough | ly          |



But you don't have any idea of whether or not

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the 27.

- 1 that is more or less than the level of investment in
- 2 | the previous years?
  - A. No, I don't.
  - Q. You didn't ask any questions about that?
- 5 A. No, I did not.
- Q. You did not issue any data requests requesting that information from Ameren Missouri?
- 8 A. I don't believe I did, no.
- 9 Q. You know Ameren Missouri has filed previous 10 rate cases?
- 11 A. Yes.

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- Q. Didn't go back into any of the work papers in the previous rate cases to see what the investment level was for Rush Island in previous years?
- 15 A. I would disagree with that because I built 16 from the depreciation study in '21.
  - Q. So you looked at work papers and documents from a previous rate case?
- 19 A. Yes.

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- Q. But you didn't look to see what the amount of investment per year, rate base investment per year was at Rush Island in the cases you had before you?
- A. What do you mean by cases before me? You're talking the previous cases going forward, like an annual investment?



- Q. Yeah. Let me rephrase and make sure I'm a little more clear. So in order to come up with the depreciation numbers that you moved forward, what did you look at?
  - A. I took the plant and reserve values from the depreciation study.
- 7 Q. From what case?
- 8 A. I believe it's --
- 9 Q. The 22 --

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- 10 -- 220337. And then I would have built in the Α. 11 depreciation rates that were ordered from that 12 period and tried to put them in when they were --13 when they became effective to build out what the 14 annual expenses would have been to bring up the 15 reserves out to the projected retirement date of 16 which I -- I actually went further and did four 17 potential retirement dates in between.
  - Q. I understand that. So you had documentation from the 220337 case in front of you. Did you look to see how much investment had been made, capital investment had been made at Rush Island during the test year for that case?
- 23 A. No.
- Q. You could have done that, yes?
- 25 A. Yes.



- 1 Q. Do you know what projects were done at Rush
- 2 Island that constitute the \$27 million that you're
- 3 | recommending be disallowed?
- 4 A. No, I don't.
- Q. Did you present any evidence that it was unnecessary to spend money at Rush Island after the retirement date?
  - A. Could you rephrase that?
- 9 Q. Sure. Your testimony is that you did not
  10 include any additional capital investment made at
  11 Rush Island after the December of '21 decision to
  12 retire the plant, correct?
- 13 A. Yes.

- Q. What is your reason for not including that \$27 million?
- A. So I basically expected minimal investment
  going forward after a decision is to retire. You're
  not going to spend a whole lot of money to keep
  something running.
- 20 Q. Define minimal investment for me.
- A. I don't know that I can. It's up to the utility's decision what minimal investment is.
- Q. And you don't know what a normal level of investment at Rush Island is, correct?
- 25 A. I don't know the annual. Yeah, I don't have

- an average of the annual spends recently, no.
- 2 | Q. Because you didn't ask?
- 3 A. Correct.

- Q. And that's your only reason, is that the
  amount should be minimal? That's your only reason
  for justifying not including the \$27 million in the
- 7 | securitization?
- A. Right. Minimal investment to keep it running until the end.
- Q. Do you know what margins were generated at Rush Island in '21?
- 12 A. I do not.
- Q. Do you know how much were generated by Rush
- 14 | Island after 2021?
- 15 A. No, I do not.
- 16 Q. And you didn't ask that question?
- 17 A. No, I did not.
- Q. Is it possible that some of the investment that was made at Rush Island was necessary to keep
- 20 | the plant operational?
- 21 A. Absolutely.
- Q. But you don't know because you didn't ask that question?
- 24 A. Correct.
- Q. Are you aware that utilities are required to

- 1 file reports of unit outages as they occur if
- 2 | they're going to last three or more days?
  - A. Yes.

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- Q. Did you look to see if Ameren Missouri had filed any such reports since it made the decision to close the plant in December of '21?
- 7 A. No.
- Q. If indeed some reports had been made, would you anticipate that investment would have to be made to get the plant operational again?
  - A. Depending on what the outage was, yeah. That could -- a possibility.
- Q. Okay. Are you familiar with MISO's SSR contracts?
- 15 A. No.
- Q. You know Ameren Missouri is operating Rush
  Island under an SSR contract, correct?
- 18 A. Not that I -- I don't know.
- Q. Okay. You didn't inquire as to anything about the MISO process in your data request, correct?
- A. I asked for the report because it wasn't
  attached to the testimony of Mr. Williams as it
  alluded to. That's the closest to asking about the
  MISO process.
- MS. TATRO: Thank you. No further



|    | Evidentiary Hearing April 17, 2                     |   |
|----|-----------------------------------------------------|---|
| 1  | Page questions.                                     | 8 |
| 2  | JUDGE CLARK: Any Commission questions?              |   |
| 3  | COMMISSIONER HOLSMAN: Yes.                          |   |
| 4  | JUDGE CLARK: Commissioner Holsman, please           | į |
| 5  | go ahead.                                           |   |
| 6  | COMMISSIONER HOLSMAN: Thank you.                    |   |
| 7  | COMMISSION QUESTIONS BY MR. HOLSMAN:                |   |
| 8  | Q. Good morning.                                    |   |
| 9  | A. Good morning.                                    |   |
| 10 | Q. Every once in a while I, you know, consider if   |   |
| 11 | anybody is watching these proceedings that don't    |   |
| 12 | have the background and the testimony and the       |   |
| 13 | information and are just kind of layman's following |   |
| 14 | along. Because oftentimes, you know, as much as     |   |
| 15 | we're trying as Commissioners to learn and          |   |
| 16 | understand and get the vocab and do the rate cases, |   |
| 17 | sometimes we also are, you know, trying to learn as |   |
| 18 | we go.                                              |   |
| 19 | So I just want to make sure I reiterate what I      |   |

So I just want to make sure I reiterate what I just heard in that testimony as if I was someone watching from home. Essentially what I heard was, you came up with a \$27 million difference between the Company and the Staff's numbers based on stopping the evaluation in 2021?

Α. No. I didn't include additions or retirements



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after '21. I still built reserves forward as they would have been accrued and then I also did from the Staff's -- I think it was surrebuttal true-up, EMS brought that forward as well. But with using the depreciation as a starting point is where the main difference comes from.

2.2

- Q. Okay. And the Company asked you a series of questions about, you know, seeking information and trying to use, you know, past data to inform your position. And you responded by saying, no, you did not use that. Had you used that information, had you sought that data, would your numbers be different than what is shown here?
  - A. Not based on how I did it, no, because I stopped the additions. I mean, if I would have taken the additions into account and used an average and thrown them in, it could have been.
  - Q. What was the reasoning or justification for stopping when you did? Where does that -- was that a statutoral direction? Was that something that has been a precedent or tradition, stopping? Were you told to stop?
- A. No. For all of those, I didn't build in additions going forward from any of the points that I started at. That includes Mr. Lansford's



| 1  | schedule. That includes the Staff's EMS run from     |
|----|------------------------------------------------------|
| 2  | the last case as well. I did the same thing across   |
| 3  | all three scenarios.                                 |
| 4  | Q. So it was just a unilateral, almost personal      |
| 5  | decision to pick that time and place to stop         |
| 6  | accruing or stop considering the data that obviously |
| 7  | Staff and the Company continued to get to the 468.9? |
| 8  | A. They took in additions after and brought          |
| 9  | forward, yeah. It's all about the starting point     |
| 10 | and where I didn't keep additions moving forward.    |
| 11 | Q. Okay. So was Staff wrong in continuing to         |
| 12 | make those additions in your estimation? Are you     |
| 13 | correct in stopping when you stopped and Staff is    |
| 14 | wrong in continuing?                                 |
| 15 | A. Staff looks at things differently than me. I      |
| 16 | mean, I don't know that there's a right answer       |
| 17 | there.                                               |
| 18 | COMMISSIONER HOLSMAN: All right. Thank               |
| 19 | you very much. Thank you, Judge.                     |
| 20 | JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Commissioner                 |
| 21 | Holsman. Are there any other Commission questions? I |
| 22 | hear none. Mr. Robinett, I have a few questions for  |
| 23 | you.                                                 |
| 24 | QUESTIONS BY JUDGE CLARK:                            |

Do you have your testimony in front of you?

25

Q.

|  | Α. | I | do |
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- Q. On Page 6 of your testimony, on Line 4, there is a -- maybe it's an acronym -- it's AACE. Could you define that for me? And just to read to you: I currently have discovery pending to get better understanding of the different levels of study by AACE and the accuracy and detail required.
- A. Judge, I can't right now. I can go upstairs and try to figure it out. I used that from one of the Company's witnesses and I think that's how they referred to it as well.

MS. TATRO: Judge Clark, I apologize for intervening, but that's in the retirement section, which is a subject that's being taken momentarily, shortly. That's not in his net portion of his testimony. So he probably has time to get that information for you before that actual issue is taken up.

JUDGE CLARK: Thank you.

- Q. Do you have your schedule JAR-R-3?
- A. Yes, I have it in printed form.
- Q. Now, your position is that the net plant and service balance of Rush Island, if retired on September 1st, 2024, is \$447,398,779. Where does that amount appear in your schedule JAR-R-3?
  - A. It would be on Page 2, because that would be



Page 90 1 It started with the depreciate -the second tab. from the depreciation study. 2 3 Ο. What line am I looking at? Α. It would be way towards the bottom, Judge. 4 5 There should be like a gray line delineance where I 6 was using Ameren's transfers from Mr. Lansford's 7 schedule. 8 Would you take a second and locate that for 9 Did you say you don't have that in front of you 10 or you do? I have it in paper format in front of me. 11 Α. 12 Does that change the line numbers at all? 0. 13 I don't have line numbers on mine. It should Α. be way towards the bottom. 14 15 Bear with me just a second. 16 If I may, Judge, the number --MR. PRINGLE: Travis Pringle from Staff -- the 779 number is what 17 18 you're looking for, correct? 19 That is correct. JUDGE CLARK: 20 MR. PRINGLE: I find that number at Line 96. 21 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you so much. Ι 2.2 appreciate that. 23 (By Judge Clark) Same schedule, is the October



15th -- I'll just ask. Is the October 15th, 2024

net plant and service amount of \$442,820,805, is

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|    | Evidentiary Hearing April 17, 202                  |
|----|----------------------------------------------------|
| 1  | Page 91<br>that also in that schedule?             |
| 2  | A. It is. It's 870, though, 870,000.               |
| 3  | Q. I'll make that change. Okay. Then that may      |
| 4  | be the confusion. Thank you very much for          |
| 5  | clarifying that for me.                            |
| 6  | JUDGE CLARK: Those are all the questions I         |
| 7  | have. Is there any recross based upon Commission   |
| 8  | questions or Bench questions from MECG?            |
| 9  | MR. OPITZ: No.                                     |
| 10 | JUDGE CLARK: Commission Staff?                     |
| 11 | MR. PRINGLE: Yes, Judge.                           |
| 12 | RECROSS EXAMINATION BY MR. PRINGLE:                |
| 13 | Q. Good morning, Mr. Robinett.                     |
| 14 | A. Good morning.                                   |
| 15 | Q. And do you recall your conversation with        |
| 16 | Commissioner Holsman regarding differences between |
| 17 | Staff and OPC's approach on this issue?            |
| 18 | A. Uh-huh.                                         |
| 19 | Q. Is it a fair summation to say that the          |
| 20 | difference between OPC and Staff is that OPC       |

- 21 included no additional plant between 2021 and the 22 retirement date?
  - For the position statement, yeah. I mean, I had multiple different starting points, so, I mean, it depends on which one the Commission wants to use.



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| 1  | I put it out there for information. I think         |
|----|-----------------------------------------------------|
| 2  | Mr. Majors also had an adjustment from what the     |
| 3  | Company had.                                        |
| 4  | Q. But would it be fair to say the biggest          |
| 5  | difference is between 2021 and whichever retirement |
| 6  | date is ultimately picked?                          |
| 7  | A. Right.                                           |
| 8  | MR. PRINGLE: Thank you, sir. No further             |
| 9  | questions.                                          |
| 10 | JUDGE CLARK: Any recross examination from           |
| 11 | Ameren Missouri?                                    |
| 12 | MS. TATRO: None. Thank you.                         |
| 13 | JUDGE CLARK: Any redirect from Public               |
| 14 | Counsel?                                            |
| 15 | MR. WILLIAMS: Yes, please.                          |
| 16 | REDIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. WILLIAMS:               |
| 17 | Q. Mr. Robinett, you recall when Ms. Tatro asked    |
| 18 | you a number of questions about what inquiry you    |
| 19 | made of Ameren Missouri regarding additions that    |
| 20 | Ameren Missouri made post the decision to retire    |
| 21 | Rush Island in, I believe, December of 2021?        |
| 22 | A. Yes.                                             |
| 23 | Q. When did you put your testimony out? Well,       |
| 24 | let me put it this way. In these cases we have      |
| 25 | direct testimony, rebuttal testimony, and           |

- surrebuttal testimony and that's the time sequence in which those are prefiled, correct?
- A. Yes.

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- Q. Where did you put into -- among those three types of testimony, what testimony is your prefiled testimony where you set out your calculation for what to use for in that plant balance?
- A. In rebuttal.
  - Q. Did Ameren Missouri have any witness who responded in surrebuttal and explained any of the capital additions post-December of 2021?
- 12 A. Mr. Lansford discussed the difference, the 27
  13 million, but --
  - Q. When you say he discussed it, what do you mean he discussed it?
    - A. He basically took my schedules and my understanding is, he put the additions in that occurred to basically say that gets to his schedule.
- Q. Did he identify any of what those additions were? We're talking about dollars, right?
- 21 A. Dollars, yes.
- Q. Did he identify any of the capital investment that goes along with those dollars, what the projects were or what the capital investment was for physically?



## A. I don't recall.

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MR. WILLIAMS: No further questions.

May step down. And that brings us to our next issue, which is issue seven. And that concerns basemat coal inventory and what was the value of the basemat coal inventory at Rush Island and, Sub A to that, should the value of basemat coal inventory be included in the amounts authorized for financing using securitized utility tariff bonds. And the first witness is Ameren Missouri's witness.

MR. LOWERY: Judge, if it please the Commission, I'd like to make a very brief opening statement just to set the context for this issue and then call my witness.

JUDGE CLARK: Of course. Please. Go ahead.

MR. LOWERY: Thank you. As I think the Commission knows, there's always unusable coal under the usable coal pile at any coal fired power plant. That's what we mean by basemat coal. When plants retired you had typically -- before there was a securitization statute, you included the basemat coal in base rates and allowed recovery of it at its inventory value on the books at that time.

The basemat coal qualifies as energy

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Page 95

transition costs under the securitization statute and both the Staff and the Company recommend including it in energy transition costs at the value reflected on Ameren Missouri's books at 1.9 million. In other words, it should be included, according to Staff and the Company, in the principal amount of the bonds.

OPC witness Riley either opposes recovery by any means at all, including via the bonds issued in this case, or proposes an alternative value of \$532,000, about a fourth of its value on the books, claiming really a theory that the basemat consists of coal first put down at the site in 1977, and since the initial cost of the coal is less than the cost of coal today, that lower figure should be used.

The evidence in this case will show that, A, the Company has never recovered the cost of the basemat coal and, B, that the coal primarily consists of ultra low sulfur coal that the Company did not even start to burn until 2011 or 2012 and that valuing the basemat at a cost based on 1977 coal cost would greatly understate the value of the basemat coal inventory. The Company, with Mr. Lansford, will testify on this issue. And with that, I'll call him to the witness stand now.

MR. WILLIAMS: Judge, if I might.

JUDGE CLARK: Yes.

Page 96

MR. WILLIAMS: From OPC's perspective --

JUDGE CLARK: So you're wanting to do a mini

MR. WILLIAMS: Sure. I'm sorry.

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opening as well?

JUDGE CLARK: No, that's okay. I was trying to understand whether you were commenting to the Court or whether you were giving an opening.

MR. WILLIAMS: I apologize. My intent is to give a brief opening.

From our perspective, Mr. Lowery is correct that coal is included in the inventory, the rate-based coal is included in the inventory. It gets rate-based treatment and it has gotten that treatment for years, if not decades. And, of course, as a rate base item, it is given a return on. So there's been an income stream to Ameren Missouri not only -- for the value of that inventory, that basemat coal inventory.

So Mr. Riley suggested that over the years, Ameren Missouri has been fully compensated and what its recovered in rate should cover that full cost, but if the Commission views otherwise -- basemat coal, of course, is at the bottom of the pile. It's where usable coal sits on top of.

So if you're going to value the coal that's used for recovery in this case or in the future, it



Page 97

| 1  | should be done at a cost closer to the time in which it  |
|----|----------------------------------------------------------|
| 2  | was ground into the ground and not at current values. I  |
| 3  | believe Mr. Lansford or Ameren Missouri used January     |
| 4  | 2023 values and Mr. Riley has some values that go back   |
| 5  | to 1977.                                                 |
| 6  | I think the issue in the case is, one,                   |
| 7  | whether there's any recovery now that hasn't already     |
| 8  | been fully recovered, and if the Commission decides that |
| 9  | there hasn't been sufficient recovery already, then at   |
| 10 | what cost does the Commission value that coal or basemat |
| 11 | coal to be currently.                                    |
| 12 | JUDGE CLARK: Thank you for that                          |
| 13 | explanation. Ameren, you may call your first witness.    |
| 14 | MR. LOWERY: We call Mitch Lansford.                      |
| 15 | JUDGE CLARK: I believe your only witness                 |
| 16 | for this case or for this issue. And, Mr. Lansford,      |
| 17 | I'll remind you you're still under oath. Please be       |
| 18 | seated. Go ahead, Ameren Missouri.                       |
| 19 | MR. LOWERY: I tender Mr. Lansford for                    |
| 20 | cross.                                                   |
| 21 | JUDGE CLARK: Any cross examination from                  |
| 22 | MECG?                                                    |
| 23 | MR. OPITZ: No. Thank you.                                |
| 24 | JUDGE CLARK: Any cross examination from the              |
| 25 | Commission Staff?                                        |



| 1 | MR | . PF | RINGLE: | No. | Thank | you, | Judge. |  |
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2 JUDGE CLARK: Any cross examination from the

3 | Office of Public Counsel?

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4 MR. WILLIAMS: Just briefly. Thank you.

5 MITCH LANSFORD,

6 being first duly sworn, produced and examined, testified
7 as follows:

CROSS EXAMINATION BY MR. WILLIAMS:

- Q. Mr. Lansford, for purposes of the basemat coal value, how did you arrive at the number that your -- roughly \$2 million number that Ameren Missouri is putting forward?
- A. We relied on a settlement position that's been carried forward, I think, since 2008, an agreement amongst the parties, you know, from 2008 and has been carried forward and utilized in ratemaking ever since that point in time.
- Q. So the value you used -- well, what was in that settlement that you're referring to?
- A. I'm really not sure. Like the number? I'm sorry, Mr. Williams, the number or what was the basis?
- Q. Well, you said you based it on a settlement.
  What was in the settlement? Was there a per ton
  amount? Was there a total number of tons of coal?



|    | Da :: a 00                                                     |
|----|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1  | Page 99<br>Was there a combination of the two? Something else? |
| 2  | A. The amounts that we've carried forward since                |
| 3  | that 2008 case included a quantification of tons and           |
| 4  | price and an extended price to the \$1.9 million that          |
| 5  | I put forth in this case.                                      |
| 6  | Q. And that was a 2008 per ton price, or did you               |
| 7  | use a current price whenever you came up with the              |
| 8  | nearly 2 million?                                              |
| 9  | A. I did not change the price from that you                    |
| LO | know, from that historical point in time originating           |
| L1 | back approximately to 2008.                                    |
| L2 | Q. What was that price or what is that price?                  |
| L3 | A. I'm not sure if I have that in front of me.                 |
| L4 | Q. Would it be a confidential number, given it's               |
| L5 | a 2008 coal price?                                             |
| L6 | A. I don't know the answer to that either.                     |
| L7 | MR. LOWERY: I don't think it would be.                         |
| L8 | MR. WILLIAMS: I can't imagine why it would                     |
| L9 | be.                                                            |
| 20 | Q. Do you have your work papers?                               |
| 21 | A. I do not.                                                   |
| 22 | MR. WILLIAMS: May I approach?                                  |
| 23 | JUDGE CLARK: Yes.                                              |
| 24 | O. Mr. Lansford, I'm handing you some documents                |



that I believe are your direct testimony work papers

- -- from your direct testimony work papers. Would
  you take a look at the first page at least and, if
  you prefer, go ahead and look through the entirety
  of it.
  - A. It's all the same page.
  - Q. I'm sorry, I didn't realize that.
  - A. I do have my computer right back there that has those work papers on there.
  - Q. I think this page will be sufficient. But that is a page from your work papers; is it not?
- 11 A. It appears so.

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- Q. Well, do you need to do something more to confirm it?
- 14 A. I could confirm it by looking at my computer.
- 15 Q. I'm okay with that.
- MR. LOWERY: It's up to you whether you need to do that or not.
  - THE WITNESS: Maybe we can see where the questions go.
- Q. Okay. On that work paper there's a line towards the bottom above total coal that says Rush Island. Do you see that on the left side?
- 23 A. I do.
- Q. And then if you go across there's a column that says unusable base in tons. There's a figure



- 1 there. I don't think there's anything confidential
- 2 | about that figure, is there?
- 3 A. I don't think so.
- 4 Q. And that figure is --
- 5 A. Which figure there?
- 6 Q. Under the column unusable base and, I believe,
- 7 | it's in tons for Rush Island, if you go through the
- 8 intersection of that row in that column, the figure
- 9 there.
- 10 A. 53,000 tons.
- 11 Q. And then if you go further to the right,
- 12 | there's a unit price on that same line, the Rush
- 13 | Island line in the unit price column.
- 14 A. I see that.
- Q. And is that the number we've been talking
- 16 | about from 2008?
- 17 A. I'm not sure that it is. I don't think it is.
- 18 Q. Is that the number you used for coming up with
- 19 | your nearly \$2 million adjustment?
- 20 A. I can check real quick. (Pulling out phone.)
- 21 It doesn't appear so. The multiplication of 53,000
- 22 tons times the unit price in that column does not
- 23 equal the amount we're talking about.
- Q. Well, did you use the 53,000 tons?
- 25 A. I did.



| 1  | Q. So let's go the other direction, then. Let's      |
|----|------------------------------------------------------|
| 2  | take your nearly \$2 million and divide it by the    |
| 3  | 53,000 and tell me what that number is.              |
| 4  | A. \$36.29 per ton.                                  |
| 5  | Q. So was that the that value's from the 2008        |
| 6  | stipulation, according to you?                       |
| 7  | A. Correct. And maybe I'll clarify. That value       |
| 8  | has been carried forward and relied on by Staff and  |
| 9  | all the other parties in rate cases since 2008, but  |
| 10 | I'm not aware that there's an exact stipulation      |
| 11 | used, the term "stipulation."                        |
| 12 | Q. So you're saying it's been an undisputed          |
| 13 | number, but not a settlement number?                 |
| 14 | A. I don't know whether it is or is not a            |
| 15 | settlement number. I don't have any knowledge of     |
| 16 | the history dating back to 2008, other than the fact |
| 17 | that it has been carried forward since then.         |
| 18 | Q. Do you know if the Commission ever reviewed it    |
| 19 | as a contested matter in 2008 or since?              |
| 20 | A. I do not know.                                    |
| 21 | MR. WILLIAMS: May I approach again?                  |
| 22 | JUDGE CLARK: Yes.                                    |
| 23 | MR. WILLIAMS: I have no further questions            |
| 24 | of this witness at this time. Thank you.             |

Are there any Commission

JUDGE CLARK:

| qu | est | cio | ns? |
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2 COMMISSIONER HOLSMAN: Yes, Judge.

JUDGE CLARK: Go ahead Commissioner Holsman.

COMMISSIONER HOLSMAN: Thank you.

## QUESTIONS BY COMMISSIONER HOLSMAN:

- Q. This basemat coal, is it used and useful?
- A. Used and useful is a concept, you know, typically thought of from a plant investment standpoint, so that's an accounting term that I'm more familiar with it. Is it used or useful in any other context? I mean, it's required to be the foundation of the coal pile. We need that basemat coal such that we can pile the other coal on top of it and then deliver that coal from the pile to our energy center. So from that perspective, I would say it is used and useful.
- Q. So help me understand from a logistical standpoint why you need coal instead of like -- you know, why not another platform? Why not like steel or gravel or -- why does it have to be a fuel that is the, you know, foundation for the coal pile?
- A. That's beyond sort of my, you know, understanding or knowledge as a finance and accounting expert here, but I know that it's common throughout the industry to have basemat coal at the



| bottom of each of these piles | bottom | of | each | of | these | piles |
|-------------------------------|--------|----|------|----|-------|-------|
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- Q. What is this basemat coal good for now? Like, what will be done with it? Will it just be broken up and destroyed? Can it be burned?
- A. It can't be burned. When the plant retires, it's -- you know, it's unusable. It has no other purpose. I think environmental regulations require it to be removed from the site. You know, as we think about valuing the basemat coal, as something related to your question, we have an amount on our books for that inventory today, you know, all of our coal pile, whether it's basemat or usable, and we're going to endeavor to use all the usable coal that we can.

Whatever can't be used at the end of the day, whatever that amount is, whatever that value, will be the write-off and will be the final amount of basemat coal. And so valuing it here, you know, is important because you have to put a number on it, but the final actual determined amount will be determined in the future and will be reconciled to whatever estimate we come up with in this case.

Q. So OPC suggested that this basemat coal has already had a return during previous rate cases. Is that an accurate assessment?

A. I heard that.

- 2 \ Q. Do you agree with that?
- A. I don't agree with that. I think OPC's, you
- 4 know, opening statement there was premised on the
- 5 | fact that a return on would somehow compensate the
- 6 Company for a recovery of their initial cash outlay.
- 7 I don't agree with that at all.
- 8 Q. I didn't quite fully get the resolution
- 9 between you and OPC that this 1.9 million reflected
- 10 | a 2008 value of coal. What was the result there? I
- 11 | know you didn't have your laptop, but based on that
- 12 exchange, was this 1.9 million factored in based on
- 13 | the value of coal in 2008?
- 14 A. Because it originated from that time period, I
- 15 believe it did reflect the pricing at the time, but
- 16 I don't have direct knowledge.
- 17 O. Do we know what the delta has been between
- 18 | 2008 and 2024, 2023?
- 19 A. Well, the schedule that Mr. Williams, from my
- 20 work papers, put, you know, forward to me reflected
- 21 | a current coal price as of our last rate case, I
- 22 | believe it was, of that \$38 per ton, which is not
- 23 too different from the \$36 per ton that we backed
- 24 into or we calculated based on -- based on my
- 25 numbers.



| 1  | Q. Is it possible that you used 2023 value of        |
|----|------------------------------------------------------|
| 2  | coal to arrive at this number?                       |
| 3  | A. I don't think it's possible. No, I don't          |
| 4  | think so. The \$38 per ton is the amount that        |
| 5  | existed as of that prior rate case. That was in      |
| 6  | 2022. It would only be by coincidence it was the     |
| 7  | same or similar number.                              |
| 8  | Q. Okay. So your testimony is and I'm happy          |
| 9  | to let you go get your laptop if that insight would  |
| 10 | clarify this question. If we could put to rest       |
| 11 | whether you did or did not use 2028 [sic] value for  |
| 12 | certain, I'm happy to take a small recess and let    |
| 13 | you go get your laptop to decide that.               |
| 14 | JUDGE CLARK: Mr. Lansford, why don't you go          |
| 15 | get your computer? Is it in here in the room?        |
| 16 | MR. LOWERY: How about I just bring it to             |
| 17 | him.                                                 |
| 18 | JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Mr. Lowery. That's           |
| 19 | because I'm going to be asking you some questions    |
| 20 | regarding your work papers as well.                  |
| 21 | COMMISSIONER HOLSMAN: If I said 2028, I              |
| 22 | meant 2023 or 2008. Yeah, 2008.                      |
| 23 | Q. (By Mr. Holsman) I guess my question is, I'm      |
| 24 | just seeking confirmation that you did, indeed, use  |
| 25 | the value of 2008 settlement as the basis to come up |

- | with the 1.9 million?
- 2 A. I apologize. There's a lot of work papers
  3 here.
  - Q. That's okay. Take your time.
  - A. Yes, I confirmed that. I did use the amount from that prior settlement. No portion of my calculation relied on the \$38 and almost 13 cents unit price that was -- that existed and that we utilized as of 12/31 of '22 in our last rate case.
- 10 | O. Okay.

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- A. If that's helpful, I can kind of demonstrate that in a spreadsheet to the Judge, maybe, if we get to that point.
- 14 I just wanted to make sure that we were 15 correct on that. So then my next question is, 16 you've had a return, a rate of return, but you said 17 you haven't gotten recovery. The basemat coal 18 doesn't have any useful value today. Do you believe 19 that the ratepayers should pay interest on -- if the 20 Commission grants recovery of the 1.9 million, do 21 you believe that the ratepayer should pay interest 2.2 on that recovery?
  - A. I do. And I go back to and maybe -- to take exception to your statement in there that there's no used and useful aspect of this basemat coal.



Basemat coal has been an inclusion in rate-base. All parties have agreed with that in each of our prior cases that I've been with. It has a necessary and useful function in terms of propping up the useable coal as part of the coal pile.

So with that background, I would say it's completely appropriate for customers to pay interest via a securitization transaction like we're contemplating here in order to avoid the rate-base return that would otherwise exist in traditional ratemaking.

- Q. Okay. And you may not be able to answer this question. This is my last question. Was the basemat coal usable fuel before it was, you know, hardened over time into the foundation? Was it -- when it was purchased, if it hadn't been used for the purpose of creating a foundation for the usable coal, was that fuel useable at the time it was bought?
- A. Yeah. So we did respond to a data request that kind of gets to your question or partially to your question here. As I understand it, the coal pile is sort of evolving over time and it's not appropriate to think of basemat coal as something that you just slap on the ground back in 1997 and



exists in that format forever. There's some sort of churn.

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We've done some studies and we responded to a data request in this case that said as we drill down and bore into the pile, primarily what exists, you know, at the bottom of that pile and where basemat would be is ultra low sulfur coal.

We didn't start burning ultra low sulfur coal until 2011 or 2012, at some point in time around then, and certainly we were burning Illinois Basin coal back in 1977 when the plant was first commissioned. I think that demonstrates the sort of churn in the pile. What's usable, you know, at what point in time versus basemat at what point in time is pretty speculative.

- Q. So I guess from my own understanding, in 19 -- what year was it laid down?
- A. I think the plant was commissioned in 1976 or 1977.
- Q. So 1976. That's a good year, by the way.

  It's not like you purchased a particular type of

  coal that was going to be basemat for the purpose of

  basemat. You bought coal and just only took from

  the pile until the foundation was left and that

  eventually became unusable over time because of



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- A. We dumped coal on the ground, you know, made a pile of coal and continued, you know, to add to that pile and subtract --
  - O. And over time it became unusable?
- A. That's exactly correct. It mixes into the ground, you know, over time to provide that foundation.

COMMISSIONER HOLSMAN: Okay. All right.
Thank you very much. Thank you, Judge.

JUDGE CLARK: Thank you. Are there any other Commission questions? I have just a few.

OUESTIONS BY JUDGE CLARK:

- Q. Is coal inventory depreciated or does it have any sort of depreciation expense associated with it?
- A. It does not. It's accounted for as inventory, which means that it's going to be expensed off our balance sheet over time as we burn the coal at the facility.
- Q. Thank you. What work schedules do you have or what work papers do you have that are associated with this issue?
- 23 A. Just one.
- Q. Can you give me that schedule number?
- 25 A. Yes. Oh, schedule. I have no schedule. You

# said work paper.

- 2 Q. Okay. It's just a work paper.
- JUDGE CLARK: Well, let me ask this.
- 4 This would be helpful to me. Are there my
- 5 | objections from any of the parties if I were to ask
- 6 to make Mr. Lansford's work paper
- 7 regarding this a Commission exhibit?
- 8 MR. LOWERY: No objection from us. Isn't it
- 9 | already part of your testimony? Is it already in EFIS
- 10 or is it not?
- 11 THE WITNESS: We did file all of my work
- 12 papers, you know, based on an order from you, Your
- 13 Honor.

- 14 O. (By Judge Clark) Okay. There was a number
- 15 of -- those were the work papers -- because I
- 16 | believe I had asked for three schedules from you,
- 17 | but that's included in there?
- 18 A. The work papers supporting those three
- 19 | schedules is what, I believe, you asked us to file
- 20 and it is included in that submission, yes.
- 21 | 0. Do you know what schedule it's associated
- 22 | with? I've MJL-D1, D2 and D3.
- 23 A. We also provided as updates, you may recall,
- 24 the same schedules from surrebuttal. So I can work
- off the direct schedules or surrebuttal. For this

- 1 particular issue, there was no change between the
- 2 amount. So it would -- you have my direct work
- 3 papers in front of you; is that correct?
- 4 Q. I don't have them open now, no. I have my
- 5 order telling you to file stuff in front of me open,
- 6 | but I haven't got your work papers open. I wasn't
- 7 | following along line-by-line.
- 8 A. If you open, please, the Lansford schedules
- 9 MJLS5-S8 work papers, I think that is the best and
- 10 easiest.
- 11 Q. Say that again.
- 12 A. It's an Excel file and when we filed it, it
- was titled: Lansford schedules MJLS5 to S8 work
- 14 papers.
- 15 | O. And it's in there?
- 16 A. Yes, it is a tab in that workbook.
- 17 | 0. Okay.
- 18 JUDGE CLARK: I'm going to call the
- 19 | basemat work paper, I'm going to call that
- 20 | Commission 606. Are there any objections to
- 21 | admitting Commission Exhibit 606, Lansford's basemat
- 22 | work papers, on to the hearing record? I hear and
- 23 | see none.
- MR. WILLIAMS: Judge, I --
- 25 JUDGE CLARK: I'm sorry, actually I -- yes,



| 1 | go | ahead. |
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- I request some clarification MR. WILLIAMS: on that. Are you talking about the work papers to the schedule that Mr. Lansford just testified to, all of them, or are you talking about --
- What I'm talking about right JUDGE CLARK: now, I'm talking about the singular -- he said it was a singular page. So I'm talking about the singular page that covers the value -- or the calculations and valuation of the basemat coal.
  - Maybe Mr. Lansford did this, MR. LOWERY: but that tab, that singular page the Judge referred to, that tab has a name; is that right?
- Yeah. The name of that tab is THE WITNESS: MAT -- you know, MAT&SUP2.
- Say the last part again, JUDGE CLARK: 17 please.
  - THE WITNESS: MAT&SUP2. Materials and supplies, I think, is what it's referring to.
  - JUDGE CLARK: Thank you. That's helpful. And I had the number. I wanted to assign it wrong anyway. The basemat coal work papers of Lansford Tab MAT&SUP2, I would like to call that Commission Exhibit Are there any objections to admitting Exhibit 605 605. on to the hearing record? Okay. Exhibit 605 is



- 1 | admitted on to the hearing record. Thank you,
- 2 Mr. Lansford. I have no further questions for you. Is
- 3 | there any redirect based on Commission or Bench
- 4 questions from MECG? MECG is no longer here. From the
- 5 | Commission Staff?
- 6 MR. PRINGLE: No questions, Judge. Thank
- 7 you.
- 8 JUDGE CLARK: From Public Counsel?
- 9 MR. WILLIAMS: I do have a little bit of
- 10 cross.
- JUDGE CLARK: Cross or recross based on
- 12 | Commission questions?
- MR. WILLIAMS: Recross based on Commission
- 14 questions.
- 15 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you. Go ahead.
- 16 | RECROSS EXAMINATION BY MR. WILLIAMS:
- 17 Q. In response to Commissioner Holsman, you
- 18 | talked about the 2008 settlement. I'd like to
- 19 return to that for just a bit. Was there an
- 20 explicit amount of coal price in basemat quantity
- 21 set out in that settlement agreement?
- 22 A. I don't know.
- 23 | 0. If there was, it would be set out in that
- 24 | settlement agreement in that case?
- 25 A. I don't know.



| 1  | Q. And physically whenever coal's removed from     |
|----|----------------------------------------------------|
| 2  | the coal pile to be burned, from which part of the |
| 3  | pile is it removed?                                |
| 4  | A. I don't know the answer to that either.         |
| 5  | Q. So you don't know if it's taken off the top of  |
| 6  | the pile, the bottom of the pile, the side of the  |
| 7  | pile?                                              |
| 8  | A. No. I see the big dozers, you know I mean,      |
| 9  | the pile is I see the big dozers out there. I      |
| 10 | don't know what part of the pile.                  |
| 11 | Q. And at Rush Island, is there one coal pile or   |
| 12 | are there multiple coal piles?                     |
| 13 | A. I believe there's only one.                     |
| 14 | MR. WILLIAMS: No further questions.                |
| 15 | JUDGE CLARK: Any redirect?                         |
| 16 | MR. LOWERY: Yes, Your Honor. Thank you.            |
| 17 |                                                    |
| 18 | REDIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. LOWERY:                |
| 19 | Q. You were asked some questions just now and I    |
| 20 | think on the initial cross examination, too, about |
| 21 | this figure that came out of the 2008 rate case,   |
| 22 | right?                                             |
| 23 | A. Correct.                                        |
| 24 | Q. And Mr. Williams just asked you, do you know    |

whether those figures were set out explicitly in the

settlement and you said you didn't know, right?

#### A. Correct.

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- Q. Do you know whether the Company, in its case filing, provided tons and price in evidence for basemat coal in that case?
  - A. I think it would have to.
- Q. Do you know whether there was actually any contrary evidence provided by anybody to dispute those tons or that price?
- A. I don't know going back all the way through
  2008. I know that we've been presenting the tons
  and the price, you know, from that point forward,
  all the way through our '22 case, and there's been
  no concern, dispute or challenge to those figures.
  - Q. By OPC or anyone else?
- 16 A. OPC or anyone else.
- Q. I don't think you know this, but I'm going to
  ask you and try to help answer Commission Holsman's
  question a little bit more. Do you know if there's
  a reason not to use concrete or steel or some other
  substance to form the foundation as opposed to using
  coal?
- 23 A. I do not.
- Q. Do you know anybody who is testifying in this hearing that might know that?



- A. We do have a witness, Jim Williams, that I'm certain can answer that question.
- Q. I think this might have been clear, but I just want to make sure it is. The securitization statute, as you understand it, requires a reconciliation process in future rate cases, right?

## A. That's right.

- Q. So the way it would work is, if when we're done and we figure out exactly how much unusable coal, basemat coal is there, if we determine that the quantity is off and we come up with -- I'll just make this up --1.5 million or 2.5 million, either way the amount that's ultimately going to be reflected in customer rates is going to be what the actual amount is regardless of the amount we put in the bonds, right?
- A. That's right. All we can do is estimate basemat coal at this point in time. That's what we're trying to do here. And at some point in time, like I was explaining to Commissioner Holsman, the actual amount will be known. We'll use everything we can use and we'll have to write off the remainder that represents basemat coal. And any difference between our estimate here and the actuals later is reconciled as part of a future rate review.



|    | Evidentiary Hearing April 17, 202                    |
|----|------------------------------------------------------|
| 1  | Page 118 MR. LOWERY: Thank you, Mr. Lansford. Those  |
| 2  | are all the questions I have, Judge.                 |
| 3  | JUDGE CLARK: I believe there is another              |
| 4  | Commission question.                                 |
| 5  | COMMISSIONER HOLSMAN: Thank you, Judge.              |
| 6  | QUESTIONS BY COMMISSIONER HOLSMAN:                   |
| 7  | Q. As I was sitting here listening, it makes me      |
| 8  | wonder, you know, again from the perspective of the  |
| 9  | ratepayer. You bought this coal in 1976 and I        |
| 10 | understand that you're probably correct that there's |
| 11 | probably some churn and maybe that original batch of |
| 12 | coal you bought in '76 may or may not be what makes  |
|    |                                                      |

up that basemat 48 years later, it may or may not

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be.

But what is the reasoning -- let's say you bought this in 1976 and you didn't use that basemat because it was required to be there. So you brought it in at this price. Why are the ratepayers appreciating that value? OPC suggests that, you know, you should recover the cost of the coal when you brought it in, because you didn't use it. didn't burn it. And the purpose of it being used is still in tact for what you bought it for.

built the house and the house is still standing, you

If I bought lumber for a house in 1976 and I



| $\mid$ know, that lumber you know, the value of that |
|------------------------------------------------------|
| now, the home will have appreciated, just like your  |
| plant will have appreciated, but the 2-by-4 in       |
| there, if I was to take that 2-by-4 out of that      |
| house and go to resell that 2-by-4, you know, it's   |
| 48 years old, just like your coal at the bottom of   |
| that pile is 48 years old.                           |

So why are you all of a sudden, even at a 2008 settlement, which we agreed that's where you set the price at, why does the ratepayer have to pick up an appreciation cost for coal they bought in 1976 that hasn't been used and is still functionally doing the same job it was at the time you bought it? What is the reasoning for why the appreciation in value?

A. Well, I'll kind of take a step back here just from a foundation standpoint. You know, in our accounting books and records, there's no way to delineate between basemat coal or usable coal. It's all coal inventory. So it's just one balance, one amount. You know, it can't be separated out like, you know, maybe you're suggesting this, you know, 2-by-4 from, you know, the past.

The entire coal inventory that we have on our books is supporting the operations of the plant and benefitting customers through that means. And we're

producing a weighted average cost of that coal pile, the entire coal pile, and as we burn coal at the plant, we're taking from or subtracting from the pile at that weighted average cost.

So, really, it is one pile at one weighted average cost and I think that would also be an appropriate way to look at it.

- Q. So if it's one pile at one weighted average cost, why are we delineating it out and assigning a \$1.9 million value under the determination of basemat coal? Why is there a delineation of basemat coal and a value associated with it if we're going to take it as the entire pile? What's the purpose of doing that?
- A. In my mind the only purpose of doing that is trying to understand or quantify or, you know, determine what that quantity might be in the future that represents basemat coal. And what price will ultimately -- what price and quantity that will ultimately be attributed to basemat coal, we'll know that when we use all the usable coal, the remainder will be --
- Q. You'll be able to determine that. Not that we need to get this granular, but is there any way to, like, carbon-date what is left over in terms of what



| was actually purchased in you 1976? I just I        |
|-----------------------------------------------------|
| just fundamentally, you know, putting myself in the |
| shoes of a ratepayer, thinking, you know, this coal |
| served its purpose. It was bought at this time.     |
| And now you're giving it a value that's been, you   |
| know, inflated just through normal inflation over   |
| the last, you know, 30 what's 2008 minus 1976?      |
| So 32 years or whatever that is.                    |

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I'm just trying to get -- and then you want to earn interest on top of it. It's not just a recovery. It's not just that you're getting the money back for the money you spent on it. Even if -- even if we were to say, all right, you know, the recovery makes sense at the value of 2008 -- at this point I'm thinking arbitrarily.

But for whatever reason you arrived at 2008 was the year that settlement was going to be the authority to say 1.9 million, like to earn then an additional interest on the recovery of that after you had a return on that over the last years since it was placed, I just want to understand why the Company is in this position?

A. I hear your concern and getting it right for customers is ultimately our goal and, I think, the goal of the statute. As you think about -- and I'll



just refer back to the reconciliation provisions that I understand from the statute. Whatever, you know, that final amount is, is what we're going to have to compare to this estimate and we will either refund or collect, you know, the difference between that estimate versus actual. And that's why I feel like customers are really being treated appropriately and fairly as part of this process.

- Q. From an accounting perspective, have you seen any securitization that would book interest for a future return in a rate case? I know securitization is brand new as a concept and applicable process, but, you know, from an accounting perspective, we will know -- if the value of 1.9 million goes into those bonds, we're going to know what the amount of interest off that 1.9 million is going to generate and you'll get it up front, but is it possible from an accounting perspective to book that interest to be considered in a future rate case?
- A. I don't think so. You know, just by nature of the securitization transaction, once we commit to the bonds, we have to commit to recovery. You know, I think we could potentially fail that service if we decided to then carve out some amount for consideration.



| 1  | Q. Rebate a certain portion of the interest back        |
|----|---------------------------------------------------------|
| 2  | in the next rate case?                                  |
| 3  | A. Right.                                               |
| 4  | Q. Okay.                                                |
| 5  | A. You know, I'm not an expert, you know, in            |
| 6  | terms of an underwriter or something like that, but     |
| 7  | I think anything that we did to call into question      |
| 8  | whether or not those amounts would be recovered         |
| 9  | would be a main concern.                                |
| 10 | Q. Does the interest ultimately flow back to the        |
| 11 | shareholders?                                           |
| 12 | A. No. The interest flows to the bond holders,          |
| 13 | the people who are investing in the in the bonds.       |
| 14 | COMMISSIONER HOLSMAN: Okay. All right.                  |
| 15 | Thank you. Thank you, Judge.                            |
| 16 | JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Commissioner. Any               |
| 17 | recross let me ask first, are there any other           |
| 18 | Commission questions? Any recross based upon Commission |
| 19 | questions from the Commission Staff?                    |
| 20 | MR. PRINGLE: No, Judge. Thank you.                      |
| 21 | JUDGE CLARK: From the Office of Public                  |
| 22 | Counsel?                                                |
| 23 | MR. WILLIAMS: Yes, please.                              |
| 24 | RECROSS EXAMINATION BY MR. WILLIAMS:                    |
| 25 | Q. During your questioning by Commissioner              |

|    | Zidentiary Fleating 7,511 17, 202                            |
|----|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1  | Page 124<br>Holsman, there was a reference again to the 2008 |
| 2  | rate case. I probably should have done this                  |
| 3  | earlier, but do you know the case number for that            |
| 4  | case?                                                        |
| 5  | A. ER2008-0318 is the reference that I have on my            |
| 6  | schedule, on my work paper.                                  |
| 7  | Q. So if the Commission were to take notice of               |
| 8  | the settlement agreements that were in that case, it         |
| 9  | could could be able to determine from those                  |
| 10 | whether or not there's anything explicit regarding           |
| 11 | coal pricing?                                                |
| 12 | A. Yes, I believe so. If there's something in                |
| 13 | there, you know, they should be able to see whatever         |
| 14 | is in there.                                                 |
| 15 | Q. But if I understand what you've said to this              |
| 16 | point, there's been a course of conduct by using a           |
| 17 | certain value for coal pricing and inventory and             |
| 18 | basemat since that case that has not been disputed;          |
| 19 | is that correct?                                             |
| 20 | A. That's correct.                                           |
| 21 | MR. WILLIAMS: No further questions.                          |
| 22 | JUDGE CLARK: You had posed this is just                      |
| 23 | a question for the attorney. You posed the idea of the       |

JUDGE CLARK: You had posed -- this is just a question for the attorney. You posed the idea of the Commission taking notice of the stipulation and agreement in that case. A lot of times these things are



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| Page 125<br>sort of black box settlements. Do we know that that's |
| explicitly in there such that the Commission would                |
| understand it, or is it a term that's kind of agreed on           |
| that the parties all understand?                                  |
| MR. WILLIAMS: Frankly, I don't know what's                        |
| in there. I just looked. There are a series of                    |
| stipulations and agreements or settlement agreements in           |
| that case that the Commission, I believe, ultimately              |
| approved. And I'd ask for the Commission to just take             |
| notice of them and it can look for itself to see whether          |

JUDGE CLARK: Give me that case number again, please, Mr. Lansford.

price of coal and basemat quantity.

or not there's anything that explicitly addresses the

# THE WITNESS: The reference I have here is, ER2008-0318.

I'm not going to take official JUDGE CLARK: notice of it at this time, but I will take a look at it and the Commission will determine later whether to take official notice. And if it does, it will query the parties for objections.

MR. WILLIAMS: And to be clear, I'm just referring to the settlement agreements and the orders related to those, not the entirety of the documents in that file.

| 1  | MR. LOWERY: And, Judge, to that point                    |
|----|----------------------------------------------------------|
| 2  | and I appreciate that you'll give us a chance to object. |
| 3  | I don't know that I would have an objection. But to      |
| 4  | that point, there might be some other things in that     |
| 5  | file that official notice ought to be taken of as well   |
| 6  | that bears on this issue that's going to require us to   |
| 7  | take a look at it. So if you do inquire about an         |
| 8  | objection, it may not be an objection unless you also    |
| 9  | don't take notice of these things. So I'll look at it    |
| 10 | in the interim and tried to be prepared to address that  |
| 11 | if you decide to go down that road.                      |
| 12 | JUDGE CLARK: Thank you. I'll put                         |
| 13 | settlement agreement as to coal pricing.                 |
| 14 | MR. WILLIAMS: And, Judge, since Mr. Lowery               |
| 15 | has raised it, I don't see that Public Counsel would be  |
| 16 | opposed if Ameren Missouri views that more than just the |
| 17 | agreements and the Commission orders would be required   |
| 18 | for purposes of the coal value, per ton coal values and  |
| 19 | the quantity of basemat coal.                            |
| 20 | JUDGE CLARK: Thank you. Like I said, I'm                 |
| 21 | not going to take official notice of it at this time.    |
| 22 | I'd like to look at it first. Anything further from      |
| 23 | Public Counsel?                                          |
| 24 | MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you, no.                             |
| 25 | JUDGE CLARK: Any redirect?                               |

| 1  | Page 12<br>MR. LOWERY: Just I think a very little bit. |
|----|--------------------------------------------------------|
| 2  | REDIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. LOWERY:                    |
| 3  | Q. Mr. Lansford, from a financial standpoint, is       |
| 4  | the Company financing all the coal, the usable coal    |
| 5  | and the unusable coal as it sits there on the ground   |
| 6  | at all the coal plants?                                |
| 7  | A. Absolutely, at its weighted average cost of         |
| 8  | capital, included in rate base, you know, in rate      |
| 9  | cases every rate case I've been involved in, yes.      |
| 10 | Q. If financing costs were not provided through        |
| 11 | the revenue requirement in rates, would the Company    |
| 12 | fully recover its actual revenue requirement, what     |
| 13 | it costs to provide service to customers?              |
| 14 | A. Absolutely not. You know, it would miss out,        |
| 15 | fail to recover those financing costs, those real      |
| 16 | and existing financing costs.                          |
| 17 | Q. And I think Commissioner Holsman actually           |
| 18 | cleared this up himself at the very end, but I just    |
| 19 | want to be crystal clear about it. When a              |
| 20 | securitization happens, the Company gets cash equal    |
| 21 | to essentially the the unrecovered amount, when        |
| 22 | we're talking about rate-based items, the              |
| 23 | unrecovered amount, so the Company gets cash equal     |

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to that.

things like that, right?

Investment in the plant, coal inventory,

#### A. Correct.

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Q. And then as proposed in this case, you know, the Company has proposed a deferral mechanism to make sure it doesn't double dip and doesn't continue to keep any -- a dollar of rate revenue associated with that, because you already got the money. You can give back the amount that's in current rates in a future rate case to make sure customers are made whole, right?

## A. That's exactly right.

- Q. And the way the securitization bonds work, I think, is, a special purpose entity is created, the bonds are sold, and the principal and interest is paid on those bonds through that dedicated charge to the special purpose entity, right?
- A. That's right. The securitized utility tariff charge is, you know -- is -- it's my understanding that that is the property that the special purpose entity receives.
- Q. It's not even the utility's property any more, right?
- 22 A. That's right.
- Q. The utility is not receiving the principal or the interest, right?
- 25 A. That's correct. The special purpose entity

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- 2 MR. LOWERY: Thank you.
- 3 JUDGE CLARK: Mr. Lansford, you may step
- 4 down. I did not expect this issue to take as long as it
- 5 | is taking, however, I would like to finish it out before
- 6 | we take a break for lunch. So with that, I believe the
- 7 | next witness is witness Majors for Staff. So go ahead
- 8 | and call your witness.
- 9 MR. PRINGLE: Thank you, Judge. Staff calls
- 10 | Keith Majors to stand.
- 11 JUDGE CLARK: Mr. Majors, I'll remind you
- 12 | you're still under oath. Go ahead, Staff.
- 13 MR. PRINGLE: Thank you, Judge. At this
- 14 | time, Staff tenders Mr. Majors for cross examination.
- JUDGE CLARK: Any cross examination from
- 16 | Public Counsel?
- 17 MR. WILLIAMS: No. Thank you.
- 18 JUDGE CLARK: Any cross examination from
- 19 | Ameren Missouri?
- 20 MR. LOWERY: Yes, Judge. Thank you.
- 21 KEITH MAJORS,
- 22 | being first duly sworn, produced and examined, testified
- 23 | as follows:
- 24 CROSS EXAMINATION BY MR. LOWERY:
- Q. Good morning, Mr. Majors -- or I think it's



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### A. Good afternoon.

- Q. The Staff did not take issue with the Company's basemat coal valuation for inclusion in energy transition costs, correct?
- A. That's correct. The like amount -- the 1.9 million is currently included in the schedules for the securitized cost.
- Q. Now, in your surrebuttal testimony, you didn't change your position on basemat coal and you're still including the 1.9 million in your recommendation, correct?
- 13 A. Yes, that's correct.
- Q. But I think you said something like the \$532,000 alternative might also be appropriate.
- 16 | Something like that, right?
- A. Yeah. I mean, I'll give OPC and specifically

  Mr. Riley credit for finding that 50-year-old

  figure, I would assume, down in the microfiche down

  on the first floor. I'll have to say, I'm impressed

  by him finding that.
- Q. It's your understanding that that \$532,000
  figure is based on the cost of the coal when it was
  -- of the first coal delivered to the plant back in
  the mid '70s, right?



- A. Right. As a technical point, I think it's 562,436. I think you said 532.
  - Q. Maybe I'm off by 30,000. I apologize.

- A. Half a million is a good approximate number.
- Q. And the point that's being made with pointing to that figure is that the coal, that basemat coal, that original coal delivered to the plant, the theory is from Mr. Riley is that that coal is still there, so that's what the basemat is worth. That's your understanding of the point, right?
- A. Right. I don't necessarily disagree with that theory.
- Q. Well, you don't know -- you don't know, in fact, whether or not the basemat that's at the plant today actually consists of the coal that was dumped on the ground nearly 50 years ago, do you?
- A. No. I think the -- I'll call it maybe a phenomenon, but the basemat does churn as you're constantly loading -- well, not constantly. On whatever schedule, you're constantly dumping coal on a pile and then you're constantly taking it out and putting it in the coal hopper.

So the coal itself is fungible, so whatever coal was there, some of it -- some of the old coal gets taken out, some of the new coal goes in, but



Page 132

- the basemat is really the 18 inches -- the bottom 18 inches of the coal pile, generally speaking, is what's considered basemat.
  - So to answer your question, no, I don't know if the physical coal in its entirety is the same coal that was delivered in 1975 or 1977.
  - Q. Do you know when Ameren Missouri started burning ultra low sulfur coal?

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- A. It's been mentioned sometime in the late '90s. So I'm not going to dispute that.
- 11 Well, didn't you hear Mr. Lansford say it was 12 actually in 2011 or 2012 when the company started 13 burning ultra low sulfur coal? I want you to assume 14 That's what the record reflects that's the case. 15 from Mr. Lansford's testimony. Did you think I was 16 talking about low sulfur coal, Wyoming coal 17 generally?
  - A. Right. I mean, there's three types. The plant was originally built for Eastern Illinois coal, is my understanding, and then I think there is some differences based on what mine you get in Wyoming whether it's the low sulfur or the ultra low sulfur coal. I'm going to assume that's correct. I mean, I'll take it on good faith.
- 25 Q. Certainly the coal that was delivered in 1977



1 wasn't Wyoming coal, wasn't low sulfur at all, 2 right? 3 Α. No, it was not. 4 Judge, may I approach? MR. LOWERY: I need 5 to get an exhibit marked. 6 JUDGE CLARK: Yes, you may. 7 Judge, I believe our next MR. LOWERY: 8 exhibit number is 25. Is that right? 9 JUDGE CLARK: Correct. 10 0. (By Mr. Lowery) Mr. Majors, if Ameren Missouri -- well, let me back up. 11 Have you seen 12 this data request response before? 13 I mean, not before today, but it's an OPC data Α. 14 I'll take that as -- I'll take it on good request. 15 faith that it's the correct data request response. 16 What it is, it's a response to OPC data 0. 17 request 8506 in this docket that was answered by the 18 Company in December of last year, right? 19 Right. Α. 20 And what it indicates is that the basemat coal 0. 21 at the Rush Island Energy Center is primarily 2.2 composed of ultra low sulfur coal, right? 23 Α. That's what the data request says. 24 Now, if Ameren Missouri didn't start burning Ο.

ultra low sulfur coal until 2011 or 2012 and if the

- 1 | basemat primarily consists of ultra low sulfur coal,
- 2 | what was paid for coal back in 1977 isn't
- 3 representative of the coal that's on the ground now,
- 4 | is it?

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- A. Assuming that the testing method is correct, I mean, that would be a safe -- that would be correct.
- Q. And the Company obviously couldn't have made these statements in the data request response unless it's done some kind of sampling or boring into the basemat to figure out what's down there, could it?
- A. I would agree with that. I don't know if specifically that any core samples have been taken, but, yeah, I'm going to agree that they would have had to have some knowledge of what's at the bottom of the pile.
- Q. I mean, you do know -- you've been with the Commission a long time -- that the Commission's data request rules require the Company to, you know, answer the question truthfully, and by answering the question, the Company is representing that they're giving accurate information, right?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Obviously -- I think you said you hadn't seen this data request response before now. So when you said Mr. Riley's alternative valuation was



appropriate, you didn't know about this, did you?

## A. No.

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Q. Am I correct that when a utility receives a return of an investment, that is different than the utility receiving a return on an investment; is that right?

### A. That's correct.

Q. And the return on is the -- is designed to cover the financing costs that the utility is incurring to finance that investment, right?

#### A. Yes.

MR. LOWERY: Thank you, Mr. Majors. Those are all my questions. Judge, if I could, I'd like to move for the admission of Exhibit 25.

MR. WILLIAMS: I object. There's no foundation for the admission of this exhibit. It's obviously self-serving by the Company.

MR. LOWERY: Well, Mr. Majors identified it as a data request response in this case. I don't think OPC is disputing its authenticity.

JUDGE CLARK: Why wouldn't you just bring this in through OPC's witness?

MR. LOWERY: I can certainly ask Mr. Riley if this, in fact, is his data request response. The reason I asked Mr. Majors about it is, he made a

| 1  | recommendation not having                                |
|----|----------------------------------------------------------|
| 2  | JUDGE CLARK: I understand why you asked him              |
| 3  | and he's been able to testify on it, but I don't I       |
| 4  | think it would probably better come in through           |
| 5  | MR. LOWERY: I'll ask those questions.                    |
| 6  | JUDGE CLARK: Okay. Thank you.                            |
| 7  | MR. LOWERY: Very well.                                   |
| 8  | JUDGE CLARK: And you said that ended your                |
| 9  | line of questioning?                                     |
| 10 | MR. LOWERY: It does. Thank you.                          |
| 11 | JUDGE CLARK: Any redirect from Staff?                    |
| 12 | Actually, I'm sorry. Any Commission questions? I         |
| 13 | apologize. Go ahead, Commissioner Holsman.               |
| 14 | COMMISSIONER HOLSMAN: I also didn't                      |
| 15 | necessarily have on my bingo card getting bogged down on |
| 16 | this issue today. But since we're here, let's see if we  |
| 17 | can't figure this out.                                   |
| 18 | THE WITNESS: Sure.                                       |
| 19 | QUESTIONS BY COMMISSIONER HOLSMAN:                       |
| 20 | Q. For starters, I think maybe Jim Williams was          |
| 21 | the name that the Company provided that could            |
| 22 | potentially definitely answer this question, but in      |
| 23 | the time that you've seen your involvement with          |
| 24 | coal plants, why do you use usable coal to set a         |

Why not

foundation to stack other usable coal on?

concrete or steel or some other, you know, floor?

A. Well, I think really the reason would be, it's plentiful and readily available. If you think about the coal pile, it's acres, acres in size. So if you think -- typically the engineering firm, the one that comes to mind is Makon, M-A-K-O-N, but there's other engineering firms that do coal pile valuations, coal pile and basemat valuations.

So the basemat is the -- has to be a minimum of 18 inches and that's what's considered basemat, at least from my recollection, and it's the entire size of the pile. So it's readily available. Let's say you did concrete -- and, again, I would ask Mr. Williams for more of a technical reasoning and explanation.

But you have to have the concrete delivered.

I mean, you're talking about acres of concrete.

Those costs would add up pretty quickly. So if you think about --

- Q. You can pour a lot of concrete for 1.9 million, though.
- A. Well, that could be true, but I think size
  would come into account. You're talking about
  literally acres. I mean, five acres. Again, I'd
  ask Mr. Williams on the actual physical size of the



pile.

- Q. I'll save those questions. So based on what we're seeing here, the high sulfur Illinois Basin Coal would be the stuff bought in the '70s, right?
  - A. Right. That's correct.
- Q. And what we were presented here essentially is making the argument through the data request that it's indeterminable how much of that coal -- pockets of it exist, but there are other coals mixed in, so it's proof that '70s coal is not necessarily what the basemat is made up today?
- A. That's a fair point. I mean, I don't know that they've done -- I don't know of any utility that comes to mind that would actually take core samples to the very bottom of the coal pile to determine the type of coal. I mean, that's certainly possible, but --
- Q. What do you think the reasoning is for using the 2008 settlement to set the price of what this coal is worth together?
- A. I'm glad you asked. I want to make -- I want to clear part of that up, first. One, I think if you go to the bottom of Mr. Lansford's work papers, the price that he lists and the prices I used would be January of '23. And so I'll give a little bit of

background on that.

Certainly the rate cases I've been -- we've priced basemat out in terms of inclusion of rate base at the current delivered price per ton. Part of the reason for that is, at least with the plants -- the ones I've been involved in in fuel expense and whatnot on the rate case, there's no really easily available price from the vintage of the unit.

So if I were to go back -- which we certainly can -- and it might be a good idea in future rate cases to go back to 1980, '73, '79, to get those prices and get a delivered price per ton for ratemaking purposes. Of course, if they're doing coring and they say those tons really aren't at the bottom, that's a different proposition.

But getting more to the point, we've included, at least with the rate cases I've done, at the current delivered price at whatever Makon or their external auditor finds.

On the Ameren side of the state, it's my understanding -- and I explain in surrebuttal that there was an agreed upon amount in tons and price going back to 2008. I've read the stipulations for my own edification to find out what was actually

agreed to. They're not in the stipulations.

Now, the revenue requirement numbers that appear in the stipulations are likely predicated upon the amount of tons at the delivered price in 2008. And so the delivered price in 2008 that the agreement was predicated upon was \$28.05. That amount was used for ratemaking in the last case in 2022-0337.

- O. You said 28?
- 10 A. \$28.05.

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- 11 Q. We heard earlier that this 1.9 is derived at 12 36?
  - A. Well, it's a good question. It's slightly different. So I think the way that was derived is by taking the overall basemat for all plants, dividing it by useable coal for all plants, and that's approximately five percent of the overall coal. And then there was a percentage breakout.

    And that is from 2008. Rush Island is 35 percent. So that price -- that percentage was applied to the weighted average cost all in delivered price as of January of '23 to come up with the 1.9.

If you were to use the actual delivered price at -- I'm sorry, not 1.9. January of '23. If you were to use the actual delivered price at Rush

- Island as of January '23, you would be a little over \$2 million.
  - Q. What would it be if you used 2008 numbers?

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A. Approximately 1.4. I've got that number. If you'll forgive me, I've got it here. \$1,486,650. So that's about a half million less than what's being requested right now. So I guess part of my failure is that I priced it out and agreed with the price because that's how we do in the rate case and Evergy cases, we price that out at the current cost.

My misunderstanding of what was agreed to, doesn't appear in the stipulation is, both price and tons were agreed to informally in the 2008 rate case. So that was what was used in the last Ameren case for revenue requirement purposes by Staff looking at Mr. Young's work paper on my laptop.

- Q. Do you still recommend 1.9 million?
- A. I think given the response to the data requests that it's not '77 coal in its entirety, I think that's fair.
- Q. Let me ask you that question. So what would have happened to -- does coal decay? Does it turn into soil? Did they burn some of it, you know, by getting low down to the basemat and now they're taking some of that high sulfur Illinois coal and

it's actually making its way into the incinerator?

- A. So that bottom 18 inches after time -- just for comparison purposes, the total tons at Rush Island in the -- on the work papers is 737,222 tons. The basemat itself, per the agreed upon amount, is 53,000 tons. So all those tons will compress that bottom level basemat to where it's pretty hard and not -- if you think about the loaders, the bulldozers that crawl on the pile moving coal around, they will scoop up that coal and load it in the hoppers. But that bottom part, it has been so compacted over time.
- 13 Q. Crushed?

A. It's crushed. I think you'd ask Mr. Williams, again, to describe it. I've seen base -- I've been out to the coal pile and seen it, but I'd ask him.

But that also mixes with the soil and the clay.

And so there's been several other rate cases where the question of whether or not basemat is burnable. Those occurred back in '81, '82, '83. I think the general acceptance is, it's not burnable. You wouldn't want to put that through the furnaces, through the hoppers and have it pulverized and whatnot. There's rocks, soil, general contamination. Again, I'd ask Mr. Williams for a

| better explanation of that | better | explanation | οf | that |
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- Q. So do you still stand by your 1.9 million as a recommendation?
  - A. I think -- I think given the agreed upon -- if you're going to agree upon the tons and the -- I think you would probably use what was agreed upon in '08.
  - O. So that would be 1.4.
- 9 That would be 1.4 at the '08 price. Α. It's the 10 difference between, what do we do in the rate case, 11 what do we do when we're getting rid of the coal. 12 When we're getting rid of the basemat, there's no 13 more coal. So I think 1.4 is a fair number because 14 it was agreed to and that was what was in the last 15 rate case.

16 | COMMISSIONER HOLSMAN: Thank you, Judge.

JUDGE CLARK: Are there any other Commission questions? I've got a couple of questions for you,

Mr. Majors, and I'll try and be brief. And I want to be

19 Mr. Majors, and I'll try and be brief. And I want to be 20 sure I didn't mishear you.

- 21 QUESTIONS BY JUDGE CLARK:
- Q. Did you say you had read the ER2008-0318 stipulation and agreement?
- 24 A. There are actually three of them to my
  25 recollection. I've went through them. There's no



specific that I can read listing of tons, prices and agreed upon basemat number. So I didn't see that in there. I've read all three of them. I think one of them isn't really relevant. It's on rate design.

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- This is where I may have misheard. 0. say that the \$28 figure, did you say that was the number you derived from that?
- 8 No, that was a figure that I found in Staff's work papers and that my colleague, Mr. Young, he --I'm looking at his work papers, so he confirmed that with the 2008 work papers. Certainly the tons are the same, but the price that he used was different 13 I tried to find Ameren's work papers. I found now. the tons, but I didn't necessarily find the price they used for revenue requirement purposes in the last rate case.
  - Would it be fair to say that for ratemaking, what I'm going to call the inventory method, matters more than the physical identification of the coal pile?
  - And we've gone back and forth in discussion with this on how should we price out basemat. I think that having a fixed price in tons is a good thing so we don't have to dispute that every rate case. Long-term, the coal prices,



|    | D44                                                  |
|----|------------------------------------------------------|
| 1  | delivered price per ton, are much less variable      |
| 2  | than, say, gas prices, which you don't necessarily   |
| 3  | you don't have an inventory for.                     |
| 4  | So agreeing to that price in tons I think puts       |
| 5  | aside one issue. Certainly we haven't had those      |
| 6  | we haven't had a disagreement on that issue in the   |
| 7  | cases I've worked, but we do price it differently.   |
| 8  | We price it at the most recent delivered cost per    |
| 9  | ton, at least for the bulk of the coal.              |
| 10 | JUDGE CLARK: Thank you. Any recross based            |
| 11 | upon Commission questions Public Counsel?            |
| 12 | MR. WILLIAMS: Yes. Thank you.                        |
| 13 | RECROSS EXAMINATION BY MR. WILLIAMS:                 |
| 14 | Q. Mr. Majors, in response to some questions from    |
| 15 | Commissioner Holsman, you said that the coal pile    |
| 16 | covers acres?                                        |
| 17 | A. Yes.                                              |
| 18 | Q. Why?                                              |
| 19 | A. Because it's so massive. I mean, you're           |
| 20 | talking about 737,000 tons of coal. I was going to   |
| 21 | see if I could find what the volume of a ton of coal |
|    |                                                      |

- I've picked up a piece of coal. would be. It's probably not unlike kind of a light porous rock, so.
  - Why is such a large amount stored on site? Q.
  - Α. Oh. Well, you would want to -- utilities will



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have various methods of modeling how much coal they should have on hand. Probably way, way back 30 years ago it was 90 days, but those have -- really, those margins have shrunk because there is a cost to maintain that inventory. There's a capital cost.

So there can be -- at various times there can be 30 days of inventory. There can be up to more than 100 days of inventory. It just all depends on the purchasing practices and the contracting practices of various -- of the given utility. So you would have -- it wouldn't be unheard of to have hundreds of thousands of tons of inventory on hand, especially when you're building those inventories up prior to the summer months. You would want to have that inventory on hand because your demand is high.

Q. There's been a lot of discussion about basemat being dirty. Is coal dirty?

MR. LOWERY: I think I'm going to interpose an objection. I don't see where -- the question about why do you have large inventories and this question don't see related to Commission Holsman's questions to me. Seems like it's pretty far afield.

JUDGE CLARK: I think Commissioner Holsman was asking about -- when he was asking about the basemat, one of the things that came up was that --

| 1  | there were questions whether or not it could be burned |
|----|--------------------------------------------------------|
| 2  | because of debris. So if he wants to ask about whether |
| 3  | or not coal is dirty, I think that's exactly on point. |
| 4  | MR. WILLIAMS: That's exactly where I'm                 |
| 5  | going.                                                 |
| 6  | JUDGE CLARK: So that objection will be                 |
| 7  | overruled.                                             |
| 8  | A. It could be quite dirty. I think the best           |
| 9  | example would be, a former colleague,                  |
| 10 | Mr. Featherstone, went down into the coal bunkers at   |
| 11 | Montrose and after he came out, he was covered in      |
| 12 | soot. So I would say it can be quite dirty.            |
| 13 | Q. Well, isn't it why Rush Island is being shut        |
| 14 | down?                                                  |
| 15 | A. I think the context of what you're asking, is       |
| 16 | coal dirty physically before it gets burned in the     |
| 17 | unit, and I think that your question is more focused   |
| 18 | on the what are the emissions impacts and is it        |
| 19 | "dirty." Is that what you're asking?                   |
| 20 | Q. That's not exactly where I intended to go, no.      |
| 21 | Go back to the 2007 and 2010 projects. Weren't         |
| 22 | those done because the coal being burned was dirty?    |
| 23 | A. No well, as compared to Illinois coal, no,          |
| 24 | it's not it's cleaner than the Illinois high           |

Mr. Lowery just said not too longer

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sulfur coal.

| Evidentiary Hearing April 17, 2024                            |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| Page 148 ago that in 2011, that the ultra low sulfur coal was |
| starting to be burned. So comparatively speaking,             |
| that would be cleaner than your Illinois bituminous           |
| coal and much cleaner than anthracite coal.                   |
| Q. Let me try a little bit different, because I'm             |
| not focusing on emissions. I'm talking about the              |
| pluggage issues. Are you familiar with that?                  |
| A. Okay. Yes.                                                 |
| Q. So were the pluggage issues at Rush Island                 |
| caused because coal is dirty?                                 |
| MR. LOWERY: Judge, I'm going to interpose                     |
| another objection. I understand that the Commissioner         |
| asked about whether coal is dirty, but the context            |
| was he didn't really ask that, but the context was,           |
| you have coal that's usable that doesn't have debris and      |
|                                                               |

16 concrete and stuff in it that would damage the boiler, 17 and then you have coal that is down in the ground that

has those things in it. And now we're talking about

pluggage of boilers and we're talking about two totally

different contexts of what dirty means.

JUDGE CLARK: We did. I thought we straightened that out. I'm going to allow him to pursue this, but I would like -- I would like it to end soon.

24 It will. I'm just about MR. WILLIAMS:

25 done.

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|      |    |          | JUDGE ( | CLARK | ₹: | I think | you  | 're | tryir | ng t | o ge | t: |
|------|----|----------|---------|-------|----|---------|------|-----|-------|------|------|----|
| to a | a  | simple   | answer  | and   | it | seemed  | like | we  | were  | alm  | ost  |    |
| the: | re | <u>.</u> |         |       |    |         |      |     |       |      |      |    |

- Q. (By Mr. Williams) I don't recall if you answered my question about the pluggage being caused because the coal is dirty.
- A. Well, I think the pluggage -- my understanding was that the availability issues at Rush Island was because of the transition from Eastern Illinois coal versus western PRB coal. It's not necessarily that it's dirtier, but the combustion residuals that remain in the boiler were causing pluggage issues with the associated equipment that was being replaced.
- Q. So is basemat coal just coal that's so dirty it's not burnable cost effectively in a Rush Island unit, for example?
- A. Right. I think the difficulty, as I said before, is that when -- it's been compressed over the last 50 -- over several years. I mean -- I think the response to the data request said that the core samples were of various types of coal. But any time you have that amount of coal on all that compaction creates an amount of coal that's unburnable, that's commonly called basemat.



| 1  | Q. Is it unburnable because of the compaction or    |
|----|-----------------------------------------------------|
| 2  | is it unburnable because it's too dirty to cost     |
| 3  | effectively burn?                                   |
| 4  | A. Yes. Both.                                       |
| 5  | MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you. I have no further          |
| 6  | questions at this time.                             |
| 7  | JUDGE CLARK: Any recross from Ameren?               |
| 8  | MR. LOWERY: I hope just one question.               |
| 9  | RECROSS EXAMINATION BY MR. LOWERY:                  |
| 10 | Q. The reason the basemat coal is unburnable is     |
| 11 | because it's mixed with soil and rocks and other    |
| 12 | things that might damage the boiler if you were to  |
| 13 | run those things through the boiler isn't that      |
| 14 | right? as opposed to its sulfur content or it's     |
| 15 | blackness?                                          |
| 16 | A. Yes, that's correct.                             |
| 17 | JUDGE CLARK: Any redirect from Staff?               |
| 18 | MR. PRINGLE: Yes, Judge. Hopefully brief.           |
| 19 | REDIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. PRINGLE:                |
| 20 | Q. Mr. Majors, just to be clear before the          |
| 21 | Commission, what is Staff's position regarding the  |
| 22 | value of basemat coal?                              |
| 23 | A. Well, I think what we recommended is the 1.9     |
| 24 | consistent with what Ameren recommended. I think if |

you take the price also that was agreed to in 2008

along with the tons, I think that would be perhaps a more accurate price of cost. I mean, you're never going to get a true price, a truly accurate cost of the basemat unless you analyzed acres of core samples of coal. But I think as an approximation and certainly what we've used in prior rate cases, the 1.4, million-four is an appropriate price.

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- Q. Now, regarding the OPC DR that counsel for Ameren discussed with you currently marked Exhibit 25, did that response change your conclusion in any way?
- A. I think it did. That's fair. If they're doing core samples, which is my understanding of what the response of the data request was -- I don't know how many core samples they did. I don't know what area they did it on. If they're doing that and it's not the -- if it's not the coal from '77, '75, take your pick, I think it's fair to move off that position.
- Q. And then just because I want to make sure this issue isn't forgotten during all the talks about what coal is, what is Staff's position regarding including any basemat inventory values into the financing for the securitization?
- 25 A. I think whatever valuation you put on the coal

| 1  | basemat, I think that's a securitizable cost. I        |
|----|--------------------------------------------------------|
| 2  | mean, there's no other there's really no other         |
| 3  | way. I would ask Jim Williams about where the          |
| 4  | ultimate destination of that basemat is going to be.   |
| 5  | Certainly if the if you don't recover it now,          |
| 6  | there's no really way to recover it. If it's           |
| 7  | landfilled, if it's retired in places, it's just       |
| 8  | going to sit there. So I think it's a valid            |
| 9  | securitized amount amount to be securitized and        |
| 10 | that was consistent with what the Commission found     |
| 11 | in the Liberty, Asbury securitization.                 |
| 12 | MR. PRINGLE: Thank you, Mr. Majors. No                 |
| 13 | further questions, Judge.                              |
| 14 | JUDGE CLARK: Mr. Majors, you can step down.            |
| 15 | Give me just a moment. I would still like to get       |
| 16 | through this issue before lunch. Let's go ahead. OPC,  |
| 17 | call your next witness. The next witness is yours.     |
| 18 | MR. WILLIAMS: OPC calls John Riley.                    |
| 19 | JUDGE CLARK: Mr. Riley, would you raise                |
| 20 | your right hand to be sworn? Do you solemnly swear or  |
| 21 | affirm that the testimony you're about to give at this |
| 22 | evidentiary hearing is the truth?                      |
| 23 | THE WITNESS: Yes.                                      |
| 24 | JOHN RILEY,                                            |
|    |                                                        |

being first duly sworn, produced and examined, testified

## as follows:

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- 2 DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. WILLIAMS:
  - Q. What is your name and how do you spell it?
- 4 My name is John Riley. Α. R-I-L-E-Y.
  - How do you spell John? 0.
- 6 Α. J-O-H-N.
- 7 Mr. Riley, by whom are you employed and what Ο. 8 capacity?
  - Α. I'm employed with the Office of Public Counsel as the utility supervisor.
- Did you prepare written rebuttal testimony 11 that includes schedules JSR-R, 1 through 4, that has been prefiled and marked as -- it will be Exhibit 207 in this case?
- 15 Α. Yes, sir.
- 16 And did you also prepare in written form 0. 17 surrebuttal testimony that includes a corrected schedule JSR-S-1, and then also four other schedules 18 19 JSR-S-2 through JSR-S-5, which has been marked for purposes of identification as Exhibit 208? 20
- 21 Α. Yes, sir.
- 2.2 0. For Exhibits 207 and 208 to be your testimony 23 here today, would you have any changes to them?
- Not to my knowledge. 24 Α.
- 25 Are in fact Exhibits 207 and 208 your Q.



testimony here today?

## A. Yes, sir.

3 MR. WILLIAMS: Mr. Riley has other issues,

4 | too, so I'll go ahead and tender him for examination.

5 JUDGE CLARK: Any cross examination from the

6 | Commission Staff?

MR. PRINGLE: No cross, Judge. Thank you.

JUDGE CLARK: Any cross examination from

9 | Ameren Missouri?

10 MR. LOWERY: Maybe just one question. May I

11 | approach?

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12 JUDGE CLARK: Please. Go ahead.

13 | CROSS EXAMINATION BY MR. LOWERY:

Q. Is Exhibit 25 still up there, Mr. Riley?

A. I have it.

Q. Did OPC ask that data request?

A. Apparently so, yes.

MR. LOWERY: With that, Your Honor, I will

19 move for the admission of Exhibit 25.

20 MR. WILLIAMS: I object to its admission.

21 | The response has not been authenticated. If he just

22 | wants to put in the question that OPC asked, I don't

23 | have a problem with that, but I certainly do with the

24 response.

Q. Are you contending, Mr. Riley, this is a



1 falsification of the response that was actually 2 given? 3 Α. I have some questions with the response. 4 Ο. Have you seen it before? 5 No, I haven't. Α. 6 JUDGE CLARK: I'm sorry, say that again, 7 please. 8 THE WITNESS: No, I did not. I have not. 9 You had not seen this data JUDGE CLARK: 10 request before? 11 THE WITNESS: No. 12 Were you aware that the question had been 13 asked? 14 Α. No. 15 MR. LOWERY: Well, Judge, obviously, I don't 16 have any way to go further with the issue. It was asked 17 by Mr. Robinett, who wasn't even on this issue. I don't 18 think any question about its authenticity has been 19 raised. 20 JUDGE CLARK: Let me ask you this, 21 Mr. Williams, because I'm not sure what you're disputing 2.2 on it. Are you disputing --23 QUESTIONS BY JUDGE CLARK: 24 They've already put on a witness. 0. Their 25 witness has already said how they valued the 1.9 --

|            | Evidentiary Hearing April 17, 20                           |
|------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1          | Page 15 how they came to their \$1.9 million valuation. So |
| 2          | are you disputing whether there's 53,000 tons there?       |
| 3          | A. No, I'm not.                                            |
| 4          | Q. Are you disputing whether the value they                |
| 5          | arrived at using the current price was 1.9 million?        |
| 6          | A. It's my understanding the current price was             |
| 7          | 2023 price per ton.                                        |
| 8          | Q. Are you disputing that amount as to that point          |
| 9          | in time?                                                   |
| LO         | A. Point in time, do you mean                              |
| L1         | Q. At the point in time that they valued it at             |
| L2         | 1.93, would you dispute their valuation based upon         |
| L3         | the current price at that time?                            |
| L <b>4</b> | A. Okay. When you say at that time, I testified            |
| L5         |                                                            |
| L6         | Q. Let me ask the question this way.                       |
| L7         | A. Okay.                                                   |
| L8         | Q. Do you know how they do you know at what                |
| L9         | point in time                                              |
| 20         | JUDGE CLARK: No                                            |
| 21         | MR. LOWERY: Judge, can I beg your pardon?                  |

I was going to try to save you some time.

I understand you are, but I'd 23 JUDGE CLARK:

like to figure out how to save my own time. 24

25 MR. LOWERY: Okay.



| 1  | Q. (By Judge Clark) The 1.9 million that Ameren  |
|----|--------------------------------------------------|
| 2  | came about, what price is that based off of?     |
| 3  | A. From the Mr. Lansford's work paper, it would  |
| 4  | be a 2023 price.                                 |
| 5  | Q. Are you disputing that that was the price of  |
| 6  | coal in 2023?                                    |
| 7  | A. No, I am not.                                 |
| 8  | Q. So you're not disputing that they arrived at  |
| 9  | that 1.9 million based upon the price they used  |
| 10 | which is different than the price you're using,  |
| 11 | correct?                                         |
| 12 | A. That's correct.                               |
| 13 | Q. Are you disputing the volume of the basemat   |
| 14 | coal in tonnage?                                 |
| 15 | A. No. I used 53,000 tons.                       |
| 16 | JUDGE CLARK: I'm going to go ahead and           |
| 17 | admit the exhibit over your objection.           |
| 18 | MR. WILLIAMS: Okay.                              |
| 19 | MR. LOWERY: I have no further questions,         |
| 20 | Judge.                                           |
| 21 | JUDGE CLARK: Go ahead Commissioner Holsman.      |
| 22 | QUESTIONS BY COMMISSIONER HOLSMAN:               |
| 23 | Q. This is just simple yes or no question. Is it |
|    |                                                  |

of a mixture of the coal that was procured in 1976

- 1 and additional coal that's been purchased up until
  2 today?
  - A. Yes, that's possible.
- 4 COMMISSIONER HOLSMAN: Thank you. Thank 5 you, Judge.
- JUDGE CLARK: And I will try and be very brief.
- 8 QUESTIONS BY JUDGE CLARK:

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- Q. Are you familiar with the Commission's -- the statute, the 393.1700, the securitization statute, permits the Commission to look back to its previous securitization orders and consider those. Are you familiar with what the Commission did in the retirement of the Asbury case?
  - A. Yes, sir.
  - Q. Do you know the point -- do you know how in Asbury the valuation of the coal was derived? Was it derived from more recent price or from the price of the basemat at the time it was put in or something between?
- A. I'm not sure how it was valued at that time.
  - Q. Would you agree that the Commission accepted the valuation of 1.9 million for the Asbury plant as the value of the basemat coal in whole? And I believe the Missouri portion of that, because it



isn't completely all Missouri, I believe the

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2 Missouri portion of that was 1.5 million. 3 Α. I can accept that. I mean, I could look it I've seen it before. I don't remember the 4 5 exact number, but it seems rather familiar. 6 I understand the fundamental idea of fairness 7 and the logic as going down to -- the oldest coal 8 being at the bottom of the pile as you would kind of 9 expect and I understand the churning, but isn't it 10 whatever -- I mean -- never mind. Scratch that. 11 I'm not going to ask that guestion. 12 I'm done. JUDGE CLARK: Are there any 13 questions based upon Commission questions from Staff --14 any recross based upon Commission questions from the 15 Commission staff? 16 MR. PRINGLE: No, Judge. Thank you. 17 JUDGE CLARK: Is there any recross based 18 upon Commission questions from Ameren? 19 MR. LOWERY: Thank you, Judge. No. 20 JUDGE CLARK: Any redirect from Public 21 Counsel? 2.2 MR. WILLIAMS: Mr. Riley did an admirable 23 job. So, no. 24 All right. I have no further JUDGE CLARK: 25 questions. You may step down. I'm going to say it's

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now one o'clock, even though it's just a few minutes shy. We're at a later stopping point than I would like and we're still moving a little slow, so I'm going to do a 30 minute lunch break. So if everybody can be back here at 1:30.

(Lunch.)

MS. CLARK: We're on the record. We just finished issue seven and we are getting ready to start issue eight, the net present value of the tax benefits/ADIT, or accumulated deferred income tax, what is the net present value of the tax benefits associated with the retirement of Rush Island plant, if retired on September 1st, 2024, or if retired on October 15, 2024, and how should those accumulated deferred income taxes and excess accumulated deferred income taxes be accounted for with treatment in this case.

I talked yesterday about consolidating some of these. Well, I don't think this is the one to consolidate. So why don't we -- I want to do -- there's one matter I wanted to deal with before we got into this issue, but that does in fact address this issue, and that is, I had ordered or directed the parties to file -- on April 2nd I directed the parties to file work papers associated with certain schedules and it would be my desire to make the work papers associated with those

Page 161 1 schedules Commission exhibits. 2 And those would include -- those would 3 include supporting work papers for Mitchell Lansford's 4 MJL-D1, total retail revenue requirement for 5 securitization energy transition charge -- and these are 6 all in my order -- MJL-D2, pro forma plant and service 7 cost; MJL-D3, estimated upfront and ongoing financing 8 costs; MJL-D4, benefits comparison. Those are all Mr. Lansford's schedules. 9 10 Keith Majors' schedule KMS-1, Mr. Riley's 11 JSR-R-02, and Mr. Murray -- and there's numerous 12 schedules that's between DM-S-2 through DM-S-8. 13 believe these have already been filed. I'm assuming 14 that everybody has had a chance to look at them. 15 It would be my preference to just do one 16 exhibit number per witness on this. So Mr. Lansford's 17 would be like Exhibit 600. Mr. Majors would be Exhibit Mr. Riley's would be Exhibit 602. 18 Mr. Murray's would be Exhibit 603. 19 20 MR. WILLIAMS: Judge, if I'm not mistaken, 21

hasn't the Commission already marked an exhibit as 600? JUDGE CLARK: I marked an Exhibit 605 that was admitted. And those were the work papers of Lansford. It was a single page in regard to basemat coal and that was Tab MAT&SUP2.

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| 1  | MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you. Sorry.                          |
|----|----------------------------------------------------------|
| 2  | MR. LOWERY: Judge, we have no objection at               |
| 3  | all, but are you just going to mark as exhibits the      |
| 4  | submission that we made of Mr. Lansford and you're       |
| 5  | actually going to mark the submissions that we made that |
| 6  | are in EFIS now?                                         |
| 7  | JUDGE CLARK: That would be my intent. That               |
| 8  | would absolutely be my intent. I assume, if I remember   |
| 9  | right, those contained the Excel sheets with the         |
| 10 | calculations.                                            |
| 11 | MR. LOWERY: Right.                                       |
| 12 | MR. PRINGLE: And, Judge, just a word from                |
| 13 | Staff, we also had intended to include that schedule     |
| 14 | with Mr. Majors' surrebuttal when we moved to enter it   |
| 15 | into the record as well.                                 |
| 16 | JUDGE CLARK: The work papers for the                     |
| 17 | schedule? I'm talking about work papers, not a           |
| 18 | schedule.                                                |
| 19 | MR. PRINGLE: Sorry.                                      |
| 20 | JUDGE CLARK: Well, let me ask. As to                     |
| 21 | Exhibit 600, the work papers for the schedules I         |
| 22 | previously mentioned regarding Witness Lansford, is      |
| 23 | there any objection to the Commission admitting those on |
| 24 | to the record as Commission 600? Exhibit 600 is          |

admitted on to the hearing record.

| 1  | In regard to Keith Majors, is there any                  |
|----|----------------------------------------------------------|
| 2  | objection to admitting the work papers supporting his    |
| 3  | schedule, KM-S1 on to the hearing record? And that       |
| 4  | would be 601. Are there any objections? I hear none.     |
| 5  | 601 is admitted on to the hearing record.                |
| 6  | With regard to Mr. Riley's, JSR-R-02, that               |
| 7  | would be Commission Exhibit 602, are there any           |
| 8  | objections to admitting that on to the hearing record?   |
| 9  | I hear and see none. Those will be admitted on to the    |
| 10 | hearing record.                                          |
| 11 | Are there any objections to admitting                    |
| 12 | Mr. Murray's work papers supporting his schedules that I |
| 13 | previously mentioned, DM-S-2 through DM-S-8, and that    |
| 14 | would be Commission Exhibit 603 on to the hearing        |
| 15 | record? Any objections?                                  |
| 16 | MR. LOWERY: Only to the extent some of                   |
| 17 | those work papers and I think it's only yeah, it         |
| 18 | is only Mr. Murray. Some of those work papers are        |
| 19 | actually work papers associated with schedules that are  |
| 20 | part of his surrebuttal that we've asked to be stricken. |
| 21 | So to the extent that is the case, I would ask that they |
| 22 | would be provisionally admitted in the same respect we   |

JUDGE CLARK: Agreed. Any objection to provisionally admitted Exhibit 603, the work papers



have on the other ones.

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- 1 supporting Mr. Murray's schedules, subject to the motion 2 to strike portions of Mr. Murray's, I believe, 3 surrebuttal?
- 4 No objection. MR. LOWERY:
- 5 Okay. Exhibit 603 is admitted JUDGE CLARK: 6 on to the hearing record. Thank you. That took less 7 time than I expected. With that, I believe Ameren 8 Missouri has the first witness up for this issue.
- 9 Whenever you're ready, you may call your first witness.
- 10 MS. TATRO: This is the ADIT issue, correct, 11 Your Honor?
- 12 That is correct. JUDGE CLARK:

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- 13 I'd like to give a short MS. TATRO: opening, if I may. 14
  - JUDGE CLARK: We're moving so slow at this point and we've been behind schedule and we've stayed late two nights in a row, so I've allowed many openings to this point, but I am going to ask the parties to keep them very, very brief. Go ahead, Ms. Tatro.
- 20 Thank you. MS. TATRO: As the Company 21 approached this issue in this case, first and foremost 2.2 we wanted to make sure we got it correct. And we asked 23 the Commission to consider that same goal above all else 24 when deciding this issue.
- 25 If the plant retires on October 15th, the



estimated net book value of the plant that the Company estimates and that Staff agrees with will have an ADIT balance on its books of \$136 million. There's not a dispute about that issue.

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That means the Company will have recovered that amount from customers previously and provided for rate base offsets and piece of deferred return offsets in acknowledgement of the fact that the Company's recovered those costs early, but have not yet paid the associated income tax obligations.

Nobody disputes that the net present value of the Company's future income tax obligations, based on that \$136 million, is \$87 million. That means it's undisputed math that the Company needs \$87 million on a net present value basis of cash out of securitization to satisfy the \$136 million of future income tax obligations.

You take the 136 million that had been collected by 47, you get the 87 left. So that 49 million also represents the amount customers would otherwise receive as a rate base offset had the plant not been retiring, but since it is, we give customers that credit as part of the securitization.

We've developed a robust evidentiary record in this case and I urge you to speak with Mitch Lansford

- 1 OPC, of course, cites the Liberty decision, about that. 2 but doesn't acknowledge that the record is different in 3 this case and also takes an inconsistent approach 4 because they say use part of the approach in Liberty, 5 but they oppose allowing the Company to recover the 6 financing -- through financing costs ADIT dollars that 7 it would need to collect if it were required to refund 8 as OPC requires.
  - If you use what I will call the "full Liberty approach," we will have collected 136 million, we refund 87 million to customers via an offset to energy transition costs, then we would have to turn around and recollect from customers every year over 15 years about \$3.9 million per year.
  - I think you had a conversation with Mr. Lansford about that on day one, Your Honor, and he can certainly explain that further when he's on the stand if you so desire. Thank you.
  - JUDGE CLARK: Thank you. Ameren, you may call a witness.
- MS. TATRO: Mitch Lansford.

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- JUDGE CLARK: I'll remind you you're still under oath and please be seated.
- MS. TATRO: Mr. Lansford is still not done, so we will tender him for cross.



Page 167

- 1 JUDGE CLARK: Any cross examination by the
- 2 | Commission Staff?
- 3 MR. PRINGLE: No questions, Judge. Thank
- 4 you.
- 5 JUDGE CLARK: Any cross examination by the
- 6 Office of the Public Counsel?
- 7 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you, no.
- 8 JUDGE CLARK: Any questions from the
- 9 | Commission? I have a few questions to ask.
- 10 MITCH LANSFORD,
- 11 | being first duly sworn, produced and examined, testified
- 12 | as follows:
- 13 QUESTIONS BY JUDGE CLARK:
- Q. Would you agree that the tax benefit results
- 15 | from any tax law -- would you agree that the tax
- 16 benefits result from any tax law that reduces your
- 17 tax liability?
- 18 A. Yes. Deductions on your tax return result in
- 19 benefits, yeah.
- Q. Is accelerated depreciation a tax benefit to
- 21 the utility?
- 22 A. It is. It's a tax deduction, yes.
- 23 | Q. Do you have your direct testimony available?
- 24 A. I do.
- Q. Would you turn to Page 20? And if you'll look



- 1 on Lines 15 and 16, you were asked: What is the
- 2 | appropriate reduction of the Rush Island
- 3 | securitization revenue requirement related to ADIT?
- 4 | And that is -- for the court reporter's benefit,
- 5 | that is ADIT. Is this amount supposed to --
- 6 A. I'm sorry, Judge, you said Page 20?
- 7 Q. Page 20, Lines 15 and 16.
  - A. For whatever reason, the copy that I have here does not have the text that you were just reading.
- Q. Okay. I'll just quote you the text as I've got it. And I'm not sure exactly where in your direct it is, then. What is the appropriate
- reduction in the Rush Island securitization revenue
- 14 | requirement related to ADIT?
- 15 A. I found that now. I'm with you.
- 16 Q. Okay.

- 17 A. It was just a slightly different page.
- 18 Q. I'm sorry, would you correct me? What page is 19 it on?
- 20 A. I found it on Page 21, Line 15 and 16.
- Q. Oh, good. Thank you so much. I apologize for that mistake. Is this amount supposed to represent the ADIT credit to customers, reducing the amount of the utility tariff bond stated in 393.1700.2(3)CM?
- 25 A. Are you asking is this the amount that should



- offset energy transition costs relating to ADIT?
- 2 Did I understand your question correctly?
  - Q. Correct.
- 4 A. Yes.

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- 5 Q. Do you have your schedule MJL-D5, Line 1?
- A. I do. I'm turning to it now. D5. Oh, I do.
- 7 I'm there.
- Q. On Line 1, the original cost of the plant has a balance of \$1,000 in all columns, 1 through 21, and Line 2, depreciation reserve increases at a rate of 50 per year, so that column 21 has 1,000. Does this schedule represent retired plant remaining in
- 14 A. Yes, this is an example of normal ratemaking.

rates until its normal retirement date?

- Q. On the same schedule, Line 23, future payments for ADIT. If the plant were retired in year 10 and removed from rates in the same year, would there be any return resulting in taxable income or income tax related to the retired plant in years 11 through 21?
- A. I found the reference. Could you please repeat it?
- Q. Line 23, future payments for ADIT. If the plant were retired in year 10 and removed from rates in that same year, would there be any return resulting in taxable income or income tax related to

- the retired plant in years 11 through 21?
- 2 A. I think that would depend on how the
- 3 Commission ruled, you know, in a case that related
- 4 to the recovery of any remaining amount.
- Q. Can you explain that? What would influence that?
- A. Well, as I'm looking at Line 10 here, there's a remaining sort of unrecovered amount. And on Line 9, \$412.50. And whether and to what extent income taxes and a return would be appropriate from any point forward beyond year 10 in this analysis would be a decision that would be up to a Commission at
- Q. Okay. Thank you. Would you flip to Schedule
- 16 A. I'm there.

MJL-S5?

that point in time.

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- Q. Line 7 is described as the net present value
  of the tax benefits, NPV 15 years. And the column B
  amount is \$49,178,167. I think we ran into this
  yesterday. Because yours is not in Excel, you can't
- 22 A. (Showing laptop.)

access the cell numbers.

- Q. Great. Can you pull it up from there?
- 24 A. I'm there, sir. Your Honor.
- 25 \ Q. Now, look at the Cell E15.



| Α. | Yes |
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- Q. It takes an amount from tab NPV, net present value ADIT, and that would be Cell E37. Cell B37 is the same amount, correct?
  - A. That's right.
- Q. On that same schedule, Cell B35 and E35
  amounts are 89,947,366. And those are described as
  NPV ADIT; is that correct?
  - A. I believe you said 89 million and I would just correct that to 86,947,366.
- Q. Thank you. Cell B14 on the NPV ADIT tab is
  described as the estimated total deferred taxes and
  the cell formula is the net book values from
  schedule S5, Line 3, times Ameren's tax rate, plus
  what appears to be the excess ADIT balance at
  October 15th, 2024?
- 17 A. That's correct.
- Q. Taken from the tab deferred tax and NBMT. Do those amounts on tab def tax and NBMT represent the ADIT balances at different dates allocated to Rush Island?
- 22 A. Yes, I believe.
- Q. And why wasn't the total ADIT balance at October 15th used for that calculation?
- 25 A. The total ADIT balance as of October 15th used



## for which calculation, I'm sorry?

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- Q. Used for the calculation that I just asked you about, the amounts taken from tab def tax and NBMT?
  - A. Can you point me to a cell reference, please?
  - Q. I cannot because I just have the question written out.
  - A. Well, of course, the ADIT balance that will exist on October 15th of 2024 hasn't occurred yet, so we're talking about a projection. So there is no balance to rely on other than -- not from an historical period, of course. And what you see in this tab, def tax and NBMT, are 12/31/22 ADIT balances.
  - Q. Say that again.
- December 31st of 2022 ADIT balances. 15 And we Α. 16 use that -- and the reason those exist and what this 17 tab is attempting to accomplish is to look at what excess ADIT is as of a point in time, as of 18 19 12/31/2022, and -- you know, and allocate that total 20 amount across the entire Company to -- to the 21 relevant portion to Rush Island. So the whole 22 purpose of this tab is to determine or develop the 23 allocation of total excess ADIT that is relevant to Rush Island? 24
  - Q. Do the amounts on that tab include the tax



- 1 | deduction for the loss on the retirement of Rush
- 2 | Island that will be recognized on Ameren's tax
- 3 | return?

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- A. That reduction in tax basis has not occurred and had not occurred --
- 6 Q. I believe you said October 15th is in the 7 future.
- 8 A. Right. Right. It does not include that 9 future event.
- Q. In your testimony you indicate that the tax
  basis on September 1st, 2024 is zero for Rush
  Island. Would this then have recognized the loss
  for tax purposes to get to the zero for tax basis?
  - A. Yes. That's exactly right.
  - Q. If the entire tax basis of Rush Island has been recognized as a tax deduction at retirement, would the ADIT balance reflect that?
    - A. It would, yes. But the ADIT balance, importantly, would not be zero.
- Q. Can you explain that to me, please?
- A. Any calculation of accumulated deferred income tax is the comparison of your book basis to your tax basis. The book basis is \$468 million in this case.

  The tax basis will be zero upon retirement. That's when we'll fully recognize, you know, our investment



1 in that plant from a tax perspective. That 2 difference, \$468 million minus zero is your total 3 basis difference. You multiply that basis 4 difference by your tax rate to develop your ADIT 5 balance. 6 JUDGE CLARK: Okay. Thank you. Those are 7 all the questions I have for you. Is there any recross 8 based upon Bench's questions from Commission Staff? 9 MR. PRINGLE: No, Judge. Thank you. From Public Counsel? 10 JUDGE CLARK: 11 MR. WILLIAMS: Not at this time. Thank you. 12 Any redirect from Ameren. JUDGE CLARK: 13 Who knew ADIT would go faster MS. TATRO: 14 than basemat coal. I have no redirect. 15 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Mr. Lansford. You 16 I believe the next witness is Staff's. may step down. 17 MR. PRINGLE: Yes, Judge. Staff calls 18 Mr. Keith Majors back to the stand. 19 JUDGE CLARK: I would remind you you're 20 still under oath. Staff, go ahead. 21 Thank you, Judge. MR. PRINGLE: 2.2 time I tender Mr. Majors for cross examination. 23 JUDGE CLARK: Any cross examination by the 24 Office of Public Counsel? 25 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you. No.

Do you know if that regulatory liability that was refunded to Liberty customers included the rate of return associated with Asbury that had been



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- 1 charged to ratepayers from the date it retired until
- 2 new rates without Asbury costs included as it became
- 3 | effective on June 22nd?

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- A. That's my understanding. There was a regulatory liability set up for those costs, yes.
- Q. Would you agree that accumulated deferred income tax and net book value are not the same thing?
  - A. Oh, that's correct. They're not the same thing.
  - Q. And are you familiar with how the securitization statute says things like this should be handled?
  - A. I have read the statute several times and I am familiar with -- I don't have it in front of me, but I am familiar with the statute and how a part of the statute says that the value of the tax benefits should be returned to customers.
  - Q. We're doing this certainly differently or what's being proposed is certainly different than what was proposed in Asbury, and it looks like this has been proposed by Ameren and Staff has agreed or is also proposing the same method; is that correct?
- 24 A. That's right.
- Q. Do you believe that that method comports with



the section of statute you just indicated?

A. In my opinion, it does. And in internal conversations, I've gained an understanding of the difference. So in the Asbury securitization, the net present value of the actual deferred taxes themselves were returned -- was a credit to the securitization amount.

In this case it's the net present value of the ratemaking credit customers get of the accumulated deferred income taxes. That present value is what's being a credit to the amount being securitized.

The difference there is, the ADIT that customers have paid is the statutory rate that's been paid over the life of the plant. When you accrue that, it's an interest free loan from the IRS. So ratepayers get a credit for that as an offset to rate base. So it's a zero cost capital.

So if your rate base was 10 billion and then your ADIT was a billion, then your net rate base would be nine. So it reduces the amount on the way the average cost of capital is calculated or returned upon.

So the difference between this case and the Asbury case, the Asbury case, Staff calculated an amount of the actual return of those deferred taxes

that had been paid in by customers, versus in this case, the credit is the reduction in rate base, that valuation caused by or created by the accumulated deferred income taxes.

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So the difference there is on -- in the Empire Asbury case, Liberty, take your pick, the taxes that have to be paid back to the IRS get added in as a charge on the securitization tariffs and amounts that would get added that customers pay for the next 13 or so years.

In this case there's no additional taxes that are calculated. So we're recognizing the benefit now as an offset to the securitization amount, which to answer your questions five minutes ago, is the -- my nonlegal interpretation of the statute.

JUDGE CLARK: Thank you. Those are all the questions I have for you, Mr. Majors. Any recross based upon Bench questions from Public Counsel?

MR. WILLIAMS: No. Thank you.

JUDGE CLARK: Any recross based on Bench questions from Ameren?

MS. TATRO: No. Thank you.

JUDGE CLARK: Any redirect from Staff?

MR. PRINGLE: No redirect. Thank you.

JUDGE CLARK: Mr. Majors, thank you. You

- 1 may step down. I believe there's only one other witness
- 2 | for this issue and that is from the Office of the Public
- 3 Counsel.
- 4 MR. WILLIAMS: Public Counsel calls John
- 5 Riley to the stand.
- 6 JUDGE CLARK: Mr. Riley, I will remind you
- 7 | you're still under oath and please be seated.
- 8 MR. WILLIAMS: His testimony has already
- 9 been marked. He still has other issues, so I will not
- 10 offer it into evidence. I tender Mr. Riley for
- 11 | examination by others.
- 12 JUDGE CLARK: Any cross examination for the
- 13 | Commission Staff?
- MR. PRINGLE: No, Judge. Thank you.
- 15 JUDGE CLARK: Any cross examination from
- 16 | Ameren Missouri.
- 17 MS. TATRO: No. Thank you.
- 18 JUDGE CLARK: Are there any Commission
- 19 | questions? I hear none. I have some questions for you,
- 20 | Mr. Riley.
- JOHN RILEY,
- 22 | being first duly sworn, produced and examined, testified
- 23 | as follows:
- 24 QUESTIONS BY JUDGE CLARK:
- 25 Q. Have you reviewed utility corporate income tax



- returns during your career at the Office of Public Counsel?
  - A. Yes, sir.

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- Q. Is depreciation expense a deduction that reduces taxable income for income tax purposes?
- A. Yes, sir.
  - Q. Would you agree that fundamentally expenses recovered through the cost of service create no taxable income? I'll say it another way. Every expense recovered in rates is a tax deduction for income tax purposes?
  - A. You could agree with that generally, but there's going to be things that are on the tax return that probably aren't going to be in rates that would be -- you know, the accelerated depreciation, of course, and added expenses -- I would say there are probably more deductions on your tax return than in rates generally.
- Q. Would you agree that revenues collected from ratepayers include a return on net rate base and gross up of income taxes to pay the return -- to pay the return revenues?
- 23 A. Yes, sir. I think that's correct.
- Q. Would you agree that gross revenues, less deductions, results in taxable income to which the



- income tax rate is applied?
- 2 A. That's the idea, yes.

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- Q. Would you agree that an ADIT credit balance represents a tax benefit to the utility?
  - A. Yes. It would be a tax benefit because of accelerated depreciation created the ADIT. So they had a tax benefit at one time, yeah.
- Q. Is that the interest free loan that was being referred to?
  - A. Yes, sir, that would be the interest free loan on rate base.
- 12 Q. Did you participate in the Liberty
  13 securitization cases?
- 14 A. Yes, sir.
- Q. Did the Asbury AAO -- and for the court reporter, AAO stands for accounting authority order.

  Did the Asbury AAO regulatory liability that was deducted from transition costs quantify the amount ratepayers paid in rates after Asbury was retired
- 21 A. Can you repeat that?

and no longer used and useful?

Q. Yes, I can. Did the Asbury AAO regulatory
liability that was deducted from the, I guess,
energy transition costs quantify the amount of rate

-- quantify the amount ratepayers paid in rates



- after Asbury was retired and no longer used and useful?
  - A. If I understand that correctly, yes, it did quantify that.
- Q. Did ratepayers pay a return on Asbury's net book value in rates as a result of the rate of return applied to rate base in Liberty's last general rate case? And that was, I believe, ER --well, in the ER2019-0374 case?
- A. Asbury wasn't retired yet, so it would have been in rate base and collecting a rate of return.

  Does that answer your question?
- 13 Q. It retired shortly after?

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- A. Yeah, like January -- it was collecting -- it was collecting a rate of return through the end of that rate case, if I've got my dates right.
- Q. If Ameren recognizes the entire original Rush
  Island plant balance through depreciation tax
  deductions, including the loss recognition in 2024,
  should that also be reflected in ADIT for the
  calculation of the customer credit to the
  securitization bond amount?
- A. Okay. I'm sorry. Go ahead and say that one more time.
- Q. I will, yes. If Ameren Missouri recognizes



the entire original Rush Island plant balance
through depreciation tax deductions inclusive of the
loss recognition in 2024, should that also be
reflected in ADIT for the calculation of the
customer credit to the securitization bond amount?

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- A. It's my understanding that all the tax losses -- everything is represented in the 136 million. That calculation is from the net plant balance times the combined tax rate. So that would be all inclusive of the ADIT balance that would be associated with the plant.
- Q. I'm assuming that you are familiar with the -there's an alternative -- we've done one plant
  retirement or the Missouri Commission has done one
  plant retirement through securitization so far.
  What's being proposed here by both Ameren and Staff
  is different from the way it was handled in that
  securitization, correct?
- A. It is different than what the Commission decided, yes.
- Q. Do you believe that as purposed -- I'm going to call it a new method. Do you believe the new method as proposed complies with the securitization statute?
- 25 A. Not the way I read the statute. I generally



- 1 | would fall in line with the net present value of
- 2 | ADIT and the net present value of tax benefits is
- 3 | the same thing. So that would be consistent with
- 4 how the Commission had decided in Asbury.
- Q. Why do you think that the proposed new method does not comply with the statute?
- 7 A. I don't --
- 8 Q. Was that your complete answer?
- 9 A. No. I'm sorry. I'm going to -- I don't read
- 10 the extra step that Ameren has performed to get to
- 11 | their \$49 million. I don't find that to be in what
- 12 I read in Section M of the securitization statutes.
- 13 I just read it to be the net present value of ADIT.
- 14 Tax benefits and ADIT would be the same thing. I
- wouldn't make that extra step from the 87 million
- 16 down to the 49 million. I think that's a step that
- 17 doesn't -- I can't find how you would conclude that
- 18 you need to do that in the statute.
- 19 Q. Do you believe it's contrary to the statute?
- 20 A. Yes, I do.
- 21 Q. Remember, I'm not a technical person. My
- 22 understanding of numbers is limited. Can you
- 23 | explain that to me?
- 24 A. As I read the statute, the accumulated
- 25 deferred income taxes, including excess deferred

| income taxes shall be excluded from rate base in     |
|------------------------------------------------------|
| future rate cases and the net tax benefit relating   |
| to the amount will be recovered through the issuance |
| of securitized utility tariffs bonds shall be        |
| credited to the customer. The customer credit shall  |
| include the net present value of the tax benefits    |
| calculated using the discount rate equal to the      |
| expected interest rate of securitization.            |

Now, as I understand to come up with a net present value is, you know, you can just plug it in. I used to be able to do that for the CPA exam, but nowadays I just use the calculator.

But to pull that up is to take the benefits -I mean, we're all in agreement on how Ameren and
actually how the Liberty came up with the net
present value of ADIT, is the present value of
future payments.

So as Mr. Lansford laid out in his testimony and his spreadsheet, he came up and then performed the calculation and came up with the 87 plus million. That is my understanding of how this reads. The customer's credit shall include the net present value of the tax benefits.

Now, I know that in Liberty and what we have here is, we're arguing what the tax benefits are.

- And I'm going to have to fall back to what the Commission decided and also what the Western

  District decided because not only did they validate what the Commission decided, they validated how they read the statute. And that's how I'm reading the statute, is that it is just one calculation and not a second step. So I think what they're doing is contrary to what I'm reading in the statute.
- Q. I believe in testimony that's been put forth by Ameren is that the new method as proposed is more streamlined or in some way not as complicated or convoluted as the way it was done in Liberty.
- A. I don't understand that. I mean, Kim

  Bolin and -- well, like I said, the methodology is

  all the same here, from there as Kim Bolin did it

  and as Mr. Lansford has done it, because I basically

  took his -- I had no qualm with his spreadsheet, so

  I basically used his spreadsheet, that is you

  perform the net present value function and stop

  right there.

So I don't see a streamline from any difference in what they did and what Kim Bolin did in Liberty. I can't see a more -- that what he's doing is more efficient because there's actually another step to recognize how they're doing it.

| 1  | Q. Are the results from both methods comparable?   |
|----|----------------------------------------------------|
| 2  | A. Well, up to the net present value of ADIT,      |
| 3  | those of course are comparable, but then the       |
| 4  | subtraction of basically how it was how            |
| 5  | Mr. Lansford did it on his spreadsheet is to take  |
| 6  | the 136 million, deduct the 87 million to come up  |
| 7  | with the 49 million. He's using the 49 million. So |
| 8  | when you stop at 87, that's where I would go.      |
| 9  | Q. So it sounds like there's a benefit to the      |
| 10 | Company in reporting it differently?               |
| 11 | A. Yes, sir. The total securitization balance      |
| 12 | will be higher, so they'll get more money up front |
| 13 | through the securitization bonds.                  |
| 14 | JUDGE CLARK: Thank you. Any recross based          |
| 15 | upon Bench questions from Commission Staff?        |
| 16 | MR. PRINGLE: No, judge. Thank you.                 |
| 17 | JUDGE CLARK: Any recross based upon Bench          |
| 18 | questions from Ameren Missouri?                    |
| 19 | MS. TATRO: Yes.                                    |
| 20 | JUDGE CLARK: Please. Go ahead.                     |
| 21 | RECROSS EXAMINATION BY MS. TATRO:                  |
| 22 | Q. So, Mr. Riley, at one point in time the Judge   |
| 23 | asked you if ADIT is a tax benefit to the utility  |
| 24 | and you said accelerated depreciation is the tax   |
| 25 | benefit. Do you remember that conversation?        |



- A. Yes.
- Q. Is in fact ADIT a liability on the Company's
- 3 books?

- 4 A. ADIT is a liability, yes.
- Q. And when we say it's a liability on the books,
- 6 | that means it's an amount that will have to be paid
- 7 out?
- 8 A. He was asking me for the tax benefit. The
- 9 | liability is just on the books, it's not
- 10 representing anything within taxes.
- 11 Q. It doesn't represent future taxes that the
- 12 | Company will owe?
- 13 A. It did, yes.
- 14 Q. If the plant weren't retired yet? Is that
- 15 | what you're saying?
- 16 A. If the plant retired, you don't have any more
- 17 | taxes, no.
- 18 | O. There will still be taxes owing, it would just
- 19 be a different amount. Wouldn't you agree?
- 20 A. I don't understand where the taxes would come
- 21 | from, what would generate the taxes.
- 22 O. Okay. Several times in talking with the Judge
- 23 | you used the phrase NPV of ADIT, right?
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 | Q. Is that actually the language in the statute?

- Do you have the statute with you?
- 2 A. Yes.

- Q. Great. If it helps, I think it's .23CM. And the version I have doesn't have page numbers, so I can't help you there. I apologize.
- A. The section M that I read is, the customer's credit shall include the net present value of the tax benefits.
  - Q. Right. And what are the net tax benefits?
- 10 A. That would be the present value of the deferred taxes and excess deferred taxes.
- Q. Are tax benefits and ADIT the same thing, in your mind?
- 14 A. They are.
- Q. Why do you think they are?
- A. I don't see any difference between the
  terminology there. The ADIT is a calculation of
  taxes. So calling it a tax benefit or calling it
  ADIT is the same thing.
- MS. TATRO: Okay. Thank you. I have no
- 21 further questions. Thank you, Mr. Riley.
- JUDGE CLARK: Any redirect from Public
- 23 | Counsel?
- MR. WILLIAMS: Just a little bit, I believe.
- 25 | REDIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. WILLIAMS:



- Q. Judge Clark asked you about -- he used the terminology "new method," which has been proposed in this case for the treatment of ADIT with regard to securitization versus what was done in the Liberty case involving Asbury. Do you recall that?
  - A. Yes, sir.

- Q. And he asked you if there was a benefit -- you responded to some of that questioning by saying there was a benefit to the Company through the new method versus the old one, correct?
- 11 A. Yes, sir.
  - Q. Is there any impact on Ameren Missouri's customers between the two methods?
  - A. Well, if you're reducing -- if you're lowering your reduction to the securitized bonds, of course the benefits to the Company is, they get more money up front. Of course, the ratepayer is going to have to pay for the bonds and, of course, they're going to be higher. If you go this route, the bond amount will be higher. So they will be paying more back in principal and more back in interest over the 15 years.
  - Q. In response to Ms. Tatro, there was a discussion about ADIT and liability on the books?
- 25 A. Yes, sir.



- Q. Which books were you referring to?
- 2 A. Well, it used to be you would have a
- 3 regulatory liability, a tax liability on the
- 4 ratemaking books, but with Ameren's, for lack of
- 5 better term, regular books, they would represent a
- 6 | liability on there, too.
- 7 Q. Well, there are different kinds of books; are
- 8 | there not?

- 9 A. Well, yeah.
- 10 Q. There are books kept for ratemaking purposes,
- 11 | correct?
- 12 A. Yes, sir.
- 13 Q. And there are books kept for income tax
- 14 | purposes, correct?
- 15 A. Yes, sir.
- 16 Q. And there might be other sets of books as
- 17 | well?
- 18 A. They would be the general -- the general books
- 19 that you would do your public financial statements.
- 20 | O. Would it be a liability on all of those books?
- 21 A. Well, when the plant is retired, according to
- 22 | the Internal Revenue Service, you would dispose of
- 23 | the plant and you would dispose of the ADIT, so
- 24 | there wouldn't be any ADIT on your regulatory books
- 25 associated with Rush Island.



| 1  | Q. On your regulatory books or your income tax          |
|----|---------------------------------------------------------|
| 2  | books or your                                           |
| 3  | A. Well, it would be definitely be on your              |
| 4  | regulatory books. The IRS has stated that for           |
| 5  | normalization purposes, you have to take those off      |
| 6  | if you're out of rate base.                             |
| 7  | MR. WILLIAMS: No further questions.                     |
| 8  | JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Mr. Riley. You may              |
| 9  | step down. Okay. We're going to start issue nine,       |
| 10 | asset retirement obligations. What amount of asset      |
| 11 | retirement obligations should be financed using         |
| 12 | securitized utility tariff bonds. First up, I believe,  |
| 13 | is Ameren's witness. Ameren, you may call your witness. |
| 14 | MS. TATRO: Mr. Lansford. And as he gets                 |
| 15 | settled, he will still be back up yet again, so I will  |
| 16 | just tender him from cross.                             |
| 17 | JUDGE CLARK: Please be seated. I'll remind              |
| 18 | you you are still under oath.                           |
| 19 | JUDGE CLARK: Any cross examination from the             |
| 20 | Commission Staff?                                       |
| 21 | MR. PRINGLE: No questions, Judge. Thank                 |
| 22 | you.                                                    |
| 23 | JUDGE CLARK: Any cross examination from the             |
| 24 | Office of the Public Counsel?                           |
| 25 | MR WILLIAMS: No thank                                   |



| 1  | Page 199<br>JUDGE CLARK: Are there any Commission        |
|----|----------------------------------------------------------|
| 2  | questions?                                               |
| 3  | COMMISSIONER HOLSMAN: Maybe. Give me a                   |
| 4  | second.                                                  |
| 5  | JUDGE CLARK: I have a few questions for                  |
| 6  | you. I'll try and be brief.                              |
| 7  | MITCH LANSFORD,                                          |
| 8  | being first duly sworn, produced and examined, testified |
| 9  | as follows:                                              |
| 10 | QUESTIONS BY JUDGE CLARK:                                |
| 11 | Q. Are you familiar with OPC witness Schaben's           |
| 12 | rebuttal?                                                |
| 13 | A. Yes.                                                  |
| 14 | Q. And according to it, the water monitoring             |
| 15 | requirements requires 30 years of water monitoring       |
| 16 | by the EPA. Is that correct, that the EPA is going       |
| 17 | to require 30 years of water monitoring?                 |
| 18 | A. I'm sorry, I'm not familiar with that aspect          |
| 19 | of Mr. Schaben's testimony.                              |
| 20 | Q. Are you familiar with the EPA requirement that        |
| 21 | the facility be monitored for 30 years?                  |
| 22 | A. I know that the site is subject to the CCR            |
| 23 | rules, coal combustion residual rules that require       |
| 24 | water treatment and monitoring and cleanup, but I        |
| 25 | don't know specifically the time period or timeline      |



| that they mentioned there | that | they | mentioned | there |
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- Q. Now, you've only included water monitoring and treatment costs through 2032; is that correct?
- A. Yes. As I was talking with and working with some of our environmental experts, my understanding of what's required under those CCR rules, you know, we could satisfy those requirements through the plan that we put forth here and the costs that we've put forth here which don't run out through a 30-year period, in fact, it's something shorter.
- Q. Okay. So to paraphrase, the reason that your water treatment and monitoring cost only go out through 2032 is because you don't believe the additional 23 years are required?
- A. It's my understanding that the plan that our environmental group has in terms of water treatment and monitoring satisfies the requirements of the CCR rules and all of their environmental regulations.

JUDGE CLARK: Okay. Thank you. That's the only question I have. Any recross based upon Bench questions from Staff?

MR. PRINGLE: No questions, Judge. Thank
23 you.

JUDGE CLARK: From Public Counsel?

MR. WILLIAMS: No. Thank you.

Page 195

| 1  | JUDGE CLARK: Any redirect from Ameren?                   |
|----|----------------------------------------------------------|
| 2  | MS. TATRO: No. Thank you.                                |
| 3  | JUDGE CLARK: Mr. Lansford, you may step                  |
| 4  | down. I believe the next witness is Staff's. Please      |
| 5  | call your witness.                                       |
| 6  | MR. PRINGLE: Thank you, Judge. Staff calls               |
| 7  | Mr. Keith Majors back to the stand.                      |
| 8  | JUDGE CLARK: Mr. Majors, I'll remind you                 |
| 9  | that you're still under oath. Please be seated.          |
| 10 | MR. PRINGLE: At this time, Staff tenders                 |
| 11 | Mr. Majors for cross examination.                        |
| 12 | JUDGE CLARK: Thank you. Any cross                        |
| 13 | examination from the Office of Public Counsel?           |
| 14 | MR. WILLIAMS: No. Thank you.                             |
| 15 | JUDGE CLARK: Any cross examination from                  |
| 16 | Ameren Missouri?                                         |
| 17 | MS. TATRO: Yes, please. Just one moment.                 |
| 18 | Thank you for giving me that second, Your Honor.         |
| 19 | KEITH MAJORS,                                            |
| 20 | being first duly sworn, produced and examined, testified |
| 21 | as follows:                                              |
| 22 | CROSS EXAMINATION BY MS. TATRO:                          |
| 23 | Q. Mr. Majors, do you agree that the CCR costs           |
| 24 | you know what I mean when I say CCR?                     |
| 25 | A. Yes. Coal combustion residuals.                       |



- Q. That CCR costs are asset retirement obligations?
  - A. That's my understanding, yes.

- Q. And is it your recommendation -- and what is your recommendation to be done with these costs in this case?
- A. So for the line item that's titled "Asset Retirement Allegations, Ash Ponds," I included that amount in the securitized -- in the securitized costs at \$149,356 as really limited to the retirement of the landfill itself, and I think there's -- they pushed some sand on to the -- on to the turf that covers where the ash pond was.

And then for -- I guess just to note the difference between Mr. Lansford's work papers and my work papers is that there was a data request that was issued and so some of those costs that are in Mr. Lansford's schedule were double counted in that line item, and then in the water treatment and monitoring costs. So there's an OPC data request that detailed that amount.

And so for the water treatment monitoring,
we're recommending that those costs not be
disallowed, but they just be included in the future
rate cases with other water treatment monitoring

| costs | at | other | sites | should | those | be | incurred. |
|-------|----|-------|-------|--------|-------|----|-----------|
|       |    |       |       |        |       |    |           |

- Q. Are those water treatment costs part of CCR compliance?
- A. There's certainly the possibility that they
  are. I can't say that they absolutely are not.
- 6 MS. TATRO: May I approach?
- 7 JUDGE CLARK: Please.
- Q. Mr. Majors, I've handed you a data request and response that's been marked Exhibit 26. It is an Office of Public Counsel data request. Do you see that?
- 12 A. I do.

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- Q. The question was dealing with this issue talking about how long Ameren Missouri is required to treat the water and monitor groundwater for contaminants from Rush Island. Do you see that question?
  - A. Yeah. That's not the question that OPC had.

    I mean, you're paraphrasing, but sure.
- Q. Just to be clear, the question says:

  Presently how long, (years) is Ameren Missouri

  required to (1) treat water and (2) monitor

  groundwater for contaminates from Rush Island's

  site? Is that right?
- 25 A. Yes, that's what it says.



Page 198

- Q. Can you read through that response? I'll give
- 2 | you a moment.
- A. Please. Okay. I've read through it.
- Q. In the first paragraph of the answer talks about the CCR rule. Do you see that?
- 6 A. Yes.
- Q. And it says that the groundwater monitoring and treatment is regulated by both MDNR and the CCR rule?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. The first sentence?
- 12 A. Yes.
- Q. And then the second paragraph, if you go down, talks about how long Ameren Missouri is required to monitor groundwater at Rush Island. Yes?
- 16 A. Yes.
- Q. And the last part of that sentence says, since
  it's unknown how long it will take to meet state and
  federal requirements. That would be for the
  groundwater, correct?
- 21 A. Correct.
- Q. So that would imply that CCR requirements include groundwater monitoring?
- 24 A. Yes.
- MR. WILLIAMS: Judge, I'm going to object

1 at this point. I mean, one, the response -- Exhibit 2 26 is hearsay to begin with. 3 MS. TATRO: I haven't moved for its 4 admission. 5 JUDGE CLARK: Let him complete his 6 objection. 7 All right. MS. TATRO: 8 MR. WILLIAMS: It's hearsay to begin 9 I don't mind if Mr. Majors testifies to matters that are within his own knowledge, but to 10 11 testify based on this exhibit I do have a problem 12 with, because it is hearsay evidence and if he 13 doesn't have any independent knowledge, then I don't 14 think his testimony is worth anything in this 15 proceeding. 16 May I respond? MS. TATRO: 17 JUDGE CLARK: Yes. 18 I wasn't completed asking my MS. TATRO: 19 cross of Mr. Majors on this and I believe that the 20 Commission considers him an expert witness who is able 21 to rely upon opinions of other experts if he finds them 2.2 reliable, which was the questions I was getting ready to 23 ask him. 24 Mr. Majors, do you have any JUDGE CLARK:

personal knowledge of this subject?

| 1  | THE WITNESS: I mean, other than my                     |
|----|--------------------------------------------------------|
| 2  | experience as a member of Staff dealing with these     |
| 3  | issues, no. I mean, I certainly have been out and seen |
| 4  | the groundwater treatment and monitoring equipment out |
| 5  | at Rush Island.                                        |
| 6  | JUDGE CLARK: Are you familiar with the EPA             |
| 7  | groundwater mitigation regulations?                    |
| 8  | THE WITNESS: No, I can't say I could attest            |
| 9  | to any of those.                                       |
| 10 | JUDGE CLARK: I'm going to sustain the                  |
| 11 | objection.                                             |
| 12 | MS. TATRO: All right. Thank you, Your                  |
| 13 | Honor. I have no further questions for Mr. Majors.     |
| 14 | JUDGE CLARK: Any redirect from Public                  |
| 15 | Counsel?                                               |
| 16 | MR. PRINGLE: Actually, a Staff witness.                |
| 17 | JUDGE CLARK: Hold on just a second. I'm                |
| 18 | sorry, go ahead.                                       |
| 19 | MR. PRINGLE: Actually, he's a Staff witness            |
| 20 | with me doing redirect on the end.                     |
| 21 | MR. WILLIAMS: Aren't we to the point where             |
| 22 | I will be crossing? But I don't have any cross, so go  |
| 23 | ahead, Commissioner.                                   |
| 24 | JUDGE CLARK: Okay. Did I not ask you if                |
| 25 | you had any cross examination?                         |



Page 201

| Τ  | MR. PRINGLE: I was just clarifying, you                 |
|----|---------------------------------------------------------|
| 2  | asked OPC to redirect and that would be Staff to        |
| 3  | redirect.                                               |
| 4  | JUDGE CLARK: Okay. I have done it again.                |
| 5  | OPC, cross examination?                                 |
| 6  | MR. WILLIAMS: No. Thank you. Go ahead,                  |
| 7  | Commissioner Holsman.                                   |
| 8  | COMMISSIONER HOLSMAN: Judge, I have a                   |
| 9  | question of you, if that's appropriate, a process       |
| 10 | question.                                               |
| 11 | JUDGE CLARK: You are the Commissioner.                  |
| 12 | COMMISSIONER HOLSMAN: This is the second                |
| 13 | OPC data request that the Company has presented that's  |
| 14 | been objected to. Would it be you know, it was          |
| 15 | prepared in December 28 of 2023. Would it have been     |
| 16 | appropriate for these to be introduced as evidence in   |
| 17 | the preliminary portion of this? Why are because it     |
| 18 | seems to me that it's a relevant document that's not    |
| 19 | if the question is is it falsified, and the answer is,  |
| 20 | no, it's a legitimate request that OPC made, why was it |
| 21 | not admitted prior to this discussion? But now that     |
| 22 | it's being introduced, why would it not be relevant if  |
| 23 | it's a legitimate OPC data request?                     |
| 24 | JUDGE CLARK: Well, that has more to do with             |



it is not a document that was prepared by Mr. Majors.

| 1  | Page 20<br>It is not a document that was prepared by Ameren. It |
|----|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2  | was neither of them. It is an OPC document where the            |
| 3  | question has been verified and they're essentially              |
| 4  | asking Mr. Majors to weigh in on the response and it            |
| 5  | probably would have been more appropriate for an Ameren         |
| 6  | witness to weigh in on the response since Ameren was the        |
| 7  | one who made                                                    |
| 8  | COMMISSIONER HOLSMAN: I'm not necessarily                       |
| 9  | questioning what they're intending use it for, but if           |
| 10 | it's a legitimate OPC data request, then why wouldn't it        |
| 11 | be allowed to be a part of this discussion? That's my           |
| 12 | question. You know, unless it was it was a                      |
| 13 | non-legitimate data request, it just seems like the             |
| 14 | information contained in this document would be relevant        |
| 15 | to our discussion.                                              |
| 16 | JUDGE CLARK: I don't think it's not                             |

JUDGE CLARK: I don't think it's not relevant. I didn't --

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COMMISSIONER HOLSMAN: I'm not questioning your decision on rather you admitting it or not, but I am sort of question the Company's decision to introduce it at this juncture when it seems like it was prepared well in advance of today's conversation.

JUDGE CLARK: Can I stop you and ask you a question real quick?

COMMISSIONER HOLSMAN: Yes.



| 1  | Page 203<br>JUDGE CLARK: Is this a document that you     |
|----|----------------------------------------------------------|
| 2  | want the Commission to be able to consider?              |
| 3  | COMMISSIONER HOLSMAN: Yes.                               |
| 4  | JUDGE CLARK: Okay. Ms. Tatro, would you                  |
| 5  | like to offer this document?                             |
| 6  | MS. TATRO: I would like to offer the                     |
| 7  | document. Can I ask Mr. Majors a couple of questions     |
| 8  | that might be helpful?                                   |
| 9  | JUDGE CLARK: Absolutely.                                 |
| 10 | Q. (By Ms. Tatro) Do you still have the data             |
| 11 | request in front of you?                                 |
| 12 | A. I do.                                                 |
| 13 | Q. And are you familiar with the individual who          |
| 14 | is listed as answering the question? Maybe not           |
| 15 | personally, but through data requests that you've        |
| 16 | dealt with in Ameren's various rate cases?               |
| 17 | MR. PRINGLE: Judge, I'm going to object                  |
| 18 | now, too, because this is just the improper foundation.  |
| 19 | If this DR is going to come in, it should come in        |
| 20 | through an Ameren or OPC witness.                        |
| 21 | MS. TATRO: Again, I would point to the                   |
| 22 | rules of civil evidence that say if he's relying upon an |
| 23 | expert, even if hearsay, if he believes that expert is   |
| 24 | credible, he can base an opinion on that.                |

If I may.

MR. WILLIAMS:

| Τ  | JUDGE CLARK: Hold on just a second. I'm                  |
|----|----------------------------------------------------------|
| 2  | thinking about this. So everybody just bear with me for  |
| 3  | a moment. Mr. Williams, is there anyone from OPC who     |
| 4  | can authenticate that this is an OPC data request?       |
| 5  | MR. WILLIAMS: The issue is not that it's an              |
| 6  | OPC data request, it's Ameren Missouri's response to a   |
| 7  | data request. Now, certainly OPC can authenticate that   |
| 8  | it issued the data request and it got a response, but it |
| 9  | can't authenticate the response itself. That would       |
| 10 | require someone from Ameren Missouri.                    |
| 11 | What I believe Ms. Tatro is attempting to do             |
| 12 | is have Mr. Majors make some kind of an expert opinion   |
| 13 | based on an expert opinion of someone else or            |
| 14 | information that an expert who is making that opinion    |
| 15 | normally would rely upon. He hasn't done that at this    |
| 16 | point. It's essentially a backdoor way of getting the    |
| 17 | response into evidence in this case. And this is a       |
| 18 | fundamental evidentiary issue, it's not a technical rule |
| 19 | of evidence.                                             |
| 20 | MR. PRINGLE: If I may also, Judge,                       |
| 21 | Mr. Majors already testified that he's not an expert on  |
| 22 | the CCR. He really can't testify to the response in      |
| 23 | here. It's just he's not the proper witness to get this  |

- NI FXITA

Ms. Tatro, is there an Ameren

TATRO:

in through.

MS.

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| 1  | witness that this could come in through?                 |
|----|----------------------------------------------------------|
| 2  | MS. TATRO: There's no one here. Hang on                  |
| 3  | just a moment.                                           |
| 4  | JUDGE CLARK: Let's go off the record for a               |
| 5  | moment.                                                  |
| 6  | MS. TATRO: Can we take a short break?                    |
| 7  | JUDGE CLARK: We will go off the record                   |
| 8  | until 2:50.                                              |
| 9  | (Off the record.)                                        |
| 10 |                                                          |
| 11 | (Back on the record.)                                    |
| 12 | JUDGE CLARK: We're going to go back on the               |
| 13 | record a little bit early. Ameren has indicated they     |
| 14 | are ready to proceed.                                    |
| 15 | MS. TATRO: I am ready to proceed. First of               |
| 16 | all, Mr. Williams, who apparently is becoming the        |
| 17 | catchall, will be taking the stands. He is here and he   |
| 18 | is willing to talk about this answer and in his expert   |
| 19 | opinion explain to you to verify the information         |
| 20 | that's on the answer. So I think we could get it in the  |
| 21 | record that way. The other thing I realized when we      |
| 22 | were on break is, OPC's witness puts this exact quote in |
| 23 | her testimony.                                           |
| 24 | JUDGE CLARK: This exact quote?                           |
| 25 | MS. TATRO: I should say part of the answer.              |



1 She doesn't put the entire answer, but she puts the 2 first part of the answer in there. 3 JUDGE CLARK: Paragraph one. 4 MS. TATRO: I believe that's right. It's on 5 page four of her testimony. So she probably can verify 6 it as well because obviously she looked at it. 7 Okay. I will let you try to JUDGE CLARK: 8 go through Ms. Schaben and Mr. Williams. We'll hold 9 Any Commission questions? that for now. 10 Commissioner Holsman has some questions. 11 COMMISSIONER HOLSMAN: Thank you, Judge. 12 And I appreciate you going through that explanation 13 helping me better understand the legal process for 14 evidence. I am not an attorney. 15 QUESTIONS BY COMMISSIONER HOLSMAN: 16 Hello again. 0. 17 Good afternoon. Α. My question is, Ameren's position -- the 18 19 Company's position is that the \$4.76 million for 20 cost of water treatment should be included in this. You came back and said the 150,000, the 149,000 21 2.2 should be included just for the ash pond closure; is 23 that accurate?

But you're not saying that that number that

Yes, that's correct.

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Α.

Q.

they've come up with, the 4.7 million, is an
erroneous number or an inaccurate number, you're
just saying that it doesn't belong in the
securitization process and it should be in the next
rate case?

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A. Correct. Well, one, they are estimates. And, two, let's say the costs -- hypothetically, without any evidence to that, let's say the costs go beyond the 10, 20 year horizon, then I don't know that -- if we put the costs in now at the net present value of the projections, yes, you have an account to account for the over-unders. Estimates are always going to be estimates -- there's actuals -- so you have an account for that.

But my understanding is, it would just be for the life of the bonds, the 15-year horizon. So let's say you had costs that were still being incurred 20 years into the future, I mean, you would have to take -- if you include the costs now, which are only seven years out, you would have to also be concerned about the costs part of the future.

Q. Okay. So that gets me back to -- I do have a question. Because this response for data request, essentially the last sentence of it says included in this securitization application is five years of

- groundwater treatment costs, 2025 to 2029, and eight years of ground monitoring costs from '25 to '32 and you were talking about 10 years -- in the paragraph 4 before it said it's unknown, it's unknown how long it's going to be required to monitor the groundwater.
  - So -- and, again, I understand that you are not the expert to verify this in terms of how they arrived at five years and eight years, but my question to you is, assuming that five years and eight years is an accurate representation of what the Company believes that this number, this \$4.7 million represents. Okay?

## Α. Yes.

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- What happens in the event that it wasn't Ο. So they get the upfront -- the enough? securitization bonds go through. They get their upfront money from the bonds and, let's say, 10 years from now there's still an ongoing need for funds that is not covered by this 4.7, but they've already been, you know, paid for the bond money, would the Company then be responsible for whatever costs that would then be put into rate cases in the 24 future?
  - So I think my response to that would Α. Right.

| be, you would still have that over-under tracking   |    |
|-----------------------------------------------------|----|
| account to track all the differentials between      |    |
| projected and actual costs. So in that regard, you  | 1  |
| would track whatever in your example it was         |    |
| higher you would track that amount and that would   | Ld |
| be subject to future recovery in a future rate case | )  |
| along with all the other over-unders for the        |    |
| estimates for all the other costs that are included | ŀ  |
| in securitization.                                  |    |

If you include them in just as an ongoing expense, those would -- if you don't adjust them in the rate case, it would just be the test year costs, but you could have an annualization or a normalization -- an annualization would be any new costs that come around. A normalization would be, say, a three-year average of those costs.

And keep in mind, too, that the CCR residuals are at any other -- any former or current coal plant that would have to require groundwater monitoring and treatment. So there's more buckets of those costs that are currently being incurred by Ameren and flowed through customer rates. So this would be in that additional pool.

Q. And if I'm reading this right, it says the federal CCR rule requires 30 years of post-closure



care?

- A. That would be in response to the data request. I take a pretty more -- well, if it's a response to a data request, I pretty -- my opinion would be more information is more, I mean -- but that's just my nonlegal opinion. But I don't dispute what you just said, that it could be that you have to monitor those for 30 years.
- Q. So let's assume you do have to monitor for 30 years, the responsibility or the liability is not relieved even if these funds are exhausted, right? The Company is still going to have to deal with the groundwater monitoring regardless of whatever the estimates end up turning out, you know?
- A. Oh, for sure. Another probably even more -- a longer term example would be, all the major electrical utilities and gas utilities -- at least all the major gas utilities -- and Ameren has gas property -- they're dealing with manufactured gas plant environmental expenses and those plants have been closed for over 100 years. And so those expenses are being flowed through customer rates. So it's not uncommon to have those long-term monitoring costs and environmental cleanup costs.
  - Q. Are these expenses -- is it a part of the

- 1 requirement -- I know there's a coal ash liner, you
- 2 know, the ponds are required to have liners.
- 3 Maintenance of those liners, is that also a part of
- 4 these -- would that be considered a part of the safe
- 5 closure costs? Would that be the next issue, rather
- 6 than the one we're talking about here?
- 7 I think the safe closure costs are really --A.
- 8 I'll call them one-time costs, but they're really
- 9 related to the closure of the plant itself.
- 10 admit I probably wouldn't be the best person to ask
- I know there's been -- I'm just 11 about the liner.
- 12 not the best person to ask.
- 13 Let me ask you from an accounting perspective. Ο.
- 14 In your opinion, is the ratepayer better served --
- 15 my interpretation of the legislature's reasoning for
- 16 coming up with securitization was to, you know, take
- 17 a large expense and spread it out over a longer time
- 18 to make the impact on the ratepayer to be more
- 19 manageable and have -- you know, to do things like
- 20 this that doesn't cause, you know, an instant spike
- 21 in rates that would reflect how much we're talking
- 2.2 about here, you know, to get rid of 15 years of
- 23 depreciation.
- 24 So from an accounting perspective, is
- 25 securitizing this 4.7 million, assuming the 4.7

- 1 | million is an accurate number, is the ratepayer
- 2 | better served by securitizing that or are they
- 3 better served by letting that float to the next rate
- 4 | case and having a rate of return on it?
- A. Well, when you say rate of return, they're
  operation and maintenance costs, so they wouldn't be
  rate-based assets. So I think the only really rate
  of return they wanted earn is through -- technically
  through cash working capital. So that would be the
  - The Company, if they buy office supplies or coal or gas, there's a time -- there's a cost of that money. And so as really all expenses get some kind of recognition for cash working capital, so there is a very tiny component right there.
  - Q. But I have a note here that says it should be treated as routine costs that are included in cost of service.
  - A. Yes. Yes.

day-to-day operations.

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- Q. So my assumption is, if it's included in cost of service, then they are going to receive a return on that?
- A. Well, I just want to make it clear. When you get a return on and return of --
  - Q. The return of is the interest -- right? -- the

financing?

A. That would be return on. So if you install the wood pole and it has a 10-year life, you have depreciation, that's your return of the investment that's over 10 years. And then the return on would be the weighted average cost of capital for the \$100 that you had to get capital from the market and pay for the wood pole. Those are capital items.

So when it comes to 0 & M items, the coal you purchase, office supplies, you have a working capital amount, let's call it that. We call it cash working capital, but it's essentially working capital that the company has to have for its day-to-day operations.

So from that regard, you would have that pool of money and then you're paying out expenses, you're receiving in revenue, and it all gets bundled up into a formula for the overall cost of money that runs -- the overall cost to the company for the day-to-day operations?

- O. This would go into that?
- A. Yes, like it would any other line item on the income statement. I always refer to our accounting schedules, so this might be in a -- oh, like a 520's account. It could be outside services, so that's



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- Q. Is that a better disposition for the ratepayer than if it was wrapped up in this securitization number?
- A. I don't know if it's necessarily better or worse. I think going back to what you said --
- Q. More expensive or less expensive in terms of the rate itself?
- A. Probably it would just edge out on just slightly more expensive, only if you assume --
- 11 Q. If you went the rate proceeding?
- 12 Just because the cash working capital, Α. Right. 13 working capital requirement is the weighted average 14 cost of capital, which is going to be slightly 15 higher than your cost of debt, but, I mean, that's 16 such a minute amount of difference. I'm always more 17 of a -- you just said one time, these large one-time 18 The water treatment, really, I wouldn't -- I costs. 19 don't know that it's not -- my opinion is, it's not 20 specifically related to the closure of the plant 21 itself, it's specifically related to having an ash 22 pond, which has been there since 1975. It's related 23 to all the combustion residuals and the ashes. It's 24 not specifically related to we're retiring this 25 plant now.

| Q. So then would it be accurate is this an           |
|------------------------------------------------------|
| accurate way to look at this particular issue? If    |
| the Commission decided to grant the 4.7 million into |
| the securitization pot okay? and the eight           |
| years of monitoring that this 4.7 represents is      |
| exceeded, that money is going to end up in a rate    |
| case as a part of the cost of service going forward  |
| 10 years from now?                                   |

## A. Yes.

- Q. That's correct, right? So if there's a slight savings to put this 4.7 million, even if it's borderline negligible, but it does err on the side of savings, what would be the reason why Staff wouldn't support putting the 4.7 million into the securitization pot, knowing that if it's exceeded, it's going to end up where you want it to be anyways? Why shift the entire 4.7 in that rate proceeding today when we could potentially recognize a slight savings by securitizing it?
- A. I think that's a fair argument. I'm more of the -- I'm of the opinion that if -- it's the one-time part. If you're retiring the plant, you're incurring all the demolition and all the costs of this one-time surrounding the closure of the plant.

  And so the argument would be, well, these are really



- not one-time costs, you're going to just keep on
  incurring these costs, really, at infinitum until --
- 3 Q. 30 years?

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- A. -- 30 years. So I'm more one to keep those

  costs, perhaps maybe from a review perspective, but

  I think Staff is going to be able to review those

  over-under and the actual invoices.
- Q. My last question is, then, do you feel like the 4.7 million is an accurate representation of eight years worth of monitoring?
  - A. I think it's a projection, but I think it's an accurate -- I don't have any evidence to say it's not an accurate representation, and I think the idea that you're going to get the over-under anyway is fair. And I think there's a review process.
- 16 Q. So it could be less?
- A. It could be less, it could be more.

  Certainly, it is an estimate.
- 19 Q. So when will that -- okay, so let's assume
- 20 | that the Commission were to allow this to be
- 21 securitized. The Company gets the 4.7 million as a
- 22 part of the bond payment. They now have that money.
- 23 How is the tracking going to occur if it is more or
- 24 less in year nine or in year eight when that 4.7
- 25 million would have otherwise been accurately



exhausted? How will we know? How will the Commission know?

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Is the Company required through the EPA or through the CCR rules to continuously submit some sort of ongoing reporting that let's them know?

Because the way I read this here, it says you have to do it until the water returns to, you know, an appropriate level, which that could be sooner than 30 years?

- A. Right. So you would be talking about their -when they report -- whatever chemicals or
  contaminants are in the water, they would report
  that to MDNR and EPA. We would certainly be able to
  ask about what they send to them, but I believe
  there's an annual true-up process and a process in
  the rate case where you would be able to review
  those expenses --
- Q. I think this is a line of questioning that I probably need to ask the company. Are you aware, is this 4.7 million strictly in monitoring or is it in remediation? Will this money go to help reduce the chemicals and try to accelerate the water returning to acceptable levels?
  - A. That would be a question out of my wheelhouse.

25 COMMISSIONER HOLSMAN: All right. Fair



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               Thank you, Judge.
      enough.
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                 JUDGE CLARK: Let's go off the record for
 3
     just a moment.
 4
                          (Off the record.)
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 6
                        (Back on the record.)
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                 JUDGE CLARK: Any recross examination from
     the Office of the Public Counsel?
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 9
                 MR. WILLIAMS:
                                 Yes, please.
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     RECROSS EXAMINATION BY MR. WILLIAMS:
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            Mr. Majors, you had a lot of questions from
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      Commissioner Holsman about these water monitoring
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      and treatment costs and if they were treated in
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      securitization versus if they were treated in a rate
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             Do you recall that?
      case.
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        Α.
            Yes.
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            Let's assume, although I know the data request
      is a bit different, the response is a bit different,
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      but let's assume these costs are -- the 4.7 million
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      represents -- let's make it five million and it's
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      five years of cost.
                           So the annual cost would then
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      be a million dollars, correct?
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        Α.
            Yes.
24
            And if that were to be recovered in a rate
        0.
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case, it would be part of the cost of service, but

- 1 it would not be a part of it where there would be a
- 2 | return on because it would not be included in rate
- 3 | base, correct?

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- A. That's correct.
- Q. So the concept in the ratemaking would be an attempt to put into rates so that a utility would get the one million dollars at the same time it's expending it?
  - A. That would be the overall goal, is to include the actual incurred costs and include that in the cost of service.
- Q. And then you brought in this cash working
  capital concept. I'm not sure the commissioners
  understand that, but let's get into it a little bit.
  Isn't the concept of cash working capital, there's a
  timing difference between when a cost is actually
  incurred and whenever the expenditure's made for
  that cost?
- 19 A. That's correct.
- Q. Let me put it this way. There's a timing
  difference between whenever customers pay for that
  cost in rates and whenever the utility actually
  incurs that expense and pays it?
  - A. That's correct. There's various aspects of cash working capital that measure both the inflows



of cash from customers and the outflows of cash for expenses.

- Q. So it may be possible that customers would actually pay for the water treatment before Ameren Missouri actually incurs the cost for the water treatment? Is that not true?
- A. That is a possibility. It would depend on a couple of factors. One, whether or not the water treatment costs would be included in just the overall what's called "cash vouchers" or whether or not there was a specific line item on that.

It would also depend on how the Company pays for that, whether it's through an invoice, a check, or what's called an automated clearinghouse payment. There are a variety of factors that one would take into account when determining the impact to cash working capital for those expenses.

I would probably add that -- you're talking about in your case a million dollars per year. I would suspect that the overall annual expense for Ameren would probably be half a billion dollars. So you're talking about, you know, rounding -- it would be a rounding error for this level of expense.

Q. Where I'm really going is back to the comparison between recovery in a rate case and



- 1 recovery through bonds. If this amount, this full 2 amount is put into the bond of five million in my 3 example, in this case that's going to be recovered 4 over 15 years through -- Ameren Missouri will get --5 let me try it this way. Ameren Missouri will get 6 the bond proceeds up front, but customers will be 7 paying for this five million over 15 years, correct?
  - A. Yes.

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- Q. And the bond interest rates anticipated would be something like five percent?
  - A. Yes.
- Q. And if they're paying in a rate case, it would be a million dollars per year and the only -- I'll use the word "clearing costs," but it would be the cash working capital that would be the added cost aside from straight dollar for dollar, correct?
- A. Yes.
- Q. You would expect that impact to be a lot less than five percent; would you not?
- A. I mean, I would suspect the -- the CWC
  requirement for that expense, I would expect it to
  be -- again, I don't have the numbers in front of
  me -- smaller -- I don't know if I could say that,
  because, I mean, you're talking about tenths of a
  penny in the overall grand scheme of things.



Q. Well, you wouldn't expect customers were going to be paying a million dollars and five percent of a million would be \$50,000, would you, a year for these costs in that example?

- A. Oh, no. And the other thing you have to consider, the securitization would not -- it would not have really a CWC -- well -- just sitting here, I don't know if it would be more expensive. There are a lot of factors that go into that for sure.
- Q. Well, what factors do you think would make it more expensive to go the rate case route as opposed to the bond route?
- A. Other than -- well, I guess one benefit versus the rate case would be -- I guess this would be contrary to my argument -- that if you put them in the securitization -- the over-under fund is a tracker, so you would be able to capture that at a point in time, whereas you wouldn't necessarily track these costs in the rate case, so the benefit is there. I'm more of the opinion as much as possible you keep -- you want to keep things out of trackers because there's an incentive for the Company to minimize those costs, for all costs that are not tracked.
  - Now, I'm not saying the Company doesn't have



| Т          | an incentive to keep costs low or to reduce         |
|------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| 2          | costs that are tracked, but there's certainly more  |
| 3          | of an incentive of items that are not in a tracking |
| 4          | mechanism. And so there's no other tracking         |
| 5          | there's no tracking mechanism to water treatment. I |
| 6          | think you would have a tracking mechanism for in    |
| 7          | this case, if you did securitize them, you're kind  |
| 8          | of you're setting up a tracking mechanism in        |
| 9          | practice if it's not specifically called one.       |
| LO         | Q. Well, ultimately on either scenario, ideally     |
| L1         | customers are going to pay the full cost. It's a    |
| L2         | matter of timing and if there's an additional cost  |
| L3         | because of interest, correct?                       |
| L <b>4</b> | A. Yes.                                             |
| L5         | MR. WILLIAMS: No further questions.                 |
| L6         | JUDGE CLARK: Any recross from Ameren?               |
| L7         | MS. TATRO: Yes.                                     |
| L8         | RECROSS EXAMINATION BY MS. TATRO:                   |
| L9         | Q. Do you happen to have a copy of the              |
| 20         | surrebuttal testimony of Mitch Lansford with you?   |
| 21         | A. Unfortunately, I do not, but I've read it. I     |
| 22         | could certainly attempt to answer your question.    |
| 23         | Q. Okay. Well, I want to talk about one page and    |
| 24         | I have a copy that I will bring you.                |

Excellent.

25

Okay.

A.

- 1 MS. TATRO: May I approach?
- 2 JUDGE CLARK: Yes.
- 3 Q. And I've handed you Page 34 of Mitch
- 4 Lansford's surrebuttal testimony?
- 5 Yes. Α.
- 6 And there's a heading ARO Water Treatment and Ο. 7 Monitoring on Line 7?
- 8 Α. Yes.
- 9 And we go down to Line 13, Mr. Lansford Ο. 10 testifies that an ARO is an obligation to return a 11 piece of property back to its original condition 12 upon retirement of an asset. Do you agree with
- that? 14 Α. Yes.

- 15 Then he says water treatment and monitoring is Ο. 16 central component of the Company's ARO related to
- 17 Rush Island. Do you see that?
- 18 Yes. Α.
- 19 Do you believe Mitch Lansford to be qualified 2.0 to make that assertion?
- 21 Α. Yes.
- He is familiar with the Company's ARO and the 2.2 0. 23 costs that are included within it?
- 24 Α. Yes.
- 25 Mr. Holsman asked you some questions Q. Okay.



- 1 about what if the -- talking about the water portion 2 of the ARO and he said if the costs aren't recovered 3 fully through the securitization, then they would be 4 in the next rate case. And you said if it goes 5 outside of the 20 year -- 15 year horizon, I quess, 6 of the securitization bonds. And you continued on 7 to say that if the costs are outside of the life of 8 the bonds, then they wouldn't be covered. 9 agree with me that -- well, assume for me for a moment that the costs do in deed only last seven 10 11 years, which was Mitchell Lansford's testimony,
- 13 A. Yes.

right?

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- 14 Q. And at that time, then the cost is paid off?
- 15 A. Yes.
- Q. And if it took less than that time or less of that money, the customers would get that back through the reconciliation in a rate case?
- 19 A. Yes, that's correct.
  - Q. And if it took longer than the time and dollars that are in the securitization, that also would be reconciled in a rate case?
- 23 A. Yes.
- Q. Then at the very end, Nathan asked you to assume five years and five million dollars. You



|    | Evidentiary Hearing April 17,                       |     |
|----|-----------------------------------------------------|-----|
| 1  | Page remember that conversation?                    | 220 |
| 2  | A. I do.                                            |     |
| 3  | Q. And he went through your example about cash      |     |
| 4  | working capital and treating it as an expense, but  |     |
| 5  | if the water costs are indeed AROs, that's a rate   |     |
| 6  | base component; is it not?                          |     |
| 7  | A. It is it would be in the sense for a plant       |     |
| 8  | that's not retired. I don't know if that would hold |     |
| 9  | true for a retired plant.                           |     |
| 10 | Q. Is it accounted for as a removal cost?           |     |
| 11 | A. I really don't know the answer to that           |     |
| 12 | question.                                           |     |
| 13 | Q. Okay. Would you agree with me that removal       |     |
| 14 | costs are in rate base?                             |     |
| 15 | A. Yes, there's an accrual for cost of removal in   |     |
| 16 | the accumulated reserve.                            |     |
| 17 | Q. And so things that are in rate base get a        |     |
| 18 | return?                                             |     |
| 19 | A. Yes.                                             |     |
| 20 | MS. TATRO: I have no further questions.             |     |
| 21 | JUDGE CLARK: Commissioner Holsman has               |     |
| 22 | another question of this witness.                   |     |
| 23 | QUESTIONS BY COMMISSIONER HOLSMAN:                  |     |



ratepayer be better off from an accounting

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Q.

When it comes to inflation, would the

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- perspective if the Company were to securitize this \$4.7 million in 2024 dollars? Assuming that the value of the dollar remains consistent, then putting this in rate base and potentially dealing with it three years from now in the event that inflation were to continue to grow and/or the cost of goods and services were to continue to grow, is there a correlation that would suggest 2024 dollars for the ratepayer, because its value is what it is today, would be better off to have the Company receive that amount and be paid in full versus taking the chance that five years from now the cost of services and the cost of goods and the dollar itself has increased? Does that make sense? Does my question make sense?
  - A. I think so. So keep in mind, too, that these dollars are discounted -- right? -- using the 5.59 bond rate. So I would say you're still going to have whatever actual -- well, okay, I think --
  - Q. Because of the reconciliation, you're still going --
  - A. Right. That would hold true if these were one-time costs. So if you had the option of -- let's say we could do all the water treatment and monitoring in year one, that would shield this cost



| 1   | from inflation. The problem is, it doesn't matter    |
|-----|------------------------------------------------------|
| 2   | whether or not you securitize the cost, it's still   |
| 3   | going to be on the same timeframe, five years, seven |
| 4   | years, 30 years, whatever the actual timeframe is.   |
| 5   | So you wouldn't get shielded from inflation that     |
| 6   | way. The only way in my mind you would get shielded  |
| 7   | from inflation is if you had the choice to do a      |
| 8   | one-time cost.                                       |
| 9   | Q. Okay. So then that gets us back to the            |
| L O | remediation side, which I'll talk to Mr. Williams.   |
| L1  | All right. Thank you.                                |
| L2  | COMMISSIONER HOLSMAN: Thank you, Judge.              |
| L3  | JUDGE CLARK: Any recross from Public                 |
| L4  | Counsel?                                             |
| L5  | MR. WILLIAMS: No.                                    |
| L6  | JUDGE CLARK: Any recross from Ameren                 |
| L7  | Missouri?                                            |
| L8  | MS. TATRO: Yes.                                      |
| L9  | RECROSS EXAMINATION BY MS. TATRO:                    |
| 20  | Q. Based on the Commissioner's question, do you      |
| 21  | know what the Commission decided in the Liberty      |
| 22  | case, Liberty Securitization case about whether or   |
| 23  | not customers would be better off for it to be       |
| 24  | covered through securitization or through a          |
| 25  | traditional rate case?                               |

| 1  | A. I don't know if that specific question was        |
|----|------------------------------------------------------|
| 2  | raised. I know that some ARO costs were reflected    |
| 3  | in the securitization amount. I don't know           |
| 4  | specifically that the issue of whether or not you    |
| 5  | would I guess implicitly if they were included in    |
| 6  | the securitization, there was the implicit idea that |
| 7  | they were better off through the securitization than |
| 8  | through rates.                                       |
| 9  | MS. TATRO: May I approach?                           |
| 10 | JUDGE CLARK: Yes, you may.                           |
| 11 | Q. I have put before you and I didn't copy the       |
| 12 | entire order in order to maybe save some tree, but I |
| 13 | copied the cover page, the index page, and then Page |
| 14 | 59, I believe, is on there. Is that correct?         |
| 15 | A. That's correct. I've read this entire             |
| 16 | document, although it's not included here today, but |
| 17 |                                                      |
| 18 | Q. Correct. So paragraph 129 on Page 59.             |
| 19 | A. I'm there.                                        |
| 20 | Q. It says inclusion I'm sorry, this is in the       |
| 21 | Findings of Facts section, right? If you look at     |
| 22 | the page before, you can see it says Findings of     |
| 23 | Fact?                                                |

- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. And Paragraph 129 says: Inclusion of the AROs



| 1  | in the securitization balance will benefit           |
|----|------------------------------------------------------|
| 2  | ratepayers in that if Liberty recovered these costs  |
| 3  | through traditional ratemaking, it would also        |
| 4  | recover carrying costs until time of recovery?       |
| 5  | A. Yes.                                              |
| 6  | Q. And that's because it's an ARO, right?            |
| 7  | MR. PRINGLE: Objection. Calls for                    |
| 8  | speculation.                                         |
| 9  | MS. TATRO: I'll withdraw the question.               |
| 10 | JUDGE CLARK: Well, there's no need to                |
| 11 | sustain your objection.                              |
| 12 | MS. TATRO: Thank you.                                |
| 13 | JUDGE CLARK: Any redirect from Commission            |
| 14 | Staff?                                               |
| 15 | MR. PRINGLE: Yes, Judge, briefly.                    |
| 16 | REDIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. PRINGLE:                 |
| 17 | Q. So, Mr. Majors, just to kind of take us all       |
| 18 | back to Staff's position here. Why is Staff          |
| 19 | recommending that the water treatment and monitoring |
| 20 | be recovered in a rate case versus securitization?   |
| 21 | A. Well, I think probably the only unrefuted         |
| 22 | reason would be that these are costs that are not    |
| 23 | unlike other costs being currently incurred at other |
| 24 | CCR sites the Company owns. In my mind that's an     |

argument to say, let's keep these just as vanilla,

1 run of the mill costs that will be included in the 2 cost of service going forward in a future rate case. 3 And I'm not entirely sure whether or not these costs are already being incurred and paid for. 4 5 Because those ash ponds do exist, I'm not sure 6 they're not being incurred and paid for already 7 included in rates. It's just because of the 8 closure, there's a desire to include those costs in 9 the securitization. 10 And would the best place to kind of resolve 11 those unknowns, would it be a securitization case or 12 a rate case? 13 You're referring to the unknowns as what the Α. 14 actual costs would be or whether or not they're 15 already being incurred and paid for? 16 Being incurred and paid for. Correct. Ο. 17 Probably because there's no testimony on it Α. 18 right now, it would be in the rate case. 19 MR. PRINGLE: Thank you very much. No 20 further questions, Judge. 21 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Mr. Majors, you can 2.2 step down. 23 JUDGE CLARK: I believe the next witness is 24 Public Counsel's. It's my intention to finish this

issue and then take about a 10-minute recess.

| 1  | Page 232                                                 |
|----|----------------------------------------------------------|
| 1  | may call your witness.                                   |
| 2  | MR. WILLIAMS: Public Counsel calls Angela                |
| 3  | Schaben.                                                 |
| 4  | JUDGE CLARK: Ms. Schaben, would you raise                |
| 5  | your right hand to be sworn. Do you solemnly swear or    |
| 6  | affirm that the testimony you're about to give at this   |
| 7  | evidentiary hearing is the truth?                        |
| 8  | THE WITNESS: I do.                                       |
| 9  | ANGELA SCHABEN,                                          |
| 10 | being first duly sworn, produced and examined, testified |
| 11 | as follows:                                              |
| 12 | DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. WILLIAMS:                      |
| 13 | Q. Would you please state and spell your name?           |
| 14 | A. Angela Schaben. A-N-G-E-L-A, S-C-H-A-B-E-N.           |
| 15 | Q. Ms. Schaben, did you prepare written rebuttal         |
| 16 | testimony that's been marked for identification in       |
| 17 | this case as Exhibit 209?                                |
| 18 | A. Yes.                                                  |
| 19 | Q. And did you have schedules attached to that           |
| 20 | testimony, I believe, ADS-R-1 to ADS-R-4, and then       |
| 21 | ADS-R-5, which is confidential?                          |
| 22 | A. Yes.                                                  |
| 23 | Q. Would you have any changes to your rebuttal           |
| 24 | testimony for it to be your testimony here today?        |
|    |                                                          |

Α.

No.

1 Is in fact Exhibit 209 your rebuttal testimony Q. 2 here today? 3 Α. Yes. 4 Ms. Schaben will be up for MR. WILLIAMS: 5 other issues later, so I'm going to go ahead and 6 tender her for questioning now. 7 JUDGE CLARK: Thank you. Any cross examination from Staff? 8 9 No questions, judge. MR. PRINGLE: Thank 10 you. 11 JUDGE CLARK: Any cross examination from 12 Ameren Missouri? 13 MS. TATRO: Yes. 14 CROSS EXAMINATION BY MS. TATRO: 15 Ο. Good afternoon. 16 Hello. Α. 17 Do you have your testimony with you today? Ο. 18 Α. I do. 19 On your rebuttal testimony, Page 5, please. 0. 20 If you'll tell me when you're there. 21 Α. I'm there. 2.2 0. So you talk about actual groundwater and 23 monitoring expenses. Do you agree those are related 24 to the coal combustion residuals rule?

25

Α.

Yes.

- Q. Okay. Do you agree those costs are properly
- 2 | accounted for in an ARO?
  - A. No.

- $4 \mid Q$ . Why not?
- 5 A. Because they're ongoing maintenance expenses, 6 in my opinion.
- 7 Q. Okay. What's the basis of your opinion?
- A. The fact that they continue to -- Ameren is required to continue to monitor groundwater and treatment.
- Q. Has the Commission ever classified them as ongoing expenses in the past?
- 13 A. Not that I'm aware specifically. I can't say.
- Q. Did you do any research to determine how it had been classified by the Commission in the past?
- A. Well, Sioux -- as far as I'm aware, in Sioux,

  it's considered O & M because they do this for all

  of their plants?
- Q. We do do this for all of our plants, yes. So tell me what an ARO is if it is not -- tell me what an ARO is, first of all, from your point of view?
- 22 A. Asset retirement obligation.
- Q. And it's governed by GAAP rules. Would you agree with that?
- 25 A. I mean, that sounds right.



- Q. Okay. And I forgot to ask you this at the
- 2 | beginning, I'm sorry. Are you a CPA?
  - A. Not yet, no.

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- Q. So what accounting guidance are you relying on to say that this is -- does not qualify as an ARO and rather is an ongoing expense?
  - A. Well, I rely on Staff's opinion a lot of times because I have to go through their work papers to figure out a basis. So I was relying on Keith Majors somewhat for this.
- Q. Okay. So you did not have an independent reason of your own, you're just relying on Mr.

  Majors' opinion; is that correct?
- 14 A. And the fact that it makes sense.
- Q. It makes sense. Why does it make sense?
- A. Because it's a continuing, ongoing maintenance expense. It will continue on beyond the closure of the plant.
- Q. Are you familiar with the -- hang on. I lost my question. Are you familiar with the Uniform System of Accounts?
- 22 A. I am familiar with that.
- Q. I'm going to hand you part of 18 CFR part 101.
- MS. TATRO: May I approach?
- JUDGE CLARK: Yes, you may.

- Q. I'll give you a moment to look at that.
- 2 A. Okay.

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- Q. Sorry. I was making sure you had time to look
- 4 | at it. I didn't want to hurry you. Are you
- 5 | familiar with this?
  - A. I mean, generally. I haven't spent time studying it or anything.
- 8 Q. Do you see on the first page that it is Title
- 9 | 18, which is Conservation of Power and Water
- 10 Resources, Chapter 1, FERC, Federal Energy
- 11 Regulatory Commission, Department of Energy,
- 12 | Subchapter C, Accounts under the Federal Power Act.
- 13 Do you see that?
- 14 A. I see that.
- 15 Q. Okay. And if you would turn to the second
- 16 page, Part 25, Accounting for Asset Retirement
- 17 Obligations. Do you see that? It's at the very top
- 18 | in italics.
- 19 A. Oh, right. I see that.
- 20 | O. And then Part A is the definition. And it
- 21 | reads: A liability for the legal obligation
- 22 | associated with the retirement of a tangible
- 23 | long-lived asset that a company is required to
- 24 | settle as a result of an existing -- I'm going to
- 25 | skip all the different things -- but law. Do you

see that part?

## A. I do.

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MR. WILLIAMS: Judge, I want to object at this point in time because I'm not sure that this USOA is even relevant and it's certainly not the version the Commission has adopted by rule.

MS. TATRO: I don't believe that's true.

JUDGE CLARK: Would you state that again and add some clarity?

MR. WILLIAMS: Sure. I would have to look it up, but the Commission has adopted particular versions of the Uniform System of Accounts for different purposes and what was adopted for water might go back to the '80s, the version that was in place at that time, if there have been any changes to this provision since the Commission adopted it, because this one shows an April 12 of 2024 date. So I'm concerned about the relevancy of this particular version of the USOA. I'm not positive it's not the current one in terms of the Commission's rules.

JUDGE CLARK: Is there any way that it can be confirmed?

MR. WILLIAMS: Give me enough time, I can find the Commission's -- what version it adopted. The problem really is that the USOA is so large, you have to

| Τ  | go to the Agency or to the Secretary of State to        |
|----|---------------------------------------------------------|
| 2  | actually see what was adopted. There would just be      |
| 3  | probably a rule saying the Commission has adopted this  |
| 4  | particular version of the USOA. I do have a copy of the |
| 5  | one for electric, but I don't have one for water.       |
| 6  | MS. TATRO: I think this is the one for                  |
| 7  | electric. It says Federal Power Act. There's just       |
| 8  | water issues in the Federal Power Act.                  |
| 9  | MR. WILLIAMS: I can look for the version of             |
| 10 | the USOA for electric if you give me a few minutes.     |
| 11 | JUDGE CLARK: Let's go off the record for a              |
| 12 | moment.                                                 |
| 13 | (Off the record.)                                       |
| 14 |                                                         |
| 15 | (Back on the record.)                                   |
| 16 | JUDGE CLARK: Let's go back on the record.               |
| 17 | You're withdrawing your request is that correct?        |
| 18 | MS. TATRO: I am.                                        |
| 19 | JUDGE CLARK: to admit the                               |
| 20 | MS. TATRO: The accounting guidance? Yes,                |
| 21 | I'll withdraw that request, that question.              |
| 22 | JUDGE CLARK: Okay.                                      |
| 23 | MS. TATRO: May I approach the witness?                  |
| 24 | JUDGE CLARK: Yes, you may.                              |
| 25 | Q. I'm handing you a page of Mitch Lansford's           |



surrebuttal.

## A. Okay.

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- Q. Page 34 of Ms. Lansford's surrebuttal.
- 4 JUDGE CLARK: May I have a copy, please?
- 5 MS. TATRO: I only have the one page. This
- 6 | is the same document that I went over with Keith.
- 7 | Sorry, Mr. Majors.
- JUDGE CLARK: Okay. Go ahead.
- 9 Q. Were you present in the room when Mr. Majors
  10 took the stand before you?
- 11 A. Yes, I was.
- 12 Q. Did you see my cross examination of him?
- 13 A. I did.
- Q. Okay. And you heard him and I discuss Mitch
- 15 Lansford's surrebuttal testimony, specifically Page
- 16 34?
- 17 A. In relation to the ash pond?
- 18 Q. And AROs and groundwater monitoring.
- 19 A. I was here for that.
- 20 O. Okay. If you would look at Line 13 of Page
- 21 | 34, please?
- 22 A. Okay.
- 23 Q. It says an ARO is an obligation to return a
- 24 piece of property back to its original condition
- 25 upon retirement of an asset. Do you see that?

A. I see that.

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- Q. Do you have any reason to believe that that is an inaccurate definition?
  - A. I haven't seen it defined elsewhere as anything else, if that's what you're asking.
    - Q. Okay. Thank you. So ash ponds are an asset?
  - A. I don't recall writing testimony about the ash ponds.
    - Q. I didn't ask you if you wrote testimony. Is an ash pond an asset, as used in this sentence?
  - A. So the ash pond is returning the property back to its original condition, is that --
- Q. I'm starting with, is it an asset? That's one of the nouns in the definition here.
  - A. I don't know that I can define an ash pond based upon Line 13, whether or not it's an asset.
- Q. What do you think asset means in the context of this sentence?
- A. I mean, when I think of an asset -- I'm just not familiar with ponds.
- Q. Okay. But you're testifying about the water treatment and monitoring work that is done on ash ponds in this case, correct?
- A. That was separate. My testimony was separate from the ash pond. I didn't consider the ash ponds



- 1 because I was considering the operation and
- 2 | maintenance part, which if I recall correctly, as a
- 3 response to one of my DRs, Ameren considered those
- 4 operation and maintenance costs.
- 5 Q. Is that in your testimony?
- 6 A. It is not in my testimony.
- 7 Q. Okay. Thank you.
- 8 A. Okay.
- 9 Q. Tell me what the water treatment does that you
- 10 | are analyzing if it's not part of the pond? What do
- 11 | those costs do?
- 12 A. According to the CCR rule, it's returning --
- 13 or it's cleaning the water.
- 14 Q. You can answer my question still.
- 15 A. Okay. The CCR rule is required because coal
- 16 was used on-site and it's cleaning the water until
- 17 the time when it meets EPA regulations for
- 18 | cleanliness.
- 19 O. Okay. So it's a legal obligation?
- 20 A. According to the EPA and Natural Resources,
- 21 apparently.
- 22 | Q. Okay. And it's to return property back to its
- 23 | original condition, as you said cleaning the water?
- 24 A. That is true.
- 25 Q. Okay.



| A.    | But  | it | goes | beyond | the | retirement | of | this |  |
|-------|------|----|------|--------|-----|------------|----|------|--|
| asset | , so | •  |      |        |     |            |    |      |  |

- Q. Does the statute say that there's a timeframe by which it has to be completed for it be considered under the securitization statute, or does it just say it's a retirement cost?
- 7 A. I'm not familiar with that part of the 8 statute.
  - Q. Did you read the statute?
- 10 A. I did, actually.
- Q. Okay. Let's try a different topic. Let's talk about the Liberty securitization case. Did you participate in that case?
- 14 A. I did not.

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- Q. Okay. Have you read the Liberty securitization report and order?
- 17 A. I've read through it.
- Q. Do you know what the Liberty securitization report and order said about AROs?
- 20 A. I don't recall at this time because I read it quite a while ago.
- MS. TATRO: May I approach?

  JUDGE CLARK: Yes, you may.
- Q. So I didn't -- again, I didn't photocopy the entire order. Do you see the cover page? It says

- 1 it's from the Empire, or what we've been calling the
- 2 Liberty securitization case. You see there were two
- 3 cases. One was for the retirement of the plant, and
- 4 one was for some extraordinary costs. Do you see
- 5 | that at the front?
- 6 A. I see that.
- 7 Q. It's dated August 18, 2022?
- 8 A. Yes.
- Q. And then you see there's a few pages, whew, 4,
- 10 of the Table of Contents?
- 11 A. I see that.
- 12 Q. Okay. And then you see a page that says Sub
- 13 K, likely Asbury retirement obligations, half way
- 14 down the page?
- 15 A. Sorry, what page?
- 16 Q. It's Page 58. I'm sorry.
- 17 A. Okay, that's fine.
- 18 Q. Do you see that?
- 19 A. I see that.
- 20 Q. Okay. And under that it says Findings of
- 21 | Fact?
- 22 A. Yes.
- Q. Okay. And then the next page, Paragraph 129,
- 24 | says inclusion of the AROs in the securitization
- 25 | balance will benefit ratepayers in that if Liberty



- 1 recovered these costs through traditional
- 2 | ratemaking, it would also recover carrying costs
- 3 | until the time of recovery. Do you see that?
- 4 A. I see that.
- Q. Were you present during the time I had this same conversation with Mr. Majors?
  - A. I was present, yeah.
- Q. And Mr. Majors indicated that the water
  treatment costs would meet that definition -- right?
- 10 | -- of an ARO? That's wasn't a very clear question.
- 11 | I apologize.

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- 12 A. Did he? I don't recall that.
- Q. Okay. If it is an ARO, then the Commission found it should be securitized, right?
  - A. If it is an ARO, if the Commission finds it to be an ARO rather than ongoing maintenance.
- Q. Okay. And I think last of all, in general,
  you aren't actually challenging the prudence of
  these costs, you're merely arguing about whether
  they should be in securitization or whether they
  should be in a traditional rate case; is that right?
  - A. That's true. Yes.
    - MS. TATRO: I'm not sure that I moved to make the portion of the Empire order, if I made that an exhibit? Do you want to take official notice?



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| Oh, it's Exhibit 27. Can I move for the admission? |  |
|----------------------------------------------------|--|
| Oh, we didn't mark it? I'm confused. Do you know   |  |
| if we've marked it?                                |  |

JUDGE CLARK: It would be my preference not to take a part of a document. 27 was marked, but not admitted. What happened with that was, Mr. Williams made an objection prior to you offering the exhibit and I stopped Mr. Majors from testifying about a subject that he was not fluent in.

MS. TATRO: I would like to offer this as an exhibit or we could take notice of it since it's in the Commission's records. I think I might even have a full copy, I was just trying not to print 10 full copies. How would you like me to handle that, Judge?

JUDGE CLARK: In this case, given the similarity and given the Commission has done one other securitization case, it would be my preference not to take a partial document into the record. I would prefer to take administrative notice of the entire order. there any objections to that? I hear none. The Commission will take official notice of the Commission's report and order and files EO-2022-0040 and EO-2022-0193. These are not separate decisions. Both numbers relate to the same Commission report and order. And it would be my preference to take official notice of

- 1 the most recent version of that, which would be the pro
- 2 | nunc tunc version of that order.
- 3 MR. WILLIAMS: I believe it would be the 4 amended order with a couple of corrections.
- JUDGE CLARK: I will take your word for it,
- 6 Mr. Williams. We'll take official notice of the amended 7 report and order.
- MR. WILLIAMS: The record in that case certainly reflects what's been done.
- JUDGE CLARK: Thank you.
- 11 Q. (By Ms. Tatro) So in your testimony you cite
  12 data request OPC1105?
- 13 A. Yes.
- Q. Is that a data request you asked?
- 15 A. I think so, yes.
- Q. And you certainly read the answer?
- 17 A. Yes.
- Q. Do you have that data request with you?
- 19 A. It's actually right here.
- Q. Perfect.
- MS. TATRO: I think we had marked that as
- 22 | 26.
- JUDGE CLARK: That is correct.
- Q. I'd like to ask you a few questions about this
- 25 data request, if I may. So it begins by saying

Page 247

- groundwater monitoring and treatment -- well, let me

  top. The question at the top, which was asked by

  you, says: Presently, how long in years is Ameren

  Missouri required to treat water and also to monitor
- 5 groundwater for contaminants from the Rush Island
- 6 | site? Is that correct?

## A. Yes.

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- Q. And the first part of the answer, which is given by Craig Giesmann, says: Groundwater

  monitoring and treatment at Ameren Missouri's Rush

  Island site is regulated by the MDNR and the EPA's

  coal combustion residuals or CCR rule. Do you see

  that?
  - A. I do.
- 15 Then the second paragraph says: Ο. 16 Missouri has implemented a groundwater treatment 17 system at the site wherein groundwater is pumped to the surface, treated -- I'm skipping over a few 18 19 words -- and returned to underground. This system 20 is expected to accelerate the return of the 21 groundwater site to state and federal groundwater 2.2 requirements, thereby minimizing future treatment 23 and monitoring costs.
- 24 A. I see that.
  - Q. And it indicates that is both under state and



| federal | law, | right? |
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A. Right.

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- Q. Which they cite above being the EPA's coal combustion rules and the rules of the Missouri
- 5 Department of Natural Resources, right?
  - A. Yes.
  - Q. So wouldn't you agree that means the groundwater treatment is related to those rules?
  - A. Maybe the capital costs that they're referring to in here. I have another data request that asks about the O&M costs, which is the 4.7 million.
- Q. How are those O&M costs treated on Ameren
  Missouri's books?
- 14 A. Operations and maintenance.
- Q. I know what it stands for. How are they treated on the books?
- 17 A. As an expense.
- Q. You don't think they're captured in the ARO?
- 19 A. I don't think so.
- 20 | O. You don't know?
- 21 A. I don't know.
- 22 Q. Okay. Thank you.
- MS. TATRO: I have no further questions.
- Oh, yeah, now I would like to move for admission of the data request, 1105.



| 1  | MR. WILLIAMS: Same objection as before,                 |
|----|---------------------------------------------------------|
| 2  | Judge. There's still no authentication of the data      |
| 3  | request response. It's hearsay.                         |
| 4  | MS. TATRO: She asked the question. She                  |
| 5  | received the answer. She put the answer in her own      |
| 6  | testimony. She clearly believes that it is accurate and |
| 7  | truthful and comes from a source upon which she can     |
| 8  | rely.                                                   |
| 9  | JUDGE CLARK: Your response to the fact that             |
| 10 | she quoted part of it in her testimony?                 |
| 11 | MR. WILLIAMS: It's already in her                       |
| 12 | testimony. It's available there. I don't know what      |
| 13 | purpose it serves. I mean, if they're offering it for   |
| 14 | the truth of what's stated in it, I object to that.     |
| 15 | It's been presented to get some responses from          |
| 16 | Ms. Schaben as to based upon what's stated in there,    |
| 17 | but that's different than offering the document itself  |
| 18 | for the truth of what's stated therein.                 |
| 19 | MS. TATRO: It's offered for completeness.               |
| 20 | JUDGE CLARK: Please. Stop.                              |
| 21 | MS. TATRO: Sorry.                                       |
| 22 | JUDGE CLARK: I wasn't trying to be rude.                |
| 23 | I'm just trying to I'm going to overrule your           |
| 24 | objection. I'm going to admit it and give it its due    |
| 25 | weight. Exhibit 26 is admitted on to the hearing        |

| 1                                            | record. Any further cross from Ameren Missouri?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2                                            | MS. TATRO: I am done. Thank you.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 3                                            | JUDGE CLARK: Thank you. Any Commission                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 4                                            | questions for this witness?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 5                                            | QUESTIONS BY JUDGE CLARK:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 6                                            | Q. I just have a couple, Ms. Schaben.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 7                                            | A. Okay.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 8                                            | Q. You stated in your testimony that Ameren was                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 9                                            | obligated to do groundwater treatment or 30 years of                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| L <sub>0</sub>                               | water monitoring; is that correct?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| L1                                           | A. Yes.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| L2                                           | Q. And where does that requirement come from?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| L3                                           | A. The CCR rule, which was quoted it was a                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|                                              | A. The CCR rule, which was quoted it was a response. It was in the response from the data                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| L <b>4</b>                                   | <del>-</del>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| L4<br>L5                                     | response. It was in the response from the data                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| L <b>4</b><br>L <b>5</b><br>L6               | response. It was in the response from the data request from Ameren.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| L <b>4</b><br>L <b>5</b><br>L6               | response. It was in the response from the data request from Ameren.  Q. Are you familiar with that rule at all?                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| L <b>4</b><br>L <b>5</b><br>L6<br>L <b>7</b> | response. It was in the response from the data request from Ameren.  Q. Are you familiar with that rule at all?  A. I did read through it, yes.                                                                                                                                                         |
| L4<br>L5<br>L6<br>L7<br>L8                   | response. It was in the response from the data request from Ameren.  Q. Are you familiar with that rule at all?  A. I did read through it, yes.  Q. Are there any exceptions to that 30 year                                                                                                            |
| L3<br>L4<br>L5<br>L6<br>L7<br>L8<br>L9       | response. It was in the response from the data request from Ameren.  Q. Are you familiar with that rule at all?  A. I did read through it, yes.  Q. Are there any exceptions to that 30 year groundwater monitoring, or is it a hard 30 in your                                                         |
| L4<br>L5<br>L6<br>L7<br>L8                   | response. It was in the response from the data request from Ameren.  Q. Are you familiar with that rule at all?  A. I did read through it, yes.  Q. Are there any exceptions to that 30 year groundwater monitoring, or is it a hard 30 in your mind?                                                   |
| L4<br>L5<br>L6<br>L7<br>L8<br>L9             | response. It was in the response from the data request from Ameren.  Q. Are you familiar with that rule at all?  A. I did read through it, yes.  Q. Are there any exceptions to that 30 year groundwater monitoring, or is it a hard 30 in your mind?  A. I mean, it's up to 30 years or beyond. If the |

Q.

When you say within 30 years, do you mean it

- 1 | could be less than or do you mean if they get to
- 2 that 30 year mark and it's not satisfactory, then it
- 3 | continues?

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- A. Yes. If they get to the 30 year mark and it's still not satisfactory, it could go beyond.
- Q. But as far as you know, there's no shortening of that amount of time, correct?
  - A. I think it would depend on what kind of system is in place to mitigate the effects of the coal burning.
- Q. So you think there are exceptions based upon how it's mitigated?
- A. I think as long as the levels -- the

  acceptable levels of -- I think if the area is

  returned to an acceptable level of whatever the CCR

  is treating for, then I don't see why it would have

  to last 30 years. I went by 30 years because that

  was the response on the data request.
- Q. Were you present for Mr. Lansford's testimony on this subject?
  - A. I was.
- Q. Did you hear him say that in response to my question, why didn't they include 30 years of water monitoring, he indicated that it was not required because they're -- I'm paraphrasing because I don't



| 1  | know exactly because the way they plan to           |
|----|-----------------------------------------------------|
| 2  | mitigate it would do it faster?                     |
| 3  | A. I did hear that, yes.                            |
| 4  | Q. Do you have a reason to disagree with it?        |
| 5  | A. I don't know for sure how long it's going to     |
| 6  | last. That's just, I mean, an assumption, right?    |
| 7  | Q. And ultimately I'm assuming it will be the EPA   |
| 8  | that determines that they have met the threshold    |
| 9  | whenever it is?                                     |
| 10 | A. EPA and perhaps DNR.                             |
| 11 | JUDGE CLARK: Thank you. I have no further           |
| 12 | questions. Any recross based on Bench questions,    |
| 13 | Commission Staff?                                   |
| 14 | MR. PRINGLE: No questions, Judge. Thank             |
| 15 | you.                                                |
| 16 | JUDGE CLARK: Ameren Missouri?                       |
| 17 | MS. TATRO: No questions.                            |
| 18 | JUDGE CLARK: Any redirect from the Office           |
| 19 | of Public Counsel?                                  |
| 20 | MR. WILLIAMS: Just briefly.                         |
| 21 | JUDGE CLARK: Please, go ahead.                      |
| 22 | REDIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. WILLIAMS:               |
| 23 | Q. In response to Ms. Tatro, I believe you          |
| 24 | indicated that water monitoring and treatment helps |

return property to its original condition; is that

correct?

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- A. That's correct.
- Q. Would you explain to me how it does that?

  Well, let's back up a step. What is done for monitoring water? Are we talking about looking at pollutants in groundwater, surface water, something else?
  - A. It would be the groundwater and perhaps, like, all water, groundwater and surface water.
    - O. What does that treatment consist of?
  - A. Applying whatever treatment is required to mitigate whatever contaminants that are in the water, mitigating the effects.
- MR. WILLIAMS: No further questions. Thank you.
- JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Ms. Schaben. You may step down. Ameren?
- MS. TATRO: Yes, Your Honor.
- JUDGE CLARK: You may call Mr. Williams if you'd like.
- MS. TATRO: Mr. Williams. What do you want him to talk about? Is this the question of the
- 23 groundwater?
- JUDGE CLARK: I do not know. Commissioner
- 25 | Holsman had some questions and we were --



Page 254

| 1  | MS. TATRO: That's fine.                                  |  |  |  |  |
|----|----------------------------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| 2  | JUDGE CLARK: Would you raise your right                  |  |  |  |  |
| 3  | hand to be sworn? Do you solemnly swear or affirm that   |  |  |  |  |
| 4  | the testimony you're about to give at this evidentiary   |  |  |  |  |
| 5  | hearing is the truth?                                    |  |  |  |  |
| 6  | THE WITNESS: I do.                                       |  |  |  |  |
| 7  | JUDGE CLARK: Please be seated. You've been               |  |  |  |  |
| 8  | brought up here for the purpose you're not generally     |  |  |  |  |
| 9  | a witness on this subject, but it appeared that you      |  |  |  |  |
| 10 | might be the best witness to answer some of Commission   |  |  |  |  |
| 11 | Holsman's questions. You may or you may not be, but      |  |  |  |  |
| 12 | Commissioner Holsman is now going to ask you those       |  |  |  |  |
| 13 | questions.                                               |  |  |  |  |
| 14 | MS. TATRO: Could I have him introduce                    |  |  |  |  |
| 15 | himself and his title before we go to the questions, if  |  |  |  |  |
| 16 | you don't mind?                                          |  |  |  |  |
| 17 | JUDGE CLARK: I would love that. Thank you.               |  |  |  |  |
| 18 | JAMES WILLIAMS,                                          |  |  |  |  |
| 19 | being first duly sworn, produced and examined, testified |  |  |  |  |
| 20 | as follows:                                              |  |  |  |  |
| 21 | DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MS. TATRO:                         |  |  |  |  |
| 22 | Q. Provide your name and your title and what you         |  |  |  |  |
| 23 | do at Ameren for Mr. Holsman and the record. Thank       |  |  |  |  |
| 24 | you.                                                     |  |  |  |  |
| 25 | A. James Williams, W-I-L-L-I-A-M-S. I am the             |  |  |  |  |

| 1  | Senior Director of Operations and Excellence             |  |  |  |  |
|----|----------------------------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| 2  | Support. I've been in operations now about 38 years      |  |  |  |  |
| 3  | at several power plants across Illinois and              |  |  |  |  |
| 4  | Missouri.                                                |  |  |  |  |
| 5  | MS. TATRO: I tender him for your questions,              |  |  |  |  |
| 6  | Commissioner.                                            |  |  |  |  |
| 7  | COMMISSIONER HOLSMAN: Do I go first?                     |  |  |  |  |
| 8  | JUDGE CLARK: No, because there's been no                 |  |  |  |  |
| 9  | direct or surrebuttal or anything filed on this subject, |  |  |  |  |
| 10 | so you can go ahead and ask your questions.              |  |  |  |  |
| 11 | QUESTIONS BY COMMISSIONER HOLSMAN:                       |  |  |  |  |
| 12 | Q. I appreciate you coming up on this issue even         |  |  |  |  |
| 13 | though you weren't scheduled.                            |  |  |  |  |
| 14 | A. You're welcome.                                       |  |  |  |  |
| 15 | Q. I have a series of questions on issue No. 9,          |  |  |  |  |
| 16 | but I was told that you were potentially capable of      |  |  |  |  |
| 17 | answering the question on the basemat coal. And          |  |  |  |  |
| 18 | just real simply, why not use another medium to have     |  |  |  |  |
| 19 | a ground floor for the coal? I'll give you an            |  |  |  |  |
| 20 | example. If you do mulch, you don't use mulch to         |  |  |  |  |
| 21 | put mulch on top of. They'll be a concrete basin         |  |  |  |  |
| 22 | with gravel, they'll put the mulch on and they'll        |  |  |  |  |
| 23 | pull it off. Why coal on coal?                           |  |  |  |  |
| 24 | A. Sure. There's a lot that goes into coal pile          |  |  |  |  |



Primarily we want to look at, you know,

design.

spontaneous combustion. We want to look at water, rain, how it flows through the coal pile. Some are operational concerns, fire as well as wet coal.

When we're operating wet coal, it provides a lot of issues for us. So what we'd like to do is look at that substrate, whether it's steel, how would water flow through that. If it's wood, how would that decay. Would that burn.

Let's look at concrete. Is it porous. Would water flows through that? How much rebar and cost would be involved in pouring concrete to use as a base. Rock, I think, was mentioned earlier.

Operationally what we do, when we start pulling that coal off, coal or rock would start mitigating up through the coal.

We would then have operational concerns going through our belts, going through our coal mills. We want to look at -- steel would decay over time, due to the core corrosion. If pieces started to come in, could tear our coal belts and hurt our coal mills. If we had to replace any of those substrate options, we would then have to dig up the whole coal pile and replace all that.

I think Mr. Majors covered it earlier. It's really, you know, a cost issue to do all that. Coal

is readily available. If we start picking up other things off the coal pile to go through the plant, it's going to cause operational issues. I've been to several plants across the country, I'm not aware of any other utility that uses anything else other than coal as their basemat.

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I think before we would go to one of those other options, we would really need to study it and make sure that it wouldn't have an adverse effect.

Again, my biggest thing would be, how does water permeate through the coal pile and if we had something like that that would stop it.

Even right now it's tough to get a coal pile dry. But we do a lot of compaction. You know, we really are interested in the slope and how we can put equipment on there to keep it from combusting.

- Q. Do you have to use a liner on that?
- A. No, we don't use a liner. We just run our coal equipment over the top of it to compact it, take out all those voids, air bubbles, if you would, where the water would collect or where air would come in from high winds and start that combustion process. So that's why we run the dozers over the top of it routinely to compact it.
  - Q. But when you're going to essentially dismantle

| 1                          | it and remove it, you know, the next issue here                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |  |  |  |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| 2                          | we're talking about monitoring of groundwater from                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |  |  |  |
| 3                          | the coal ash. Does the coal non-ash, the coal, you                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |  |  |  |
| 4                          | know, base material cause any type of leaching or                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |  |  |  |
| 5                          | any environmental considerations for the location                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |  |  |  |
| 6                          | that it was there for 50 years? Would there be any                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |  |  |  |
| 7                          | cleanup of that site once it's how do you break                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |  |  |  |
| 8                          | up 50 year old coal that's been smashed down? What                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |  |  |  |
| 9                          | does it turn into, like an asphalt type of surface?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |  |  |  |
|                            | A. It doesn't turn into an asphalt. But we're                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |  |  |  |
| 10                         | A. It doesn't turn into an asphalt. But we're                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |  |  |  |
| 10<br>11                   | A. It doesn't turn into an asphalt. But we're required to dig that out when we close the plant and                                                                                                                                                                                              |  |  |  |
|                            | <del>-</del>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |  |  |  |
| 11                         | required to dig that out when we close the plant and                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |  |  |  |
| 11<br>12                   | required to dig that out when we close the plant and we'll have to landfill that basemat coal. It gets                                                                                                                                                                                          |  |  |  |
| 11<br>12<br>13             | required to dig that out when we close the plant and we'll have to landfill that basemat coal. It gets compacted and finer. Depending on which mine you're                                                                                                                                      |  |  |  |
| 11<br>12<br>13<br>14       | required to dig that out when we close the plant and we'll have to landfill that basemat coal. It gets compacted and finer. Depending on which mine you're from, it has different characteristics.                                                                                              |  |  |  |
| 11<br>12<br>13<br>14<br>15 | required to dig that out when we close the plant and we'll have to landfill that basemat coal. It gets compacted and finer. Depending on which mine you're from, it has different characteristics.  It doesn't have any leaching problems,                                                      |  |  |  |
| 11<br>12<br>13<br>14<br>15 | required to dig that out when we close the plant and we'll have to landfill that basemat coal. It gets compacted and finer. Depending on which mine you're from, it has different characteristics.  It doesn't have any leaching problems, however, we do have coal pile runoff and that's part |  |  |  |

Q. Okay. Moving on to issue No. 9, the 4.7 million. So my understanding is now we do have this data request that's been admitted.

24 COMMISSIONER HOLSMAN: That is correct,
25 Judge?

water is going and we're doing that right, too.

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JUDGE CLARK: That is correct, Commissioner.

- Q. Okay. And it says on here that application of five years of groundwater treatment costs and eight years of groundwater monitoring. The difference between treatment costs and the monitoring is going to be what -- is that a chemical treatment? What kind of application are you going to do for remediation on that water?
- 9 A. Under the CCR or ELG? Which?
- 10 Q. Under the CCR.

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- A. Under CCR, we would -- as mentioned earlier, we'll monitor for pH, total suspended solids, oils, grease, those type of things. We do that monthly and check all that. So if the pH is higher or lower than where we're required to -- our guideline is, we would treat it with an acid or a caustic to lower the pH or to raise the pH. And same thing with total suspended solids. We'd filter that or do whatever we have to do to put that in compliance. So that's kind of how we treat it.
  - Q. And all of those treatment costs are going to be included in that 4.7 million that you're asking for in issue number nine, the ARO?
- 24 A. I believe so.
- 25 Q. And will that treatment, that remediation



speed up -- could it cut that 30 years of post-closure care down to a lesser number?

- A. We sure hope so. Right now our interpretation is, we've got to do this for 30 years. There is a process in place where we can apply and say this is what's been going on. All this data is recorded on the internet, so we'll be able to monitor that. As we get closer to the 30 years, we hope we can go through the process to see if we can, you know, discontinue that process in monitoring and treatment, but it's going to take a good story and good data to show that we're doing it right.
- Q. The last couple of witnesses, I learned about the reconciliation process, you know, if it's less or more than in the period of time. What about an ash pond liner, is that included -- maintenance of that or upkeep of that, is that included in this cost as well?
- A. There is some ash pond maintenance and really it's around mowing. All the liners and things have been installed. We'll inspect that to make sure we don't have any ruts or water that's channelling around. Yeah, that will all be included in that. And through the CCR, you know, as we talked earlier and you inject this.



| 1  | Page 261  And we have these monitoring wells, several |  |  |  |
|----|-------------------------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| 2  | monitoring wells around the site, and we'll pump      |  |  |  |
| 3  | samples out of that. And that's how we monitor all    |  |  |  |
| 4  | the different sites across this footprint, that were  |  |  |  |
| 5  | consistent across the whole plant. So, yeah.          |  |  |  |
| 6  | Q. My last question is, do you believe that the       |  |  |  |
| 7  | cost of performing this remediation/treatment and     |  |  |  |
| 8  | the ongoing monitoring is going to get more           |  |  |  |
| 9  | expensive or less expensive as time goes on?          |  |  |  |
| 10 | A. Yeah, I think the chemical prices may              |  |  |  |
| 11 | increase. You know, as equipment fails, we'll have    |  |  |  |
| 12 | to, you know, fix those. So I think it would          |  |  |  |
| 13 | possibly go up. I don't think a lot of things go      |  |  |  |
| 14 | down in price. But all things being equal, if the     |  |  |  |
| 15 | equipment and chemical prices stayed, you know,       |  |  |  |
| 16 | labor goes up a little bit, that type of thing, to    |  |  |  |
| 17 | do some things, it may go up.                         |  |  |  |
| 18 | COMMISSIONER HOLSMAN: Thank you. That's               |  |  |  |
| 19 | all I have, Judge. Thank you.                         |  |  |  |
| 20 | JUDGE CLARK: Any questions based on                   |  |  |  |
| 21 | Commission questions from the Commission staff.       |  |  |  |
| 22 | CROSS EXAMINATION BY MR. PRINGLE:                     |  |  |  |
| 23 | Q. Good afternoon, Mr. Williams.                      |  |  |  |

Α. Good afternoon.

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And when it comes to the CCR rule, does that Q.

|    | Page 26.                                             |  |  |  |
|----|------------------------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| 1  | quick in when a plant initiates retirement or is     |  |  |  |
| 2  | that an ongoing requirement while the plant is in    |  |  |  |
| 3  | operation?                                           |  |  |  |
| 4  | A. No, we have it in operations as well.             |  |  |  |
| 5  | Q. Thank you very much sir.                          |  |  |  |
| 6  | MR. PRINGLE: No further question.                    |  |  |  |
| 7  | JUDGE CLARK: Any questions based upon                |  |  |  |
| 8  | Commission questions from OPC?                       |  |  |  |
| 9  | MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you.                             |  |  |  |
| 10 | CROSS EXAMINATION BY MR. WILLIAMS:                   |  |  |  |
| 11 | Q. What's the purpose of the water treatment and     |  |  |  |
| 12 | monitoring?                                          |  |  |  |
| 13 | A. They both are to comply with the CCR              |  |  |  |
| 14 | regulations.                                         |  |  |  |
| 15 | Q. And the CCR regulations said what?                |  |  |  |
| 16 | A. Coal combustion residual to ensure what is in     |  |  |  |
| 17 | the ground from all of our ash ponds is not leaching |  |  |  |
| 18 | throughout the groundwater. So we need to prove it   |  |  |  |
| 19 | and monitor that that's not happening.               |  |  |  |
| 20 | Q. So the monitoring is to look at the levels of     |  |  |  |
| 21 | certain pollutants in groundwater, correct?          |  |  |  |
| 22 | A. Correct.                                          |  |  |  |
| 23 | Q. And the treatment is if those levels exceed       |  |  |  |
| 24 | certain acceptable values?                           |  |  |  |

A.

Correct.

| 1  | MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you. No further                    |  |  |  |
|----|--------------------------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| 2  | questions.                                             |  |  |  |
| 3  | JUDGE CLARK: Any questions based on                    |  |  |  |
| 4  | Commission questions from Ameren Missouri?             |  |  |  |
| 5  | MS. TATRO: I would have redirect, right?               |  |  |  |
| 6  | JUDGE CLARK: This is an unusual situation,             |  |  |  |
| 7  | so I'm not sure if it's redirect or not, because he    |  |  |  |
| 8  | wasn't up here for direct.                             |  |  |  |
| 9  | MS. TATRO: I'll just say I don't have any              |  |  |  |
| 10 | questions for him, period.                             |  |  |  |
| 11 | JUDGE CLARK: You may step down, Mr.                    |  |  |  |
| 12 | Williams. I indicated when we finished this issue we   |  |  |  |
| 13 | would take a short 10-minute break. It is now 4:19.    |  |  |  |
| 14 | Let's come back at 4:30.                               |  |  |  |
| 15 | (Break.)                                               |  |  |  |
| 16 | JUDGE CLARK: Okay. Let's going back on the             |  |  |  |
| 17 | record. We just finished asset retirement obligations. |  |  |  |
| 18 | It has been proposed that given that there are three   |  |  |  |
| 19 | witnesses in common between issues 10 and 11, just     |  |  |  |
| 20 | having those just having those three witnesses up for  |  |  |  |
| 21 | both issues when they're up and then calling the other |  |  |  |
| 22 | ones individual well, not individually, but on only    |  |  |  |
| 23 | their issue.                                           |  |  |  |
| 24 | So we would be doing you know, we would                |  |  |  |
| 25 | have Lansford up there to answer questions for 10,     |  |  |  |



- 1 | Williams will be able to answer questions for 10 and 11,
- 2 | Schaben would be able to answer questions for 10 and 11,
- 3 Robinett would be able to answer questions for 11, and
- 4 Majors would be able to answer questions for 10.
- 5 MR. LOWERY: Judge, you could probably take
- 6 | that one step further and just do that for 12 as well,
- 7 | if nobody had an objection.
- 8 MR. PRINGLE: Staff is perfectly fine with
- 9 | that approach?
- 10 JUDGE CLARK: As to two or all three?
- 11 | There's a point in which you achieve efficiency, and
- 12 | there's a point in which you overload it and it becomes
- 13 | muddy. And so --
- MR. PRINGLE: We can go with three, two,
- 15 either way. Any kind of consolidation sounds good to
- 16 | Staff.
- 17 MR. LOWERY: It's up to you, Judge. It just
- 18 | was a suggestion.
- 19 COMMISSIONER HOLSMAN: Sounds good to the
- 20 | Commission.
- 21 MR. WILLIAMS: Whatever is easiest for the
- 22 | Commission.
- JUDGE CLARK: I'm just trying to see how
- 24 | closely these are related. Hold on just a moment. All
- 25 | right. We're off the record.

Page 265

1 (Off the record.)

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3 (Back on the record.)

JUDGE CLARK: Let's go back on the record.

I am going to propose at this time that we condense issues 10, 11 and 12 since there's a broad overlap of witnesses for that, so that any witness that is on multiple issues can be asked about any of those three issues while they're on the stand. Are there any objections to me doing that? I hear and see none.

So the next issue will be three issues. It will be safe closure costs, what amount of safe closure costs should be financed using securitized utility tariff bonds; decommissioning costs, what amount of decommissioning costs should be financed using securitized utility tariff bonds; and materials and supplies, what amount of materials and supplies inventory should be financed using securitized utility tariff bonds.

And since it looks like we have the same parties and the order doesn't change much, is there any objection to just going through all of Ameren's witnesses and then all of Staff's witnesses and then all of OPC's witnesses? I think that makes the most sense.

MR. LOWERY: No objection.



| 1  | JUDGE CLARK: All right. Ameren, you may                 |
|----|---------------------------------------------------------|
| 2  | call your next witness for these three issues.          |
| 3  | MR. LOWERY: I call Mitch Lansford to the                |
| 4  | stand.                                                  |
| 5  | JUDGE CLARK: And to clarify, Mr. Lansford               |
| 6  | will be testifying on safe closure cost, issue 10, and  |
| 7  | materials and supplies, but not on decommissioning      |
| 8  | costs. Mr. Lansford, I'll remind you you're still oath. |
| 9  | MR. LOWERY: And, Judge, this is not his                 |
| LO | last appearance. He's already been introduced in his    |
| L1 | testimony. I will tender him for cross at this time.    |
| L2 | JUDGE CLARK: We're going to pause for just              |
| L3 | a moment while I send an email to let the Commissioners |
| L4 | who were participating on line and advisory Staff know  |
| L5 | what is going on in regard to the issues.               |
| L6 | Any cross examination from Commission Staff?            |
| L7 | MR. PRINGLE: No, Judge. Thank you.                      |
| L8 | JUDGE CLARK: Any cross examination from the             |
| L9 | Office of the Public Counsel?                           |
| 20 | MR. WILLIAMS: No. Thank you.                            |
| 21 | JUDGE CLARK: Are there any Commission                   |
| 22 | questions for this witness?                             |
| 23 | COMMISSIONER HOLSMAN: Yes.                              |
| 24 | JUDGE CLARK: Go ahead, Commissioner                     |
| 25 | Holsman.                                                |



| 1  | COMMISSIONER HOLSMAN: Thank you.                        |  |  |  |
|----|---------------------------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| 2  | MITCH LANSFORD,                                         |  |  |  |
| 3  | being first duly sworn, produced an examined, testified |  |  |  |
| 4  | as follows:                                             |  |  |  |
| 5  | QUESTIONS BY COMMISSIONER HOLSMAN:                      |  |  |  |
| 6  | Q. Can you just give me an example of what a safe       |  |  |  |
| 7  | closure cost would be that would differ from a          |  |  |  |
| 8  | decommissioning cost? What's in that 4.4 million?       |  |  |  |
| 9  | A. Yeah. Our witness, Jim Williams, can go into         |  |  |  |
| 10 | great detail on that. One quick example, if you         |  |  |  |
| 11 | want a quick example, I'm aware that we have to         |  |  |  |
| 12 | drain the oil out of some of the equipment there        |  |  |  |
| 13 | before we stop using it.                                |  |  |  |
| 14 | Q. Fair enough. Let's not trigger a round.              |  |  |  |
| 15 | COMMISSIONER HOLSMAN: Thank you. I'll                   |  |  |  |
| 16 | wait until the next witness.                            |  |  |  |
| 17 |                                                         |  |  |  |
| 18 | QUESTIONS BY JUDGE CLARK:                               |  |  |  |
| 19 | Q. Do you know how much of the safe closure costs       |  |  |  |
| 20 | are attributable to portable toilets?                   |  |  |  |
| 21 | A. I do not. To my knowledge, none.                     |  |  |  |
| 22 | JUDGE CLARK: That's my only question. Are               |  |  |  |
| 23 | there any questions from any parties based on that?     |  |  |  |
| 24 | MR. PRINGLE: None from Staff, Judge.                    |  |  |  |
| 25 | MR. WILLIAMS: No. Thank you.                            |  |  |  |



Page 268

| 1        | JUDGE CLARK: Any redirect?                              |  |  |  |  |
|----------|---------------------------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| 2        | MR. LOWERY: No redirect.                                |  |  |  |  |
| 3        | JUDGE CLARK: Hold on just a second.                     |  |  |  |  |
| 4        | Actually, I am incorrect. I was looking at just one     |  |  |  |  |
| 5        | issue and I forgot we're doing three. Actually, I do    |  |  |  |  |
| 6        | have one more question for you, Mr. Lansford. My        |  |  |  |  |
| 7        | apologies. And this is on materials and supplies, issue |  |  |  |  |
| 8        | 12.                                                     |  |  |  |  |
| 9        | Q. Are the materials and supplies for Rush Island       |  |  |  |  |
| 10       | directly assigned or allocated?                         |  |  |  |  |
| 11       | A. They exist at the Rush Island site. So               |  |  |  |  |
| 12       | directly assigned, I would say.                         |  |  |  |  |
| 13       | JUDGE CLARK: Thank you. Any questions                   |  |  |  |  |
| 14       | based upon Bench questions?                             |  |  |  |  |
| 15       | MR. PRINGLE: None from Staff, Judge. Thank              |  |  |  |  |
| 16       | you.                                                    |  |  |  |  |
| 17       | JUDGE CLARK: Public Counsel?                            |  |  |  |  |
| 18       | MR. WILLIAMS: No. Thank you.                            |  |  |  |  |
| 19       | MR. LOWERY: Any redirect from Ameren                    |  |  |  |  |
| 20       | Missouri?                                               |  |  |  |  |
| 21       | MR. LOWERY: No, Judge. Thank you.                       |  |  |  |  |
| 22       | JUDGE CLARK. Thank you, Mr. Lansford, you               |  |  |  |  |
|          |                                                         |  |  |  |  |
| 23       | may step down. Ameren, call your next witness, please.  |  |  |  |  |
| 23<br>24 | - · · · -                                               |  |  |  |  |
|          | may step down. Ameren, call your next witness, please.  |  |  |  |  |



Page 269

JUDGE CLARK: Mr. Williams, I'll remind you

- 2 | you're still under oath.
- THE WITNESS: Yes. Thank you.
- 4 JAMES WILLIAMS,
- 5 being duly sworn, produced and examined, testified as
  6 follows:
- 7 DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. LOWERY:
- Q. Mr. Williams, did you cause to be prepared in this docket for filing direct testimony, which has been marked as Exhibit 17 -- there's a confidential and public version -- and surrebuttal testimony, Exhibit 18, which there's also a confidential and
- 13 public version?
- 14 A. Yes.

24

- Q. Do you have any corrections to any of those testimonies?
- 17 A. Yes, I do.

direct.

- 18 | 0. Please tell us what those are.
- A. On Page 10 of my direct, I indicate that a level four estimate is a plus or minus 30 percent.

  It's actually a minus 30 to 50 percent. And that was DROPC8516. I made that correction and there's a table in there, but that change on Page 10 of my
- 25 Also on surrebuttal, Page 5, Line 11, I had

- 1 plus or minus 30 percent. Again, that is minus 30
- 2 to plus 50 percent. On my direct testimony, I
- 3 inadvertently -- I talked about the Attachment Y,
- did not include it. So that needs to be stricken 4
- 5 from my testimony. We did provide that in a later
- 6 DR.
- 7 Mr. Williams, what page and line number in Ο.
- 8 your direct needs to be stricken?
- 9 Page 4, Lines 7 and 8. Α.
- 10 Ο. The second sentence that talks about the
- 11 Attachment Y, I think that might carry on beyond
- 12 We wouldn't strike that, right?
- Just the fact that it was attached and it 13 Α. No.
- 14 was inadvertently not attached. So we corrected
- that and we did submit the attachment. 15
- 16 With those corrections, if I were to ask you 0.
- 17 the questions that are posed in your testimonies,
- 18 would your answers be the same today?
- Yes, they would. 19 Α.
- 20 And are they true and correct to the best of Ο.
- 21 your knowledge, information, and belief?
- 22 Α. Yes, they are.
- 23 MR. LOWERY: Judge, since we're
- consolidating issues, this is the only time 24
- 25 Mr. Williams will be up, so I will move for the

1 admission of Exhibit 17 and 18, both confidential 2 and public versions. 3 MR. WILLIAMS: Judge, Public Counsel does 4 have an objection. 5 JUDGE CLARK: Go ahead, Mr. Williams. 6 The objection is to Schedule MR. WILLIAMS: 7 JW-D2, which is to Exhibit 17, it is confidential. 8 JUDGE CLARK: Just a second while I pull it 9 up. 10 JUDGE CLARK: Direct or surrebuttal? 11 MR. WILLIAMS: Direct. It's the Black & 12 Veatch study. 13 JUDGE CLARK: You said Schedule JW-D2? 14 I believe that's correct. MR. WILLIAMS: 15 JUDGE CLARK: Okay. What's your objection? 16 MR. WILLIAMS: One, it's hearsay --17 actually, it's double hearsay because it's attached to testimony that was prefiled, but I'm not raising issues 18 19 about that aspect of it. I'm raising issues as to the 20 Black & Veatch study itself being hearsay. There's no 21 foundation for its admission. There's nobody from Black 2.2 & Veatch who can be queried about the study. 23 And Section 536.070 (11) lays out that 24 whenever studies are done, they can be admitted if they

were done under the supervision of a witness who was

| present at the hearing who testifies to the accuracy of  |  |  |  |
|----------------------------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| the results.                                             |  |  |  |
| I have a data request response signed by                 |  |  |  |
| Mr. Williams saying that the decommissioning costs that  |  |  |  |
| Ameren Missouri has used in this case are the costs that |  |  |  |
| came from that study, so it's not a case of using the    |  |  |  |
| study to inform an opinion.                              |  |  |  |
| JUDGE CLARK: Say that last part.                         |  |  |  |
| MR. WILLIAMS: Experts are entitled to use                |  |  |  |
| other experts' opinion and information in order to form  |  |  |  |
| their own opinion. My point is, the study results are    |  |  |  |
| what is the decommissioning costs that Ameren Missouri   |  |  |  |
| has put forth for Rush Island in this case. It's not a   |  |  |  |
| case of informing                                        |  |  |  |
| JUDGE CLARK: Why can't it be both?                       |  |  |  |
| MR. WILLIAMS: Basically, you can't use an                |  |  |  |
| expert to pass through another opinion.                  |  |  |  |
| JUDGE CLARK: I understand. I'm just                      |  |  |  |
| saying, why can't it be him relying on it as an opinion  |  |  |  |
| despite the fact that this is what they used to          |  |  |  |
| calculate their decommissioning costs?                   |  |  |  |
| MR. WILLIAMS: But it isn't his opinion.                  |  |  |  |
| All he did was confirm that it looked reasonable. The    |  |  |  |
| result was done by Black & Veatch itself. And that's     |  |  |  |
|                                                          |  |  |  |

That's where it

the number that's put into the case.

| 1  | Page 273 originated.                                 |  |  |  |
|----|------------------------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| 2  | JUDGE CLARK: Response from Ameren?                   |  |  |  |
| 3  | MR. LOWERY: First of all, could I Voir Dire          |  |  |  |
| 4  | the witness about the issue that was just raised?    |  |  |  |
| 5  | JUDGE CLARK: Yes, you may.                           |  |  |  |
| 6  | MR. LOWERY: And then I would like to                 |  |  |  |
| 7  | respond to the objection beyond that if I need to.   |  |  |  |
| 8  | JUDGE CLARK: Okay.                                   |  |  |  |
| 9  | VOIR DIRE EXAMINATION BY MR. LOWERY:                 |  |  |  |
| 10 | Q. Mr. Williams, do you have an opinion about        |  |  |  |
| 11 | what a reasonable estimate of the decommissioning    |  |  |  |
| 12 | costs not the safe closure scope, but the            |  |  |  |
| 13 | decommissioning costs scope, do you have an opinion, |  |  |  |
| 14 | your own opinion about what a reasonable estimate of |  |  |  |
| 15 | those costs are?                                     |  |  |  |
| 16 | A. Yes, I do. I've been involved in                  |  |  |  |
| 17 | decommissioning of the Hudsonville plant as well as  |  |  |  |
| 18 | involved with the Meramec facility, so I got those   |  |  |  |
| 19 | two plants as well to qualify if this is a good      |  |  |  |
| 20 | estimate or not.                                     |  |  |  |
| 21 | Q. And what is your opinion? Is your opinion         |  |  |  |
| 22 | what is your opinion on the reasonable estimate of   |  |  |  |
| 23 | the decommissioning costs are, an amount?            |  |  |  |
| 24 | Athat was provided with this class                   |  |  |  |
|    |                                                      |  |  |  |

four estimate. I have high confidence in that

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- Q. Maybe just one more question. Did you, in fact, personally have some input in terms of the number that Black & Veatch came up with?
- A. Yes. I reviewed their estimate, challenged their estimates, which led to a final \_\_\_\_\_\_ million estimate, based on things I've seen at other plant decommissioning and asked if these things were included. So, yeah, I have a high degree of confidence in this estimate.

MR. LOWERY: So, Judge, with that and given the provisions of 490.065 which allow experts to rely upon information from other experts or any source they find to be reasonably reliable, I would submit that the schedule is clearly admissible.

JUDGE CLARK: I'm going to overrule the objection. Are there any other objections to the admission of Mr. Williams' direct or surrebuttal?

MR. PRINGLE: Just as a point of clarification from Staff, Judge, I believe Mr. Williams did disclose a number that is confidential.

JUDGE CLARK: Just now?

MR. PRINGLE: He did.

MR. LOWERY: It was my fault, Judge, for not catching it.

Page 275 1 Let's go off the record for a JUDGE CLARK: 2 moment. 3 (Off the record.) 4 5 (Back on the record.) 6 What I'm going to ask JUDGE CLARK: Okay. 7 you to do, Ms. Richardson, is, with the confidential 8 number that was just stated, if you'll remove that 9 sentence and place that sentence as an in camera portion 10 of this hearing. With that, Ameren Missouri, please go 11 You were getting ready to tender your witness; 12 is that correct? 13 MR. LOWERY: Yes. I tender Mr. Williams for 14 cross examination, Judge. Thank you. 15 JUDGE CLARK: I don't think I've actually 16 accepted this stuff on to the record yet, but I'll go 17 ahead and do that now. Hearing no other objections to Mr. Williams' direct, 17, confidential and public, and 18 19 his surrebuttal testimony -- well, did I ask if there 20 was any objections to his surrebuttal testimony? 21 objections to admitting Exhibit 18, confidential or 2.2 public on to the hearing record? 23 Hearing none, Exhibit 17, confidential and 24 public, Exhibit 18, confidential and public, are



admitted on to the hearing record. And the witness has

- 1 Staff, do you have any cross examination been tendered. 2 for this witness. 3 MR. PRINGLE: No questions, Judge. Thank 4 you. 5 Public Counsel, do you have JUDGE CLARK: 6 any questions for this? 7 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you, no. 8 JUDGE CLARK: Are there any Commission 9 questions for this witness? 10 COMMISSIONER HOLSMAN: 11 Go ahead, Commissioner JUDGE CLARK: 12 Holsman. 13 COMMISSIONER HOLSMAN: Thank you. 14 OUESTIONS BY COMMISSIONER HOLSMAN: 15 Start with 10 issue, safe closure costs, can Ο. 16 you give me an example of what that -- I'm reading 17 that the number is also confidential, so I won't say 18 the number. But the number for the safe closure 19 costs, can you give me an example of something that 2.0 would fall under that category. 21 What we looked at the safe closure was what we 22 needed to do to make the plant safe to bring the
  - demo contractor in. So with the -- say, the generators, we've got to remove the hydrogen. got acid and caustic for water treatment that we



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need to remove. We got coal that it's in the boiler, precipitators that need vacuumed out. They could spontaneously combust, so we've got to make those facilities safe.

We've got glycol, different chemicals we've got to do things with. We've got bearings and oils to drain. We've got a lot of our oils and systems, turbine oils and things that are stored there that we have to dispose of correctly.

And that number I won't mention, but the big part of that is a couple things. The ELG -- we talked about CCR earlier. We also got an ELG that we have to comply with, effluent limit guidelines. And part of that is with our LBW, how we collect that. We got to clean that out. And we've got to temporarily run power to that to be able to just it, because once the plant's closed, we're still going to have rain and water. So some of that is taking care of those things.

We've got temporary feeds to some of our stack lighting, things to make it safe. We do have some rental in there for trailers and porta pots. In the neighborhood of around \$10,000 for the porta pots, the rest of it is trailers.

All this stuff will be used just for the safe

| closure of the plant. It has nothing to do with the |
|-----------------------------------------------------|
| switchyard. It's all stuff that we need to do to    |
| work there at the plant. We're going to be removing |
| power, so we're not going to have the facilities.   |
| So we're going to have to provide some of these     |
| facilities. So, yes, there is a little bit of       |
| dollars in there for porta pots and trailers.       |

We're going to have to do some scaffolding to get to some of these areas. Like I said, a lot of it is around the chemicals and waste oil. We do have a few nuclear devices that measure our ash levels in hoppers. We've got to take care of all those things.

So it's really whatever -- the contractor costs and things to make the plant safe so I can let our people go and transition to other sites and bring a demo contractor in and our project management team in.

Q. Why not just have decommissioning costs? Why is the safe closure costs broken out separately? Because that number is in addition to the decommissioning cost number, correct?

## A. That is correct.

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Q. Why not just have them add it together and call them all decommissioning costs? Because that's

| basically what it is.

- A. You could, but I need my plant folks to do this work. They're most familiar with the hazards and how to deal with that where they're at. I wouldn't feel comfortable bringing a contractor in to take care of some of these things, but the overall costs could be combined. You're right.
- Q. Why in your estimation are these numbers confidential? Like, what could someone gain, either another operator or other government entities or other states or the common ratepayer, why does this number need to be confidential? What is it about these two numbers that are requiring us to not disclose them?
  - A. There's not a big reason, I mean, other than the scaffold contractor and getting their costs, someone might be able to say, if I'm going to be competitive at an Ameren site, this is what this contractor has got. He might be able to underbid someone. There's a few specialty contractors in here, that someone could take that number and figure out, well, it's going to be 300 man hours. I know what their hourly rate is. That's the only thing. Other than that, there's not a lot, Commissioner.
    - Q. I could see that on the micro level, but the

| macro number, I don't understand what could be      |
|-----------------------------------------------------|
| derived, you know, from that, why the public would  |
| be prohibited from knowing that number? In fact, I  |
| kind of find that one of the most interesting       |
| numbers in the entire docket, is what it's going to |
| cost to dismantle the site.                         |

On 10 -- I'm sorry, on 11, in the decommissioning costs, Staff makes a couple recommendations, a condition that you continue to provide bids and cost updates as they become available, and also recommends a regulatory account be used to reconcile any differences between the amount securitized and the actual costs. Do you find any objections with those two conditions?

A. No, that's part of our plan, is to -- you know, we got this level four estimate and as we go, we're going to be developing packages that will be able to go out and get bids on and use our internal sourcing folks to make sure we're getting the right competitive pricing. We hope to be able to do that to show this is our actual costs, this is how we added value to this project and saved our customers some money.

Q. I suspect at some point in time these numbers will be available to the public, right? I mean,



- after it's all said and done, the cost of decommissioning will be a public number?
  - A. I don't know how that would work.
- Q. Okay. I see Mr. Lowry shaking his head yes.

  So I'll take that as a yes.
  - On issue 12, is that number confidential, the material and supply inventory number?
  - A. No, it's not.

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9 Q. So 18.3 million of materials and supply
10 inventory says that you determined that 3.6 million
11 of the inventory could be used elsewhere. I assume
12 that's being reabsorbed by other facilities, so a
13 total of 21.9. So 18.3 million was expected to be
14 unusable.

Is that generally because the life expectancy of these tools, materials and supplies have ran their course? You know, could you find a market in a third world or emerging country that still doesn't have the EPA policy or the regulatory framework that, you know, some of these materials and supplies couldn't be utilized? Why no market for 18.3 million?

A. I'll start with the first part. Yeah, we were able to transition 600 items for about a little over 3 million to our Labadie plant. When we reviewed

those items, we could only transfer those that are similar-like equipment that we could use. There are some similarities, especially Labadie.

At Sioux, which is a different style boiler, we were only able to get like 50 items for 200,000 stuff there. When we looked at Meramec, when we did this inventory, we did try to go to outside vendors, other brokers, if you would, that would take this material. We put bids out, hey, we got this inventory. And we did not have any success with that. There just didn't seem to be that market.

Now, you know, that 18.3 million you talked about, we reviewed -- there's a lot of items, over 14,000 items. As far as a dollar value, we reviewed about 80 to 85 percent of that dollar value and found out we cannot use that at any of our other sites.

There's still one or two million there that we're looking at and if we can find ways to use those elsewhere, we will. But when we start looking at this inventory, we will try to actually find some better market that we could do that. But right now we don't have any luck doing it.

Q. So what's the ultimate fate of that 18.3 million in material and supplies? Is it going to be

## landfilled?

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A. Or sold to the scrap dealer or whatever we can do to get the best value. Our sourcing group and our stores group will be looking at that, looking at all the best options. We hope to do that as well. It's ideal for our customers if we can.

COMMISSIONER HOLSMAN: That concludes all three of my issues for this witness.

JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Commissioner Holsman.

## QUESTIONS BY JUDGE CLARK:

- Q. I have a few questions for you. I've done this for a number of years, but I'm still not a utility person or employee, so there are some word usages that I don't really fully understand. And so on Page 4 of your testimony -- you don't have to go there -- it states the following transmission upgrades need to be completed before Rush Island can retire. I'm not sure what retired means. I was hoping that you could clarify that. Does that mean that the plant has stopped generating power?
  - A. Yeah, we will no longer be tied the grid.
- Q. Okay. Are there still operational or maintenance requirements after a plant is retired?
  - A. We will have safe closure. So during that

- 1 period, we will have some operations and maintenance
- 2 | activities, but once that's done, no. It will be
- 3 demoed down to a ground field site. We still have
- 4 our CCR and monitoring we will do, but that will be
- 5 | it.
- 6 Q. But the operation and maintenance, that's
- 7 | separate from safe closure, correct?
- 8 A. Yeah. We'll have operations and maintenance
- 9 until October 15th and then we will shut the cross
- 10 | tie and no longer provide energy to the grid. And
- 11 at that point we'll transition several folks to
- 12 other sites and remain a few people there to do the
- 13 | safe closure. So very little O&M will be done. It
- 14 | will be closure activities.
- 15 Q. Are there any requirements from MISO in order
- 16 | for a plant to close?
- 17 A. We are maintained under the SSR until October
- 18 | 15th, so we do have responsibility to have O&M work
- 19 going on until October 15th. And once that's done,
- 20 | we're no longer required to operate or maintain that
- 21 plant.
- 22 Q. Are there any MISO requirements after October
- 23 | 15th?
- 24 A. No, sir.
- 25 Q. You might want to open your testimony -- your

| direct testimony to Page 4. There are there's a     |
|-----------------------------------------------------|
| table with four projects there: Installation of     |
| capacitor bank, replacement of transformer,         |
| upgrading of a busbar tie position, installation of |
| four STATCOMs.                                      |

Would you briefly describe each of those transmission upgrade projects listed as needed for the continued -- let's see, please describe each transmission project listed as needed for the continued reliable operation of the system after Rush Island closes.

A. Sure. I think earlier in the proceedings we talked about the Attachment Y. And that was a study that was done to ensure reliability and stability in the system. So four basic projects were identified. One was capacitor bank and I won't tell the location. And right now that's going to be completed June 1 of '24.

There was a transformer to upgrade to 700 MVA transformer at another location, another substation. That material has been ordered and we'll have it completed by June 1 of '24 as well.

The third project is a busbar tie within our Rush Island switchyard. That's really a cross tie and some switches. We were able to get that done in

| a long weekend last December, so that job is       |
|----------------------------------------------------|
| completed. And we had to take one unit off and put |
| one tie in and start it up, take another unit and  |
| put some switches in. So we were able to get that  |
| done in December. So that project is completed.    |

The last one is installing four STATCOMs. And three of those will be completed by the end of this year, and the other one in June of '25. So all those projects are needed per the MISO Attachment Y study to increase the reliability and stability of the system.

- Q. Now, I know you said there's no crossover, that things don't touch, but other than the project that you indicated that did take place at the switchyard and is now completed, do any of these other projects take place at the switchyard?
  - A. No, sir.

- Q. And I know you said one of them was completed. What are the status of the other projects?
- A. The capacitor bank, the first project, will be completed 6/1/24. The transformer upgrade, the transformer at another substation will be completed 6/1/24. And then the busbar tie is completed. And then STATCOMS, three of those will be done by the end of this year. The last one by June 1st of '25.



Those are all on schedule to meet those dates.

- Q. Do all of those projects need to be completed in order for Rush Island to close?
  - A. Yes. The four STATCOMs, we need three of those in by the end of the year. The fourth one will be in in June. That's really to be prepared for the summer of '25. But, yes, those need to be in.
  - Q. Well, if they all need to be completed before retirement, what about that one in the spring of '25?
  - A. Yeah, I probably misspoke there as far as retirement. We're going to retire in the fall, October 15th. So all these upgrades have to be done before -- I mentioned they're going to be done June for most of those. But those STATCOMs, those three need to be done, but that fourth one can be done after that, even with the plant closed, per the MISO Attachment Y study.
    - Q. So even after the plant closes, if it closes on the October 15th, the installation of the four STATCOMs, that will still be ongoing, correct?
- 23 A. Correct.

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Q. I believe I know the answer to this, but is the SSR agreement with MISO still effective?



- 1 A. Yes, it is.
- Q. And will that contracturally expire on October
- 3 | 15th?
- 4 A. Yes, we will no longer operate October 15th.
- Q. Is that when the contract was set to end for
- 6 the SSR?
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. Are you aware of any plans at this time by
- 9 MISO or the Company to try and extend the date of
- 10 | that agreement?
- 11 A. No, sir. We're -- by the federal court, we
- 12 | will no longer operate after October 15th under that
- 13 guidance.
- 14 Q. Does Ameren Missouri plan to commence
- decommissioning prior to the issuance of the bonds?
- 16 A. The process will start, but we will not be
- 17 | able to get that done prior to the issuance of
- 18 | bonds.
- 19 O. You have a table on Page 9 of your direct
- 20 | testimony?
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. I'm sorry, figure on Page 9.
- 23 A. Yes.
- O. And that shows the area of demolition for the
- 25 | Rush Island Energy Center, correct?



A. Correct.

- 2 Q. Where are Units 1 and 2 in this figure?
- 3 A. It's all combined in this same number. So the
- 4 demolition would be of the power block. That would
- 5 be taking the plant down. So most of that work is
- 6 done under the demolition. Coal pile area and soil
- 7 | cover is to get the basemat coal out and get it
- 8 | landfilled.
- 9 Q. I think you may have misunderstood me. Where
- 10 on this -- I quess where on this -- where on this
- 11 | chart are Units 1 and 2 is my question?
- 12 A. This is for both units.
- 13 | O. Yes.
- 14 A. I don't break it out demoed per unit. So this
- 15 | will be both units demoed.
- 16 Q. Visually where are they on this picture?
- 17 A. Your on Page 9?
- 18 | O. Correct.
- 19 A. Sorry, Judge.
- 20 | O. No, that's okay. First I told you a chart and
- 21 then I corrected myself and you may not have heard
- 22 | my correction.
- 23 A. Okay. Kind of top center, you can see that
- 24 | big black area, that's the coal pile. And directly,
- 25 | say, 10 o'clock from there, those are Units 1 and 2,

- 1 kind of a lighter colored. So, yeah, that's the
- 2 | plant. You can kind of see the two round dots, so
- 3 those are the chimneys, so they attach adjacent to
- 4 the plant.

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- Q. Okay. So it's right over that tiny little bit that says "Electric Substation"; is that correct?
- 7 A. Correct.
- Q. Okay. Thank you. Now, on this picture there
  are three areas that are not -- designated as not
  included in the demo estimates; is that correct? On
  this picture?
- 12 A. I'm trying to look at the three. That's correct.
  - Q. Would you -- assuming it's not confidential, would you explain what these areas are?
    - A. There's really nothing there for the demo to do. The whole power block area is what we're looking at demoing. So when we -- we're going to need lay-down areas, we're going to need space to do things, so we excluded that from the demo.
- Q. Okay. Can you tell me what those areas are?

  The only information it says -- one of them says

  closed ash pond not included, but the other just

  says area not included and area not included.
- 25 A. Yeah, those would be the closed ash ponds, if

| I'm | looking | in | the | right | area. |
|-----|---------|----|-----|-------|-------|
|-----|---------|----|-----|-------|-------|

- Q. I'm asking about -- the three blue areas, what are each area? What are they? Like, you got one that kind of looks like a football field that says closed ash pond, but I assuming those are at the bottom.
- A. I believe the one may be the switchyard.

  Another one is a lay-down construction parking lot.
  - Q. Okay.

- A. And that third one is just a building that's there for some storage of inventory.
- Q. After the demolition is completed, what are the plans for the Rush Island site, or are there any?
  - A. There's nothing definite right now, no.
- Q. Is there anything in the works?
  - A. There's interest across different entities on things that they could do. I think it was mentioned prior, when you have a rail facility and you got access to transmission, there's people that's interested, but nothing that we could talk about or that's even concrete.
  - JUDGE CLARK: Thank you very much. Those are all my questions. Commissioner Holsman has a few follow-up questions.



COMMISSIONER HOLSMAN: Thank you.

# QUESTIONS BY COMMISSIONER HOLSMAN:

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- Q. I realize since this is the last time we're going to have you and I wanted to cover just a couple more questions. So your title is Director of Operations?
- A. Senior Director of Operations Excellence. So

  I have the engineering, the turbine engineering
  group, a lot of the strategy side. Our training
  group reports through me. Our travel and
  maintenance crew reports through me. And really the
  plant engineering folks.
- Q. Okay. Will you be involved with whatever the site is repurposed as? We heard earlier in the process that it's possible there could be battery storage, 200 megawatts of battery storage. Do you think you'll be involved in that?
- A. Yes, I'll be involved in those. I may not be leading those efforts, but I'll be attending those meetings, yes.
- Q. Okay. This question is for my own interest. If you could go back in time and know we would be sitting here today and had an opportunity to put the environmental upgrades on it at the cost that they were at the time they would have been, do you think

| 1  | it would have been the best interest of the          |
|----|------------------------------------------------------|
| 2  | ratepayers to have made those investments at the     |
| 3  | time they could have been made to extend the life of |
| 4  | this plant, or do you think sitting here today,      |
| 5  | under the prospects of securitizing the retirement   |
| 6  | of this plant is in the best interest of the         |
| 7  | ratepayers?                                          |
| 8  | A. I do believe the decisions we made were           |
| 9  | prudent for our customers. So the decisions that we  |
| 10 | made were the best decisions we could.               |
| 11 | Q. So now sitting here today, securitizing this      |
| 12 | is your recommendation for the interest of the       |
| 13 | ratepayers?                                          |
| 14 | A. Correct.                                          |
| 15 | COMMISSIONER HOLSMAN: Okay. Thank you,               |
| 16 | Judge.                                               |
| 17 | JUDGE CLARK: Thank you, Commissioner. Any            |
| 18 | recross from the Commission Staff?                   |
| 19 | MR. PRINGLE: Yes, Judge.                             |
| 20 | RECROSS EXAMINATION BY MR. PRINGLE:                  |
| 21 | Q. Mr. Williams, I've just got a few                 |
| 22 | clarification questions for you. First I want to do  |
| 23 | a little more toilet talk. Do you have your direct   |
| 24 | testimony in front of you?                           |
|    |                                                      |

I sure do.

25

A.

- **Evidentiary Hearing** Page 294 1 Can you turn to Schedule -- I believe this is Q. 2 JW-D1 please? Let me know when you're there. 3 Α. What is that? The safe closure costs? 4 0. Yes. 5 Yes, I got that. Α. 6 Without getting into the numbers themselves, 0. 7 do you see where it says trailers, portable 8 restrooms? 9 Α. Yes. 10 Ο. And I think earlier you said -- out of the 11 restrooms, how much of that amount was restrooms? 12 I would estimate \$10,000. Α. 13 Thank you, sir. And then another question, so Ο. 14 when you revised -- when you came to the -- to the 15 Black & Veatch study, changing it from minus 30 to 16 plus 30 to minus 30 to plus 50 -- correct? -- would 17 that still make the study a level four or would it make it a level 5 estimate at that point? 18 19 Still a level four. Α.
- 20 Still level four? Ο.
- 21 Α. Yes.
- 2.2 MR. PRINGLE: Thank you very much,
- 23 Mr. Williams. I have nothing further.
- 24 JUDGE CLARK: Any redirect from Public
- 25 Not redirect, sorry. Recross from Public Counsel?



| - Counser: | - | Counsel | ? |
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- 2 MR. WILLIAMS: I don't have any cross, but I
- 3 | have an exhibit that I want to have marked and entered
- 4 into evidence. It's an admission, a data request
- 5 response from Ameren Missouri and I'd like to do it in
- 6 | this time so Ameren Missouri has an opportunity, should
- 7 | it choose to, to respond to it through this witness.
- JUDGE CLARK: Go ahead.
- 9 MR. WILLIAMS: May I approach?
- JUDGE CLARK: Yes, you may.
- 11 | RECROSS EXAMINATION BY MR. WILLIAMS:
- 12 Q. I'm handing you what's been marked as Exhibit
- 13 | 210. Do you recognize it?
- 14 A. Yes, I do.
- 15 | O. And what is it?
- A. Answer to a question about the Rush Island
- 17 decommissioning costs and based on my schedule that
- 18 attached the study.
- 19 Q. Is it a response that you provided?
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 MR. WILLIAMS: I offer Exhibit 210.
- 22 MR. LOWERY: Judge, I have an objection.
- 23 Mr. Williams indicates that it's an admission, but
- 24 | there's been no showing whatsoever that it's in any way
- 25 | against Ameren's interest, that it's inconsistent with

| 1  | anything Mr. Williams has testified to. In fact, the    |
|----|---------------------------------------------------------|
| 2  | testimony he gave earlier is that it isn't inconsistent |
| 3  | with it. So I don't think it qualifies as an admission. |
| 4  | JUDGE CLARK: Mr. Williams.                              |
| 5  | MR. WILLIAMS: I think it does qualify as an             |
| 6  | admission. I'll leave it at that.                       |
| 7  | MR. LOWERY: I didn't hear a why it                      |
| 8  | qualifies as an admission in those statements.          |
| 9  | MR. WILLIAMS: Because it says that Ameren               |
| 10 | Missouri's estimates for the decommissioning costs are  |
| 11 | based on the Black & Veatch study, not independently.   |
| 12 | MR. LOWERY: They can be based on the study,             |
| 13 | but not solely based on the study, Judge. It can inform |
| 14 | the estimates that Mr. Williams himself indicated that  |
| 15 | he endorses. Doesn't make it inconsistent or adverse.   |
| 16 | JUDGE CLARK: Mr. Williams, are you familiar             |
| 17 | with this document?                                     |
| 18 | THE WITNESS: Yes.                                       |
| 19 | JUDGE CLARK: And did you prepare the answer             |
| 20 | for this?                                               |
| 21 | THE WITNESS: Yes, I did.                                |
| 22 | JUDGE CLARK: I'm going to overrule the                  |
| 23 | objection and admit it on to the hearing record. I'm    |
| 24 | not admitting it because it's an admission of any kind, |
|    |                                                         |

I'm admitting it because I don't know if it's an



### A. Yes, I do.

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Q. And I think the Judge probably understands this, but I want to get a little more granular in your answer about the STATCOMs. Is it your understanding that as long as the three STATCOMs, which are going to be in before winter hits this year that in the MISO study, the transmission system is sufficiently reliable with just those three and not the four for the winter, right?

### A. That is correct.

Q. And that the fourth one was needed to ensure reliability in the summer, but wasn't needed for reliability in the winter?

# A. That's right. Be ready in the summer of 2025.

Q. There was some discussion with Judge Clark about operation and maintenance costs and I think you indicated that come closure in October -- by October 15th of this year, there won't be very many operational maintenance costs after that, right?

#### A. Correct.

Q. But you said there would be some. Is that because you were going to have employees, their labor costs, for example, the ones that are out there doing the safe closure, that O&M, so that's why you had a little bit of maintenance after



| October | 15+h′ | 7 |
|---------|-------|---|

- A. Yes. We'll have a small crew there to safe

  close. We'll still have to monitor our outfalls,

  still have some chemists there. So, yeah, it would

  be limited people. But that would be after October
- 6 15th?

- Q. But that's not what the \_\_\_\_\_ -- now I said it. That's not what the safe closure amount indicates, right?
- A. That is not included in the safe closure amount.
- JUDGE CLARK: Do I need to stop and strike that?
- MR. LOWERY: I'm afraid you do. I apologize, Judge.
- JUDGE CLARK: That's okay.
- 17 Ms. Richardson, would you treat that the same way we 18 treated the previous time and that will separated 19 out into its own in camera portion.
- Q. (By Mr. Lowery) I don't remember who asked you about this, but somebody did. I think it might have been Commissioner Holsman. But the question about -- yeah, it was Commissioner Holsman. But the question about Staff recommendations about providing bids, having a reconciling account. Do you remember



that?

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# A. Yes, I do.

Q. And you indicated the Company didn't have any problem with that, right?

### A. We do not.

Q. When you raise -- I think you raised a response to Staff's testimony on this in your surrebuttal testimony; did you not?

#### A. Yes.

Q. I just want to clarify for the record, you didn't have an objection to doing those things, you were clarifying in your testimony that the timing of doing them will be after the bonds are issued because you're not going to have any bids, et cetera, until well after that time, right?

#### A. That's correct.

Q. So you're happy to provide the bids and information, you just can't provide it at the time Staff was assuming when they filed their rebuttal testimony, right?

#### A. That's correct.

MR. LOWERY: That's all. Thank you.

JUDGE CLARK: Ameren has no more witnesses

24 | for these three issues, correct?

MR. LOWERY: That is correct.



LEXITAS

How do you respond to OPC's position that all

25

Q.

| 1 | of the safe closure costs should be disallowed     |
|---|----------------------------------------------------|
| 2 | because they are temporary and provided more value |
| 3 | to the work to be let me rephrase this. How do     |
| 4 | you respond to OPC's position that these should be |
| 5 | disallowed because of the overlap with the         |
| 6 | switchyard work?                                   |

A. Just the safe closure costs -- I'm not going to mention the amounts -- but the smaller number.

How about that? There's a larger number and a smaller number, but I think the safe closure costs are the smaller number.

I mean, I would disagree with that especially considering, as Mr. Williams testified, that those costs are for the safe removal of contaminants and volatile materials that may inhibit the safe demolition of the units. So Staff is -- well, let me clarify.

I think initially we did not include those costs, I think, probably for the reason -- I would ask Staff witness Cedric Cunigan, but we have included those costs in my schedule in my surrebuttal. So both the small number and the large number are included in that.

JUDGE CLARK: Now, before I ask, that inventory amount, that's not confidential?



MR. LOWERY: It is not.

2 JUDGE CLARK: All right.

2.2

- Q. How did you arrive at the conclusion that the \$18 million inventory to be recovered through securitization was reasonable?
- A. Well, one argument would be that those -- kind of like some of the CWIP projects, those would have been -- the majority of those projects would have been completed in the short timeframe. So by the same token, the Company would have to have those spare parts and did have those spare parts for the continued operation of the unit.

I would also draw the comparison to, Staff included an amortization -- there was some obsolete inventory, an Evergy Metro Unit. Its obsolescence was created by the environmental improvements of that unit. And so we recognize that it -- I mean, it would be appropriate to include some kind of recovery amount for those dollars. So I think it's certainly fair and appropriate to include a recovery of those dollars.

- Q. In prior rate cases, do you review inventory costs?
- A. Oh, the amounts of inventory -- so on inventory, we'll look at the month-to-month amounts



| 1  | that are included in the general ledger. Usually     |
|----|------------------------------------------------------|
| 2  | for ratemaking purposes, we'll take a 13-month       |
| 3  | average. I know 13-month seems                       |
| 4  | Q. I'm going to stop you. I guess my question        |
| 5  | is, having reviewed inventory in rate cases, is      |
| 6  | Ameren's valuation consistent with that?             |
| 7  | A. Oh, yes. I think it is consistent, yes.           |
| 8  | JUDGE CLARK: Thank you. I don't believe I            |
| 9  | have any more questions. Is there any recross from   |
| 10 | Public Counsel?                                      |
| 11 | MR. WILLIAMS: No. Thank you.                         |
| 12 | JUDGE CLARK: Any recross from Ameren                 |
| 13 | Missouri?                                            |
| 14 | MR. LOWERY: Just a very little bit, I                |
| 15 | think.                                               |
| 16 | RECROSS EXAMINATION BY MR. LOWERY:                   |
| 17 | Q. Mr. Majors, the Judge asked you about this        |
| 18 | I think he was asking you about the relationship     |
| 19 | that OPC and Ms. Schaben raised between the safe     |
| 20 | closure costs and the transmission system, the       |
| 21 | switchyard that's located near the plant. Do you     |
| 22 | remember that?                                       |
| 23 | A. I do.                                             |
| 24 | Q. You agree with Mr. Williams, do you not, that     |
| 25 | the safe closure costs that are going to be incurred |

- to make the plant safe before it can be demolished, those costs don't have anything to do with the
- 3 operation of the transmission switchyard, do they?

# A. That's my understanding, yes.

Q. Transmission investments actually recorded at transmission plant, generation investments recorded at generation plant, right?

# A. And the according expenses, yes.

Q. If that switchyard wasn't there -- this wouldn't be economic, but let's say it was 20 miles away, you had a line to it, you'd still be doing the same safe closure costs, right?

# A. Yes, that's my understanding.

Q. Just one or two questions on the inventory question that the Judge asked you about. When you have a plant retire, you know, the power block, the building, the turbine, you know, all those things, they were used and useful. They can't be used any more. You're recommending securitizing those balances, not the materials and supplies, but just the plant itself, right?

#### A. Yes.

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Q. And the materials and supplies from that standpoint are just like the rest of the things, right?



Page 306

| 1  | A. Yes.                                                  |
|----|----------------------------------------------------------|
| 2  | MR. LOWERY: Thank you.                                   |
| 3  | JUDGE CLARK: Any redirect?                               |
| 4  | MR. PRINGLE: No redirect, Judge. Thank                   |
| 5  | you.                                                     |
| 6  | JUDGE CLARK: Mr. Majors, you may step down.              |
| 7  | THE WITNESS: Thank you.                                  |
| 8  | JUDGE CLARK: Staff, you may call your next               |
| 9  | witness.                                                 |
| 10 | MR. PRINGLE: Thank you, Judge. Staff calls               |
| 11 | Mr. Cedric Cunigan to the stand.                         |
| 12 | JUDGE CLARK: And Mr. Cunigan id here on                  |
| 13 | safe closure and decommissioning costs?                  |
| 14 | MR. PRINGLE: That is correct. And this                   |
| 15 | will be his only time on the stand now, so we will be    |
| 16 | entering his testimony on the record, hopefully.         |
| 17 | JUDGE CLARK: All right. Will you raise                   |
| 18 | your right hand to be sworn? Do you solemnly swear or    |
| 19 | affirm the testimony you're about to give at this        |
| 20 | evidentiary hearing is the truth?                        |
| 21 | THE WITNESS: I do.                                       |
| 22 | JUDGE CLARK: Please be seated.                           |
| 23 | CEDRIC CUNIGAN,                                          |
| 24 | being first duly sworn, produced and examined, testified |
| 25 | as follows:                                              |
|    |                                                          |



| 1 |  |                                                            | T) 7.7       | T // T |            |
|---|--|------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|--------|------------|
| 1 |  | H. X \(\text{A}\) \(\text{IM}\) \(\text{I}\) \(\text{IM}\) | $\mathbf{R}$ | NIP    |            |
| _ |  | EXAMINATION                                                | $\mathbf{L}$ | 1,117  | EIVINGILE. |

2 Q. Good afternoon.

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- A. Good afternoon. Or evening now.
- Q. I guess it is evening now. Please state and spell your name for the record.
  - A. Cedric, C-E-D-R-I-C, CUNIGAN, C-U-N-I-G-A-N.
- Q. And by who are you employed and in what capacity?
  - A. The Missouri Public Service Commission and I'm a senior professional engineer.
    - Q. And did you cause to prepare and submit rebuttal and surrebuttal testimony in this case, which has been previously marked as Exhibits 100 and 101, public and confidential?
    - A. Yes.
  - Q. At this time do you have any corrections to make to your rebuttal or surrebuttal testimony?
  - A. No.
    - Q. If I asked you the same questions today within your rebuttal and surrebuttal testimony, would your answers be the same or substantially the same?
- 22 A. Yes.
- Q. And are those answers true and correct to the best of your knowledge and belief?
- 25 A. Yes.





# THE WITNESS: Let's go.

# OUESTIONS BY JUDGE CLARK:

Q. In your rebuttal testimony it recommends that Ameren should request and receive a bid for the decommission work prior to issuance of the bonds.

Do you remember that?

### A. Yes.

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- Q. Now, the Commission's financing order, if the securitization is approved, will be issued before bid is received for decommissioning work. Would you explain how this bid information would be used in the securitization process?
- A. So when I submitted this testimony in rebuttal, there was a misconception in Staff's previous positions that I had from the Liberty case or the Asbury decommissioning. I don't think we can get it beforehand at this point, but I do think it would be beneficial and we would still want to review those bids and do -- the same way we do CCNs or any other kind of cost analysis or scorecard analysis on those bids.
- Q. Okay. Well, no changes can be made to the amounts securitized.
- A. It would be recovered in that regulatory asset or liability, the tracker.



| 1          | Q. Okay. So that's what you would be asking for      |
|------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| 2          | a tracker for?                                       |
| 3          | A. Yes.                                              |
| 4          | Q. And how do you respond to OPC's position that     |
| 5          | all of the this is the same question I asked         |
| 6          | Mr. Majors. How do you respond to OPC's position     |
| 7          | that all of these safe closure costs should be       |
| 8          | disallowed because there's a benefit to the          |
| 9          | switchyard work?                                     |
| LO         | A. Just looking at the schedule of what they have    |
| L1         | included in the safe closure costs, not going into   |
| L2         | any numbers, but some of the items that are listed   |
| L3         | there are consistent with what I've seen in other    |
| L <b>4</b> | facility's decommissioning plans. So it's nothing    |
| L5         | that I would exclude just based off of that.         |
| L6         | Because if there isn't any future use, they would    |
| L7         | still need to do it.                                 |
| L8         | JUDGE CLARK: Okay. Thank you. Those are              |
| L9         | the only questions I have for you. Any recross based |
| 20         | upon Bench questions from Public Counsel?            |
| 21         | MR. WILLIAMS: No. Thank you.                         |
| 22         | JUDGE CLARK: Any recross based upon Bench            |
| 23         | questions from Ameren Missouri?                      |
| 24         | MR. LOWERY: Very briefly, I think.                   |
| ) E        | TUDGE GLADIC. Co shood                               |

### RECROSS EXAMINATION BY MR. LOWERY:

Q. Mr. Cunigan, you said something about a regulatory asset or regulatory liability and the Judge, I think, responded something about a tracker. Just to clarify, when you mentioned that and I think when the Judge mentioned the tracker, what you're talking about is, these are estimated -- both the decommissioning and the safe closure costs are estimated costs at this point. We don't know what it's actually going to cost exactly, right?

#### A. Correct.

Q. And under the securitization statute, there is a required reconciliation process in future rate cases to either -- the Company could collect additional money through rates if the estimates go over or if the actuals go over and there's not a prudence issue or anything or, conversely, the Company would give money back if they securitized more than the actuals come in to be. That's what you're talking when you said reg asset and liabilities; is that right?

## A. Yes, that's my understanding of the rule.

Q. And you want the bid information -- you want to be able to audit the actual expenditures by looking at the bids and so on like you would in any

1 other situation where construction projects happen, 2 right? 3 Α. Yes. 4 This isn't construction, it's deconstruction, 0. 5 I guess, but from your perspective, it's the same, 6 right? 7 Similar process, yes. Α. 8 MR. LOWERY: Okay. Thank you. 9 Any redirect from Staff? JUDGE CLARK: 10 MR. PRINGLE: No redirect, Judge. We ask 11 that Mr. Cunigan be excused. 12 Mr. Cunigan, you may step down JUDGE CLARK: 13 and you're excused. Thank you for your testimony. Ι 14 believe that is all of Staff's witnesses; is that 15 correct? That is correct, Judge. 16 MR. PRINGLE: 17 Public Counsel. JUDGE CLARK: 18 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you. Public Counsel 19 calls Ms. Schaben. 20 JUDGE CLARK: I will remind you that you're 21 still under oath. Public Counsel, go ahead. 2.2 ANGELA SCHABEN, 23 being first duly sworn, produced and examined, testified 24 as follows: 25 DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. WILLIAMS.

- Q. Welcome back.
- 2 A. Thank you.
- Q. You're up here for the safe closure costs and decommissioning costs issues, correct?
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 MR. WILLIAMS: Your testimony has already
- 7 been marked, so I tender her for examination.
- 8 JUDGE CLARK: Any cross examination from
- 9 | Staff?
- 10 MR. PRINGLE: No questions, Judge. Thank
- 11 | you.

- 12 JUDGE CLARK: Any cross examination from
- 13 | Ameren?
- MR. LOWERY: No questions, Judge. Thanks.
- 15 JUDGE CLARK: I have a very few questions
- 16 | for you.
- 17 THE WITNESS: Okay.
- 18 JUDGE CLARK: As a matter of fact, I believe
- 19 | I only have one, unless I have a follow-up to it.
- 20 | Actually, I have no questions for you.
- 21 THE WITNESS: All right.
- 22 JUDGE CLARK: So with that, she may step
- 23 down. Public Counsel.
- MR. WILLIAMS: Public Counsel calls John
- 25 Robinett.



| 1                                                        | JUDGE CLARK: Mr. Robinett, I'll remind you                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2                                                        | you're still under oath.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 3                                                        | JOHN ROBINETT,                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 4                                                        | being first duly sworn, produced and examined, testified                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 5                                                        | as follows:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 6                                                        | DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. WILLIAMS:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 7                                                        | Q. Mr. Robinett, you're up here on the                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 8                                                        | decommissioning costs and materials and supplies                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 9                                                        | issues; are you not?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 10                                                       | A. Yes.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 11                                                       | Q. And this will be the last time you're                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 12                                                       | appearing in this hearing to testify hopefully.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 13                                                       | A. I was on for one for you tomorrow, but I don't                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 13                                                       | <u>-</u>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|                                                          | know.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 14                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>14</b><br>15                                          | know.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>14</b><br>15<br>16                                    | know.  Q. The DOE loans? I believe that's been resolved                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 14<br>15<br>16<br>17                                     | know.  Q. The DOE loans? I believe that's been resolved without the need for you appear and testify.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 14<br>15<br>16<br>17                                     | know.  Q. The DOE loans? I believe that's been resolved without the need for you appear and testify.  JUDGE CLARK: I believe that's correct.                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 14<br>15<br>16<br>17<br>18                               | <pre>know.  Q. The DOE loans? I believe that's been resolved without the need for you appear and testify.  JUDGE CLARK: I believe that's correct.  MR. WILLIAMS: With that, I'll offer his</pre>                                                                                                                                           |
| 14<br>15<br>16<br>17<br>18<br>19                         | know.  Q. The DOE loans? I believe that's been resolved without the need for you appear and testify.  JUDGE CLARK: I believe that's correct.  MR. WILLIAMS: With that, I'll offer his rebuttal testimony, which has been marked as                                                                                                         |
| 14<br>15<br>16<br>17<br>18<br>19<br>20<br>21             | know.  Q. The DOE loans? I believe that's been resolved without the need for you appear and testify.  JUDGE CLARK: I believe that's correct.  MR. WILLIAMS: With that, I'll offer his rebuttal testimony, which has been marked as  JUDGE CLARK: 207.                                                                                      |
| 14<br>15<br>16<br>17<br>18<br>19<br>20<br>21             | know.  Q. The DOE loans? I believe that's been resolved without the need for you appear and testify.  JUDGE CLARK: I believe that's correct.  MR. WILLIAMS: With that, I'll offer his rebuttal testimony, which has been marked as  JUDGE CLARK: 207.  MR. WILLIAMS: I'm sure you have an accurate                                         |
| 14<br>15<br>16<br>17<br>18<br>19<br>20<br>21<br>22<br>23 | know.  Q. The DOE loans? I believe that's been resolved without the need for you appear and testify.  JUDGE CLARK: I believe that's correct.  MR. WILLIAMS: With that, I'll offer his rebuttal testimony, which has been marked as  JUDGE CLARK: 207.  MR. WILLIAMS: I'm sure you have an accurate list. Actually, I have him down as 206. |

**Evidentiary Hearing** Page 315 1 time. 2 Any objection to admitting JUDGE CLARK: 3 206, the rebuttal testimony of Mr. Robinett, on to the 4 hearing record? 5 MR. LOWERY: No objection. 6 Exhibit 206 will be admitted JUDGE CLARK: 7 on to the hearing record. With that, I tender him for 8 MR. WILLIAMS: 9 examination on the issues. 10 JUDGE CLARK: Any cross examination from the 11 Commission Staff? 12 No questions, Judge. MR. PRINGLE: Thank 13 you. Any cross examination from JUDGE CLARK: 15 Ameren Missouri?

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16 MR. LOWERY: No. Thank you.

17 Any Commission questions? JUDGE CLARK:

18 COMMISSIONER HOLSMAN: One question, Judge.

19 OUESTIONS BY COMMISSIONER HOLSMAN:

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Mr. Robinett, is it OPC's position that Ameren 0. should not be allowed to recover the 18.3 million from materials and supplies because inventory is variable and as long as Rush Island is operating, inventory should be reconciled in the future? Is that OPC's position?



| 1  | A. I'll honestly don't know. My issue that I        |
|----|-----------------------------------------------------|
| 2  | took with it was, I was trying to figure out with   |
| 3  | the decommissioning study whether stuff was double  |
| 4  | counted in there or not.                            |
| 5  | Q. My question is, is it consistent? Because you    |
| 6  | had testified earlier on net plant that you stopped |
| 7  | counting in 2021 because they had announced         |
| 8  | retirement, but yet we're still operating. And then |
| 9  | here OPC is saying we're not going to count this    |
| 10 | because they're still operating. Are those two      |
| 11 | things inconsistent?                                |
| 12 | A. I honestly don't know.                           |
| 13 | COMMISSIONER HOLSMAN: Okay. Thank you.              |
| 14 | Thank you, Judge.                                   |
| 15 | JUDGE CLARK: Any recross based upon                 |
| 16 | Commission questions from the Staff?                |
| 17 | MR. PRINGLE: No questions, Judge. Thank             |
| 18 | you.                                                |
| 19 | JUDGE CLARK: Any recross from Ameren?               |
| 20 | MR. LOWERY: No questions.                           |
| 21 | JUDGE CLARK: Any redirect from Public               |
| 22 | Counsel?                                            |
| 23 | MR. WILLIAMS: No. Thank you.                        |
| 24 | JUDGE CLARK: I believe you are excused.             |
| 25 | Dublic Counsel wou may call wour next witness       |



| 1  | testimony, Exhibit 205, on to the record? I hear   |  |  |  |
|----|----------------------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| 2  | and see no objections. Exhibit 205 is admitted on  |  |  |  |
| 3  | to the hearing record.                             |  |  |  |
| 4  | MR. WILLIAMS: I offer Mr. Payne for                |  |  |  |
| 5  | examination on the materials and supplies issue.   |  |  |  |
| 6  | JUDGE CLARK: Any cross examination by the          |  |  |  |
| 7  | Commission Staff?                                  |  |  |  |
| 8  | MR. PRINGLE: No questions, Judge. Thank            |  |  |  |
| 9  | you.                                               |  |  |  |
| 10 | JUDGE CLARK: Any cross examination by              |  |  |  |
| 11 | Ameren Missouri?                                   |  |  |  |
| 12 | MR. LOWERY: No. Thank you, Judge.                  |  |  |  |
| 13 | JUDGE CLARK: Any questions from the                |  |  |  |
| 14 | Commission?                                        |  |  |  |
| 15 | COMMISSIONER HOLSMAN: Just one.                    |  |  |  |
| 16 | QUESTIONS BY COMMISSIONER HOLSMAN                  |  |  |  |
| 17 | Q. Thank you, Mr. Payne. I'm going to ask you      |  |  |  |
| 18 | the same question I asked Mr. Robinett. Under the  |  |  |  |
| 19 | net plant methodology, that \$27 million was       |  |  |  |
| 20 | essentially disallowed because it was stopped      |  |  |  |
| 21 | counting in 2021. And then under this methodology, |  |  |  |
| 22 | you're saying don't count the 18.3 million because |  |  |  |
| 23 | the plant is continuing operate. Are those two     |  |  |  |
| 24 | things inconsistent?                               |  |  |  |



A.

I'm not sure I can answer that fully without

| 1                     | Page 319 actually seeing the full argument laid out by |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| 2                     | Mr. Robinett.                                          |
| 3                     | Q. But just logically can you have it both ways,       |
| 4                     | where on one hand you're suggesting that net plant     |
| 5                     | should not count because an arbitrary stop date was    |
| 6                     | issued, and now material and supplies should not       |
| 7                     | count because it's continuing to operate?              |
| 8                     | A. Again, I don't think I can answer.                  |
| 9                     | COMMISSIONER HOLSMAN: Thank you. Thank                 |
| 10                    | you, Judge.                                            |
| 11                    | JUDGE CLARK: Any recross based upon                    |
| 12                    | Commission questions from Staff?                       |
| 13                    | MR. PRINGLE: No questions, Judge. Thank                |
| 14                    | you.                                                   |
| 15                    | JUDGE CLARK: Any recross from Ameren                   |
| 16                    | Missouri?                                              |
| 17                    | MR. LOWERY: No. Thank you, Judge.                      |
| 18                    | JUDGE CLARK: Any redirect from Public                  |
| 19                    | Counsel?                                               |
| 20                    | MR. WILLIAMS: Yes, I'm going to take a                 |
| 21                    | crack at it.                                           |
| 22                    | RECROSS EXAMINATION MR. WILLIAMS:                      |
| 23                    | Q. You understand that capital items would be          |
| 24                    | additions to the plant physical additions?             |
| <b>∠</b> <del>1</del> | addictions to the brane buysical addictions:           |



A.

Yes.

| 1  | Q. And O&M is for things that are consumed while        |
|----|---------------------------------------------------------|
| 2  | the plant is operating?                                 |
| 3  | A. Yes.                                                 |
| 4  | Q. Given that, is it inconsistent to allow              |
| 5  | operations and maintenance costs while the plant        |
| 6  | continues to operate and still disallow capital         |
| 7  | costs, absent a showing that those capital costs        |
| 8  | were necessary for the plant to continue to run?        |
| 9  | A. Yes, I can agree to that.                            |
| 10 | MR. WILLIAMS: No further questions.                     |
| 11 | JUDGE CLARK: Okay. Mr. Payne, you may step              |
| 12 | down and you may be excused. I believe that is our last |
| 13 | issue for today. Is there anything I need to take up    |
| 14 | before we adjourn? I see nothing. We are adjourned      |
| 15 | until tomorrow morning at 9 a.m.                        |
| 16 | [Whereupon, this hearing is concluded.]                 |
| 17 |                                                         |
| 18 |                                                         |
| 19 |                                                         |
| 20 |                                                         |
| 21 |                                                         |
| 22 |                                                         |
| 23 |                                                         |
| 24 |                                                         |
| 25 |                                                         |



### CERTIFICATE

| I, Joann Renee Richardson, Certified Court              |
|---------------------------------------------------------|
| Reporter, do hereby certify that pursuant to Notice     |
| there came before me on April 15, 2024, Public Service  |
| Commission Evidentiary Hearing, at Public Service       |
| Commission, 200 Madison Street, City of Jefferson City, |
| State of Missouri, and was written in machine shorthand |
| by me and afterwards transcribed and is fully and       |
| correctly set forth in the foregoing pages; and this    |
| hearing is herewith returned.                           |

I further certify that I am neither attorney or counsel for, nor related to, nor employed by any of the parties to this action in which this conference is taken; and further that I am not a relative or employee of any attorney or counsel employed by the parties hereto, or financially interested in this action.

Given at my office in the City of St. James,
County of Phelps, State of Missouri, this 25th day of
April, 2024.

Joann Renee Richardson, CCR 583



|                                |                                            | .,                                  | · , = 0 = · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
|                                | 130:15,22                                  | 269:19,23 276:15                    | 37:2 38:14,15                               |
| <b>\$</b>                      | <b>\$87</b> 165:13,14                      | 280:7 289:25<br>301:7,11 308:13     | <b>14,000</b> 282:14                        |
| <b>\$1,000</b> 169:9           |                                            | <b>10-minute</b> 231:25             | <b>14-C</b> 37:20                           |
| <b>\$1,486,650</b> 141:5       |                                            | 263:13                              | <b>14-P</b> 37:21                           |
| <b>\$1.9</b> 99:4 120:10 156:1 | <b>(1)</b> 197:22                          | <b>10-year</b> 213:3                | <b>149,000</b> 206:21                       |
|                                | <b>(11)</b> 271:23                         | <b>100</b> 146:8 210:21             | <b>15</b> 36:21 38:14,15 160:13 166:13      |
| <b>\$10,000</b> 277:23 294:12  | <b>(2)</b> 197:22                          | 307:13 308:2,5,7                    | 168:1,7,20 170:18                           |
| <b>\$100</b> 213:6             |                                            | <b>101</b> 235:23 307:14 308:2,5,7  | 190:21 211:22                               |
| <b>\$136</b> 165:3,13,16       |                                            | <b>104</b> 11:1,14,17,20            | 221:4,7 225:5                               |
| <b>\$149,356</b> 196:10        | <b>1.5</b> 117:12                          | <b>105</b> 11:2,15,18,20            | <b>15-C</b> 37:22                           |
| <b>\$18</b> 303:4              |                                            | <b>108</b> 8:6,20,24 9:6            | <b>15-P</b> 37:22                           |
| <b>\$2</b> 98:11 101:19        | 0                                          | <b>109</b> 8:7,20,25 9:7            | <b>15-year</b> 207:16                       |
| 102:2 141:2                    | <b>08</b> 143:7,9                          | <b>10:38</b> 67:19                  | <b>150</b> 44:19,21 53:17                   |
| <b>\$27</b> 83:2,14 84:6       |                                            | <b>10:50</b> 67:19,21               | <b>150,000</b> 206:21                       |
| 86:22 318:19                   | 1                                          | <b>11</b> 78:21 169:19              | <b>15th</b> 68:1 70:14,15                   |
| <b>\$28</b> 144:6              | <b>1</b> 153:12 169:5,8,9                  | 170:1 263:19                        | 71:6 74:2,21                                |
| <b>\$28.05</b> 140:6,10        | 236:10 285:18,22                           | 264:1,2,3 265:6                     | 90:24 164:25                                |
| <b>\$3.9</b> 166:14            | 289:2,11,25                                | 269:25 280:7<br>308:13              | 171:16,24,25<br>172:8 173:6                 |
| <b>\$36</b> 105:23             | <b>1,000</b> 169:11                        | <b>1105</b> 248:25                  | 284:9,18,19,23                              |
| <b>\$36.29</b> 102:4           | <b>1.4</b> 141:4 143:8,9, 13 151:7         | <b>118</b> 67:3,8                   | 287:14,21 288:3,<br>4,12 298:18             |
| <b>\$38</b> 105:22 106:4       | <b>1.5</b> 159:2                           | <b>12</b> 78:22 237:17              | 299:1,6                                     |
| 107:7                          | <b>1.9</b> 95:4 105:9,12                   | 264:6 265:6 268:8                   | <b>16</b> 36:23 38:15                       |
| <b>\$4.7</b> 208:12 227:2      | 107:1,20 121:18                            | 281:6 301:7,11                      | 168:1,7,20                                  |
| <b>\$4.76</b> 206:19           | 122:14,16 130:6,                           | <b>12/31</b> 107:9                  | <b>17</b> 14:17 269:10                      |
| <b>\$412.50</b> 170:9          | 11 137:20 140:11,<br>22,24 141:17          | <b>12/31/2022</b> 172:19            | 271:1,7 275:18,23                           |
| <b>\$442,820,805</b><br>90:25  | 143:2 150:23                               | <b>12/31/22</b> 172:12              | <b>18</b> 132:1 137:10 142:2 235:23         |
| \$447,398,779                  | 155:25 156:5<br>157:1,9 158:23             | <b>129</b> 229:18,25                | 236:9 243:7                                 |
| 89:23                          | <b>1.93</b> 156:12                         | 243:23                              | 269:12 271:1                                |
| <b>\$468</b> 173:23 174:2      | <b>1.95</b> 138.12 <b>10</b> 67:18 169:16, | <b>13</b> 107:7 178:10 224:9 239:20 | 275:21,24                                   |
| <b>\$49</b> 184:11             | 23 170:7,11                                | 240:16                              | <b>18.3</b> 281:9,13,21 282:12,24 315:21    |
| \$49,178,167                   | 177:18 207:9                               | <b>13-month</b> 304:2,3             | 318:22                                      |
| 170:19                         | 208:3,18 213:5<br>215:8 245:13             | <b>136</b> 165:18 166:10            | <b>19</b> 109:16                            |
| <b>\$50,000</b> 222:3          | 263:19,25 264:1,                           | 183:7 187:6                         | <b>1975</b> 132:6 214:22                    |
| <b>\$532,000</b> 95:9          | 2,4 265:6 266:6                            | <b>14</b> 14:17 36:20               |                                             |
|                                |                                            | 1                                   |                                             |



|                                                                                                                                                   | Evidentia                                                                                                                                                                       | ry Hearing April 17, 2024Ind                                                                                              | ex: 1976393.1700.2(3)CN                                                                                                                                          |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1976</b> 109:18,20<br>118:9,16,24<br>119:11 121:1,7<br>157:25                                                                                  | <b>2011</b> 14:17 44:13 95:19 109:9 132:12 133:25 148:1                                                                                                                         | 105:18 160:13<br>171:16 172:8<br>173:11 182:19<br>183:3 227:2,8<br>237:17                                                 | 208:2 236:16<br>286:8,25 287:7,11<br><b>26</b> 197:9 199:2<br>246:22 249:25                                                                                      |
| 1977 95:12,20<br>97:5 109:11,19<br>132:6,25 134:2<br>1980 139:12<br>1997 108:25<br>1:30 160:5<br>1st 67:25 70:14<br>89:23 160:13<br>173:11 286:25 | 2012 95:19 109:9<br>132:12 133:25<br>2014 25:10 49:25<br>50:18 51:3,7,11<br>58:4<br>2017 25:11 34:6<br>49:24,25 50:1,18<br>51:3 55:18 59:16<br>2018 80:6,10<br>2019 59:16 80:13 | 2025 15:4 208:1<br>298:14<br>2028 106:11,21<br>2029 208:1<br>2030s 51:6<br>2032 194:3,13<br>204 78:11<br>205 78:11 317:22 | 26.1 73:14 27 80:1,2,24 93:12 245:1,5 28 140:9 201:15 2:50 205:8 2nd 160:23 3                                                                                    |
| 2                                                                                                                                                 | <b>2019</b> 59.16 60.13                                                                                                                                                         | 318:1,2                                                                                                                   | <b>3</b> 171:14 281:25                                                                                                                                           |
| 2 89:25 99:8<br>169:10 289:2,11,<br>25<br>2-by-4 119:3,4,5,<br>22<br>2.5 117:12<br>20 167:25 168:6,7                                              | 23:9 25:11 33:24<br>39:12 40:2 41:1,4,<br>8,14,18 43:12<br>44:6 48:5 64:24<br>65:3,4,13 80:6,15<br><b>2020s</b> 32:25<br><b>2021</b> 40:2,24<br>41:11,19 42:17,21               | 206 77:20 78:4<br>314:22,23,25<br>315:3,6<br>207 153:14,22,25<br>314:20<br>208 153:20,22,25<br>209 232:17 233:1           | 3.6 281:10<br>30 121:7 146:2,7<br>160:4 193:15,17,<br>21 209:25 210:8,9<br>216:3,4 217:9<br>228:4 250:9,18,<br>19,21,23,25<br>251:2,4,17,23<br>260:1,4,8 269:20, |
| 207:9,18 225:5<br>305:10<br>200 292:16<br>200,000 282:5                                                                                           | 54:22 55:21 64:25<br>65:6,8,24 80:17<br>84:14 86:24 91:21<br>92:5,21 93:11<br>316:7 318:21                                                                                      | 21 54:22 79:19<br>81:16 83:11 84:11<br>85:6 87:1 168:20<br>169:9,11,19 170:1<br>21.9 281:13                               | 21 270:1 294:15,<br>16<br>30,000 131:3<br>30-year 194:9                                                                                                          |
| <b>2007</b> 29:9 30:10 147:21                                                                                                                     | <b>2022</b> 25:18 55:1 80:19,23 106:6                                                                                                                                           | <b>210</b> 295:13,21 297:4,8                                                                                              | 300 279:22<br>30th 74:18                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>2008</b> 98:14,15<br>99:3,6,11,15<br>101:16 102:5,9,<br>16,19 105:10,13,                                                                       | 172:15 175:21<br>243:7<br><b>2022-0337</b> 140:8<br><b>2023</b> 57:4 65:14,                                                                                                     | 22 49:12 82:9<br>107:9 116:13<br>220337 82:10,19                                                                          | 31st 172:15<br>32 121:8 208:2<br>34 224:3 239:3,16,                                                                                                              |
| 18 106:22,25<br>114:18 115:21<br>116:11 119:8<br>121:7,14,16 124:1                                                                                | 18 80:22,23 97:4<br>105:18 106:1,22<br>156:7 157:4,6<br>201:15                                                                                                                  | <b>22nd</b> 176:3<br><b>23</b> 138:25 140:22,<br>24 141:1 169:15,<br>22 194:14                                            | 21<br>35 140:19<br>36 140:12                                                                                                                                     |
| 138:19 139:24<br>140:5,19 141:3,13                                                                                                                | <b>2024</b> 14:22 15:4 22:20 23:1 25:19                                                                                                                                         | <b>23CM</b> 189:3                                                                                                         | <b>38</b> 255:2<br><b>393.1700</b> 158:10                                                                                                                        |
| 144:11 150:25<br><b>2010</b> 29:9 30:10<br>147:21                                                                                                 | 50:19,21 67:25<br>68:1 89:23 90:24                                                                                                                                              | <b>24</b> 285:18,22<br><b>25</b> 133:8 135:14<br>151:10 154:14,19                                                         | <b>393.1700</b> 158:10<br><b>393.1700.2(3)CM</b><br>168:24                                                                                                       |



|                                                                                                                             | 156:2 157:15                                                         | <b>76</b> 118:12                                                                        |                                                               |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| 4                                                                                                                           | <b>532</b> 131:2                                                     | <b>77</b> 141:19 151:17                                                                 | A                                                             |
| <b>4</b> 70:12 89:2                                                                                                         | <b>536.070</b> 271:23                                                | <b>779</b> 90:17                                                                        | A-N-G-E-L-A                                                   |
| 153:12 243:9                                                                                                                | <b>562,436</b> 131:2                                                 | <b>79</b> 139:12                                                                        | 232:14                                                        |
| 270:9 283:16<br>285:1                                                                                                       | <b>58</b> 243:16                                                     |                                                                                         | <b>a.m.</b> 320:15                                            |
| <b>4.4</b> 267:8                                                                                                            | <b>59</b> 229:14,18                                                  | 8                                                                                       | <b>AACE</b> 89:3,7                                            |
| <b>4.7</b> 207:1 208:20 211:25 215:3,5,                                                                                     | 6                                                                    | <b>8</b> 270:9<br><b>80</b> 282:15                                                      | <b>AAO</b> 181:15,16, 17,22                                   |
| 11,14,17 216:9,<br>21,24 217:20<br>218:19 248:11                                                                            | <b>6</b> 89:2 <b>6/1/24</b> 286:21,23                                | <b>80s</b> 237:14<br><b>81</b> 142:20                                                   | <b>AARP</b> 6:24 7:1<br>9:16 11:24 22:1<br>38:23 53:1 68:24   |
| 258:21 259:22                                                                                                               | <b>60</b> 45:11,14                                                   | <b>82</b> 142:20                                                                        | absent 320:7                                                  |
| <b>442.8</b> 73:13<br><b>45</b> 28:6 70:4,8<br><b>468.9</b> 73:13 74:6                                                      | <b>600</b> 161:17,21<br>162:21,24 281:24<br><b>601</b> 161:18 163:4, | <b>83</b> 142:20 <b>85</b> 282:15                                                       | <b>absolutely</b> 19:8<br>35:9 84:21 127:7,<br>14 162:8 197:5 |
| 88:7                                                                                                                        | 5                                                                    | <b>8506</b> 133:17                                                                      | 203:9                                                         |
| <b>47</b> 165:19                                                                                                            | <b>602</b> 161:18 163:7                                              | <b>8515</b> 297:12                                                                      | academic 46:18,<br>21 47:8 54:9                               |
| <b>48</b> 118:13 119:6,7<br><b>49</b> 165:19 184:16<br>187:7                                                                | <b>603</b> 161:19<br>163:14,25 164:5<br><b>605</b> 113:24,25         | <b>86,947,366</b> 171:10<br><b>87</b> 165:19 166:11<br>184:15 185:20                    | accelerate 217:22<br>247:20                                   |
| <b>490.065</b> 274:12<br><b>4:19</b> 263:13                                                                                 | 161:22<br><b>606</b> 112:20,21                                       | 187:6,8<br><b>870</b> 91:2<br><b>870,000</b> 91:2                                       | accelerated<br>167:20 180:15<br>181:6 187:24                  |
| <b>4:30</b> 263:14 <b>5 5</b> 7:9 70:12 233:19 269:25 294:18                                                                | 7                                                                    | <b>89</b> 171:9<br><b>89,947,366</b> 171:7                                              | accept 159:3<br>acceptable 217:23<br>251:14,15 262:24         |
|                                                                                                                             | <b>7</b> 170:17 224:7 270:9 <b>7,339</b> 39:14                       | 9                                                                                       | acceptance<br>142:21                                          |
| <b>5.59</b> 227:17                                                                                                          | <b>7,800</b> 39:19 66:7,                                             | <b>9</b> 170:9 255:15 258:21 288:19,22                                                  | accepted 43:9<br>158:22 275:16                                |
| <b>50</b> 131:16 149:20<br>169:11 258:6,8<br>269:21 270:2<br>282:5 294:16                                                   | 13,20<br><b>700</b> 285:19<br><b>70s</b> 130:25 138:4,<br>10         | 289:17 320:15<br><b>90</b> 146:3<br><b>90s</b> 132:9                                    | access 24:14<br>170:21 291:20<br>accomplish                   |
| <b>50-year-old</b> 130:18 <b>73</b> 139:12 <b>737,000</b> 145:20 <b>737,222</b> 142:4 <b>737,222</b> 142:4 <b>75</b> 151:17 | <b>923</b> 214:1<br><b>96</b> 90:20                                  | 172:17  account 27:6 31:14 87:16 137:23 207:11,12, 14 209:2 213:25 220:16 280:11 299:25 |                                                               |



| accounted 110:16<br>160:16 226:10<br>234:2                                                                                            |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| accounting 103:9,<br>24 119:17 122:9,<br>13,18 181:16<br>211:13,24 213:23<br>226:25 235:4<br>236:16 238:20                            |
| accounts 70:6<br>235:21 236:12<br>237:12                                                                                              |
| <b>accrual</b> 226:15                                                                                                                 |
| <b>accrue</b> 177:15                                                                                                                  |
| accrued 87:2                                                                                                                          |
| accruing 88:6                                                                                                                         |
| accumulated<br>160:10,14,15<br>173:21 176:6<br>177:9 178:3<br>184:24 226:16                                                           |
| <b>accuracy</b> 89:7 272:1                                                                                                            |
| accurate 8:12 11:8<br>63:10 70:11 74:8,<br>15 104:25 134:21<br>151:2,3 206:23<br>208:11 212:1<br>215:1,2 216:9,12,<br>13 249:6 314:21 |
| accurately 216:25                                                                                                                     |
| achieve 264:11                                                                                                                        |
| <b>acid</b> 259:16 276:25                                                                                                             |
| <b>acknowledge</b><br>45:19 46:12 166:2                                                                                               |
| acknowledgement<br>165:8                                                                                                              |
| acres 137:4,17,24<br>145:16 151:4                                                                                                     |

acronym 89:3 Act 236:12 238:7,8 activities 284:2,14 actual 61:20,24,25 62:3,4 74:15,17 89:17 104:20 117:15,21 122:6 127:12 137:25 140:23,25 177:5, 25 209:3 216:7 219:10 227:19 228:4 231:14 233:22 280:13,21 311:24 **actuals** 117:24 207:13 311:16,19 **add** 110:3 137:18 220:18 237:9 278:24 added 178:7,9 180:16 221:15 280:22 addition 278:21 additional 33:13 83:10 91:21 121:19 158:1 178:11 194:14 209:23 223:12 311:15 additions 26:11 60:6,7 74:24 79:22 86:25 87:15,16,24 88:8, 10,12 92:19 93:11,17,19 319:24 address 34:16 64:2,5 126:10 160:21 addresses 125:11 addressing 31:3, 6,8

adds 33:14 **ADIT** 164:10 165:2 166:6 168:3,5,14, 23 169:1,16,22 171:3,8,11,15,20, 23,25 172:7,12, 15,18,23 173:17, 18 174:4,13 177:12,19 181:3,6 182:20 183:4,10 184:2,13,14 185:16 187:2,23 188:2,4,23 189:12,17,19 190:3,24 191:23, 24 adjacent 290:3 **adjourn** 320:14 adjourned 320:14 adjust 209:11 adjustment 92:2 101:19 administrative 245:19 admirable 159:22 admissible 274:15 admission 68:20 78:8 135:14,16 154:19,20 199:4 245:1 248:24 271:1,21 274:18 295:4,23 296:3,6, 8,24 297:1 admit 31:18 157:17 211:10 238:19 249:24 296:23 admitted 9:6.8 11:21 37:13,18 38:7,8,15,16 114:1 161:23

162:25 163:5,9,

22,25 164:5 201:21 245:6 249:25 258:23 271:24 275:25 308:7 315:6 318:2 admitting 8:23 9:2 11:17 36:23,25 37:2 38:5 112:21 113:24 162:23 163:2,8,11 202:19 275:21 296:24,25 297:1,7 308:4 315:2 317:24 adopted 237:6,11, 13,16,24 238:2,3 **ADS-R-1** 232:20 **ADS-R-4** 232:20 ADS-R-5 232:21 **advance** 57:3,14 202:22 advantage 63:5 adverse 257:9 296:15 advise 25:19 advisory 266:14 affect 45:8 **affirm** 7:16 10:13 36:13 68:11 72:11 77:2 152:21 232:6 254:3 306:19 317:5 affirmed 55:20 afield 146:22 afraid 299:14 afternoon 130:1,2 206:17 233:15 261:23,24 307:2,3 **Agency** 238:1 **agree** 19:5 25:25 26:7,12 29:1



| Hearing                    | April 17 |
|----------------------------|----------|
| 139:21 141:                | 14       |
| 150:7,24 15                | 1:9      |
| 154:9 157:1                |          |
| 159:18 164:                |          |
| 166:19 174:                |          |
| 175:2 176:2                |          |
| 178:21 179:                |          |
| 182:17,25 1<br>184:10 185: |          |
| 186:10 187:                |          |
| 190:10 107:                |          |
| 195:1,16 19                |          |
| 21 198:14 2                |          |
| 5,6 203:20 2               |          |
| 10,25 205:1                | 3        |
| 209:21 210:                | 18       |
| 220:4,21 22                |          |
| 223:16 228:                |          |
| 233:12 234:                |          |
| 241:3 247:3                |          |
| 248:12 250:                |          |
| 252:16 253:<br>254:23 263: |          |
| 266:1 268:1                |          |
| 272:5,12 27                |          |
| 275:10 279:                |          |
| 288:14 295:                |          |
| 296:9 297:1                | •        |
| 300:23 301:                | 16       |
| 304:12 308:                | 19       |
| 309:4 310:2                | 3        |
| 313:13 315:                | ,        |
| 316:19 318:                | 11       |
| 319:15                     |          |
| Ameren's 39                | 9:23     |
| 55:15 61:22                |          |
| 144:13 171:                |          |
| 173:2 191:4                |          |
| 192:13 203:                | _        |
| 206:18 265:                |          |
| 295:25 297:<br>304:6       | 1        |
|                            |          |
| amortization               | 1        |
| 303:14                     |          |
| amount 15:                 | 14       |

17:25 21:16,17



170:11 309:20,21

97:3,13,18 98:11 126:16 129:19

132:7 133:10,24

|                                                | Evidentia                                        | ry Hearing April 17, 20                              | 24Index: analyzedassume                                         |
|------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>analyzed</b> 50:17 151:4                    | <b>appeared</b> 36:18 254:9                      | approximately<br>99:11 140:17                        | 19,22 182:1,10<br>184:4 190:5                                   |
| analyzing 241:10                               | appearing 6:5,9                                  | 141:4                                                | 243:13 309:16                                                   |
| and/or 21:13<br>227:6                          | 7:1 314:12<br>appears 78:17                      | approximation<br>151:5                               | <b>Asbury's</b> 175:20 182:5                                    |
| Angela 232:2,9,14<br>312:22<br>announced 316:7 | 100:11 171:15 <b>Appellate</b> 43:5 55:5         | April 160:23<br>237:16<br>arbitrarily 121:15         | ash 196:8,13<br>206:22 211:1<br>214:21 231:5<br>239:17 240:6,7, |
|                                                | applicable 122:12                                | arbitrary 319:5                                      | 10,11,15,22,25                                                  |
| announcement 43:15                             | application 62:21                                | <b>area</b> 151:16                                   | 258:3 260:16,19<br>262:17 278:11                                |
| annual 41:16<br>81:25 82:14 83:25              | 207:25 259:2,7<br>applied 140:20                 | 251:14 288:24<br>289:6,24 290:17,                    | 290:23,25 291:5                                                 |
| 84:1 217:15<br>218:21 220:20                   | 175:13 181:1<br>182:7                            | 24 291:1,3<br>areas 278:9 290:9,                     | ashes 214:23                                                    |
|                                                |                                                  | 15,19,21 291:2                                       | asks 248:10                                                     |
| annualization<br>209:13,14                     | apply 260:5 Applying 253:11                      | arguing 185:25                                       | <b>aspect</b> 107:25<br>193:18 271:19                           |
| answering 134:19<br>203:14 255:17              | appreciated                                      | 244:19<br>argument 138:7                             | aspects 219:24                                                  |
|                                                | 119:2,3                                          | 215:20,25 222:15                                     | asphalt 258:9,10                                                |
| answers 8:16<br>11:11 270:18                   | appreciating                                     | 230:25 303:6                                         | assertion 224:20                                                |
| 307:21,23                                      | 118:19 appreciation                              | 319:1                                                | assessing 14:3                                                  |
| anthracite 148:4                               | 119:11,14                                        | arguments 9:9,10                                     | assessment 19:9,                                                |
| <b>anticipate</b> 49:1 50:8 85:9               | approach 91:17                                   | <b>ARO</b> 224:6,10,16, 22 225:2 229:2               | 10 40:3 74:9<br>104:25                                          |
| <b>anticipated</b> 50:5 221:9                  | 99:22 102:21<br>133:4 154:11<br>166:3,4,10 197:6 | 230:6 234:2,20,21<br>235:5 239:23<br>244:10,13,15,16 | <b>asset</b> 192:10<br>196:1,7 224:12<br>234:22 236:16,23       |
| anybody's 60:19                                | 224:1 229:9<br>235:24 238:23                     | 248:18 259:23                                        | 239:25 240:6,10,                                                |
| apologies 9:4<br>268:7                         | 242:22 264:9<br>295:9                            | AROS 226:5<br>229:25 239:18<br>242:19 243:24         | 13,16,17,19 242:2<br>263:17 309:24<br>311:3,20                  |
| apologize 29:18                                | approached                                       | arrive 98:10 106:2                                   | assets 212:7                                                    |
| 40:23 49:4 78:23                               | 164:21                                           | 303:3                                                |                                                                 |
| 89:12 96:8 107:2<br>131:3 136:13               | appropriately                                    |                                                      | <b>assign</b> 113:21                                            |
| 168:21 189:5                                   | 29:16 122:8                                      | <b>arrived</b> 73:20 121:16 156:5                    | <b>assigned</b> 268:10,                                         |
| 244:11 299:15                                  | <b>approved</b> 125:9 309:9                      | 157:8 208:9                                          | assigning 120:9                                                 |
| apparent 46:16                                 | approving 46:9,11                                | <b>Asbury</b> 152:11                                 | assume 34:18                                                    |
| apparently 154:17                              |                                                  | 158:14,17,23<br>175:14,18,25                         | 37:13 130:19                                                    |
| 205:16 241:21                                  | approximate<br>131:4                             | 176:2,21 177:4,24                                    | 132:13,23 162:8                                                 |
| appearance                                     | 131.4                                            | 178:6 181:15,17,                                     | 210:9 214:10                                                    |



216:19 218:17,19

266:10

225:9,25 281:11 **assumed** 22:19, 23,24 41:23 assuming 58:24 134:5 161:13 183:12 208:10 211:25 227:2 252:7 290:14 291:5 300:19 assumption 41:7, 12 212:20 252:6 assumptions 15:15 32:11,21 33:17 41:21,22 42:4,5 43:1 56:17 57:1 64:24 65:13, 15,19 attach 40:13 290:3 attached 85:22 232:19 270:13,14 271:17 295:18 attachment 62:19, 21 63:4 270:3,11, 15 285:13 286:9 287:19 attempt 37:15 219:6 223:22 attempting 20:12 172:17 204:11 attending 292:19 attention 46:1 attentions 75:20 attest 200:8 attorney 6:17 76:13 124:23 206:14 attributable 267:20 attributed 120:20

audit 311:24

auditor 139:20 August 43:5 55:21 243:7 authenticate 204:4,7,9 authenticated 154:21 authentication 249:2 authenticity 135:20 155:18 authority 121:18 181:16 authorized 38:1 94:9 automated 220:14 availability 52:8 149:8 average 80:4,8 84:1 87:16 120:1, 4,6,8 127:7 140:21 177:21 209:16 213:6 214:13 304:3 avoid 53:8 54:16 108:9 avoided 50:1 aware 25:16 37:6, 9,19 40:1 72:9 84:25 102:10 155:12 217:19 234:13,16 257:4 267:11 288:8 В **B-R-A-D** 10:23 **B14** 171:11 **B35** 171:6 **B37** 171:3

back 16:14 22:16 27:17 28:20 52:18 67:19 73:24 81:12 97:4 99:11 100:7 102:16 107:23 108:25 109:11 116:10 119:15 121:12 122:1 123:1,10 128:7 130:24 133:11 134:2 139:10,12, 24 142:20 144:21 146:2 147:21 158:11 160:4 174:18 178:7 186:1 190:20,21 192:15 195:7 205:11,12 206:21 207:22 214:6 218:6 220:24 224:11 225:17 228:9 230:18 237:13 238:15,16 239:24 240:11 241:22 253:4 263:14,16 265:3,4 268:24 275:5 292:22 301:5 311:18 313:1 backdoor 204:16 **backed** 105:23 background 12:23 14:4.9 16:9 86:12 108:6 139:1 balance 28:9 67:24 70:18 89:22 93:7 110:18 119:19 165:3 169:9 171:15,23, 25 172:7,10 173:17,18 174:5 181:3 182:18 183:1,9,10 187:11 230:1 243:25 balances 171:20

172:13,15 305:20 ballpark 67:4 bank 285:3,16 286:20 base 80:5,10,12 81:21 94:22 96:14 100:25 101:6 127:8 139:4 142:15 165:7,21 177:17,18,19 178:2 180:20 181:11 182:7,11 185:1 192:6 203:24 219:3 226:6,14,17 227:4 256:12 258:4 based 21:25 25:3 26:9 35:6 61:25 62:2,4 71:10,14, 17 75:9,12,20,23 79:21 86:23 87:14 91:7 95:20 98:23 105:11,12,24 111:12 114:3,11, 13 123:18 130:23 132:21 138:2 145:10 156:12 157:2,9 159:13, 14,17 165:12 174:8 178:17,20 187:14,17 194:20 199:11 204:13 228:20 240:16 249:16 251:11 252:12 261:20 262:7 263:3 267:23 268:14 274:7 295:17 296:11,12,13 310:15,19,22 316:15 319:11 **basemat** 94:5,6,8, 20,22,25 95:11, 16,19,21 96:17,21 97:10 98:9 103:6,



12,25 104:2,9,12, 18,23 107:17,25 108:1,14,24 109:6,14,22,23 112:19,21 113:10, 22 114:20 116:5 117:10,18,23 118:13,16 119:18 120:11,18,20 124:18 125:12 126:19 130:4,10 131:6,9,14,18 132:1,3 133:20 134:1,10 137:8,9, 10 138:11 139:3 140:15 141:24 142:5,7,19 143:12 144:2,23 146:16, 25 149:15,25 150:10,22 151:4, 23 152:1,4 157:13,24 158:19, 24 161:24 174:14 255:17 257:6 258:12 289:7 **basic** 285:15 basically 62:1 83:16 93:16,18 186:16,18 187:4 272:16 279:1 **basin** 109:10 138:3 255:21 **basis** 27:12 42:25 70:10 98:22 106:25 165:15 173:4,11,13,15, 22,23,24 174:3 234:7 235:9 **batch** 118:11 **battery** 292:15,16 bear 62:6 64:19 90:15 204:2

bearings 277:6

bears 126:6 beg 156:21 begin 55:11 199:2, beginning 235:2 **begins** 246:25 behalf 6:3,4,8,10, 13,15 7:1,2 belief 8:13 11:8 270:21 307:24 believed 17:6 54:21 **believes** 203:23 208:12 249:6 **belong** 207:3 **belts** 256:17,20 **Bench** 21:25 28:21 30:18 52:18 91:8 114:3 178:18,20 187:15, 17 194:20 252:12 268:14 310:20,22 **Bench's** 29:12 174:8 beneficial 66:2 309:18 **benefit** 167:14,20 168:4 178:12 181:4,5,7 185:2 187:9,23,25 188:8 189:18 190:7,9 222:13,19 230:1 243:25 310:8 benefits 160:11 161:8 167:16,19 170:18 176:17 184:2,14 185:6. 13,23,25 189:8,9, 12 190:16 benefits/adit

benefitting 119:25 **bid** 309:4,10,11 311:23 **bids** 280:10,18 282:9 299:25 300:14,17 309:19, 21 311:25 **big** 115:8,9 277:10 279:15 289:24 bigger 13:5 biggest 19:18 92:4 257:10 billion 65:21 177:18,19 220:21 bingo 136:15 **Birk** 66:24 **Birk's** 39:16 66:5 **bit** 22:10 31:5.21 51:10 61:8 114:9, 19 116:19 127:1 138:25 148:5 189:24 205:13 218:18 219:14 261:16 278:6 290:5 297:19 298:25 304:14 bituminous 148:3 black 42:12 125:1 271:11,20,21 272:24 274:4 289:24 294:15 296:11 blackness 150:15 block 289:4 290:17 305:16 blue 291:2 **bogged** 136:15 **boiler** 148:16 149:12 150:12,13 277:2 282:4

**boilers** 148:19 **Bolin** 186:14,15, 22 **bond** 123:12 168:24 182:22 183:5 190:19 208:21 216:22 221:2,6,9 222:12 227:18 **bonds** 94:10 95:6, 8 117:16 122:15, 22 123:13 128:11, 13,14 185:4 187:13 190:15,18 192:12 207:16 208:17,18 221:1 225:6,8 265:14, 16,19 288:15,18 300:13 309:5 **book** 122:10,18 165:1 171:13 173:22,23 176:7 182:6 **books** 94:24 95:4, 10 104:11 119:17, 24 165:3 188:3,5, 9 190:24 191:1,4, 5,7,10,13,16,18, 20,24 192:1,2,4 248:13,16 borderline 215:12 **bore** 109:5 **boring** 134:9 **bottom** 44:13 90:4,14 96:22 100:21 104:1 109:6 115:6 119:6 132:1 134:14 138:15,23 139:16 142:2,7,11 159:8 291:6 **bought** 108:19 109:23 118:9,12,



160:10

16,23,24 119:11, 13 121:4 138:4 **box** 125:1 **Brad** 10:10,17,23 11:17,19 **brand** 122:12 break 129:6 160:4 205:6.22 258:7 263:13,15 289:14 breaking 68:4 breakout 140:18 **briefly** 53:5 62:7 98:4 230:15 252:20 285:6 310:24 **bring** 20:8 21:23 49:18 82:14 106:16 135:21 223:24 276:22 278:17 bringing 19:24 75:20 279:5 **brings** 94:4 **broad** 265:6 **broken** 28:23 104:3 278:20 brokers 282:8 brought 46:1 51:12 87:4 88:8 118:17,21 219:12 254:8 **bubbles** 257:20 **bucket** 18:19 **buckets** 209:20 **bucks** 27:20 **build** 32:17 82:13 87:23 building 32:20 146:13 291:10

305:17 **built** 81:15 82:10 87:1 118:25 132:19 **bulk** 145:9 bulldozers 142:9 **bundled** 213:17 **bunkers** 147:10 burden 28:8 **burn** 95:19 110:18 118:22 120:2 141:23 150:3 256:8 **burnable** 142:20, 21 149:16 **burned** 104:4,5 115:2 147:1,16,22 148:2 **burning** 109:8,10 132:8,13 133:24 251:10 **busbar** 285:4,23 286:23 **button** 75:18 **buy** 212:11 C **C-E-D-R-I-C** 307:6 C-U-N-I-G-A-N 307:6 calculate 20:14 272:21 calculated 105:24 177:21,24 178:12 185:7 calculates 58:1 calculation 93:6 107:7 171:24

172:1,2 173:21 182:21 183:4,8 185:20 186:6 189:17 calculations 74:20 113:9 162:10 calculator 185:12 call 7:11 10:8 25:18 36:1,2 65:5 68:3.6 72:1 76:23 94:15 95:23 97:13,14 112:18, 19 113:23 123:7 129:8 131:17 144:18 152:17 164:9 166:9,20 183:22 192:13 195:5 211:8 213:11 232:1 253:19 266:2,3 268:23,24 278:25 301:1 306:8 316:25 called 149:25 220:10,14 223:9 **calling** 189:18 243:1 263:21 calls 7:13 10:10 72:3 129:9 152:18 174:17 179:4 195:6 230:7 232:2 301:4 306:10 312:19 313:24 317:1 camera 20:21,22, 23 52:21,22,23 53:6 275:9 299:19 campaign 23:18 cap 62:2 **capable** 255:16 capacitor 285:3, 16 286:20

capacity 67:5,10 77:15 153:8 307:8 capital 82:20 83:10 93:11,22,24 127:8 146:5 177:17,21 212:9, 14 213:6,7,8,11, 12,13 214:12,13, 14 219:13,15,25 220:17 221:15 226:4 248:9 319:23 320:6,7 **capture** 222:17 captured 248:18 carbon 15:4,17 40:25 carbon-date 120:25 card 136:15 care 210:1 260:2 277:19 278:12 279:6 career 180:1 carried 79:22 98:14,16 99:2 102:8,17 carry 270:11 carrying 230:4 244:2 carve 122:24 case 8:4 13:17 15:20 20:15,19 21:9 22:24,25 23:7,16 24:15,16 27:3 28:22 29:5 30:14 34:3,4,12 40:11,14 45:21 47:11,17 51:12 52:1 55:5 57:4 64:12 68:2 73:25 74:13 77:21 79:25 81:18 82:7,19,22



| 88:2 95:9,15 96:25 97:6,16 99:3,5 104:22 105:21 106:5 107:9 109:4 114:24 115:21 116:3,5,13 122:11,19 123:2 124:2,3,4,8,18,25 125:8,13 127:9 128:2,8 132:14 135:19 139:7 140:7 141:9,14,15 143:10,15 144:16, 25 153:14 158:14 160:16 163:21 164:21 165:25 166:3 170:3 173:23 177:8,23, 24 178:2,6,11 182:8,9,16 190:3, 5 196:6 204:17 207:5 209:6,12 212:4 215:7 217:16 218:15,25 220:19,25 221:3, 12 222:11,14,19 223:7 225:4,18,22 228:22,25 230:20 231:2,11,12,18 232:17 240:23 242:12,13 243:2 244:21 245:15,17 246:8 272:5,6,13, 14,25 307:12 |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 309:15                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| cases 34:13,20<br>47:6,10 54:1,5<br>64:13 81:10,13,<br>22,23,24 86:16<br>92:24 102:9<br>104:24 108:3<br>117:6 127:9<br>139:2,12,18<br>141:10 142:18<br>145:7 151:6<br>181:13 185:2                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |

| Evidentiar                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 196:25 203:16<br>208:23 243:3<br>303:22 304:5<br>311:14                                                                                                                                            |
| cash 105:6<br>127:20,23 165:15<br>212:9,14 213:11<br>214:12 219:12,15,<br>25 220:1,10,16<br>221:15 226:3                                                                                           |
| catchall 205:17                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| catching 274:25                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| category 276:20                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| caught 69:18                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>caused</b> 24:5<br>148:10 149:5<br>178:3                                                                                                                                                        |
| causing 149:12                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>caustic</b> 259:16 276:25                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>CCMO</b> 22:1 38:24 53:1 68:24                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>CCN</b> 54:5,6 64:13                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>CCNS</b> 309:19                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| CCR 193:22 194:6,<br>17 195:23,24<br>196:1 197:2<br>198:5,8,22 204:22<br>209:17,25 217:4<br>230:24 241:12,15<br>247:12 250:13<br>251:15 259:9,10,<br>11 260:24 261:25<br>262:13,15 277:12<br>284:4 |
| <b>Cedric</b> 302:20 306:11,23 307:6                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>cell</b> 170:21,25<br>171:3,6,11,13<br>172:4                                                                                                                                                    |
| center 13:23                                                                                                                                                                                       |

| , ··· 9                                                      | ,                                             |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| 103:15 133:21                                                | characterize 54:2                             |
| 288:25 289:23<br>central 224:16                              | characterizing<br>46:17                       |
|                                                              |                                               |
| cents 107:7<br>cetera 300:15                                 | charge 128:14,17<br>161:5 178:8               |
| <b>CFR</b> 235:23                                            | <b>charged</b> 175:19                         |
| chain 33:1                                                   | <b>chart</b> 289:11,20                        |
| Chair 43:24,25<br>48:16 49:3 53:12,<br>25 54:8 63:12<br>64:6 | check 73:25<br>101:20 220:13<br>258:18 259:14 |
| challenge 116:14                                             | checked 74:20                                 |
| challenged 274:5                                             | <b>chemical</b> 259:6 261:10,15               |
| challenging<br>244:18                                        | chemicals 217:11,<br>22 277:5 278:10          |
| <b>chance</b> 73:19<br>126:2 161:14                          | chemists 299:4                                |
| 227:11                                                       | chimneys 290:3                                |
| <b>change</b> 26:8 35:4                                      | choice 228:7                                  |
| 40:25 41:7 54:25                                             | choose 295:7                                  |
| 57:9,24 59:6<br>90:12 91:3 99:9                              | <b>churn</b> 109:2,13                         |
| 112:1 130:10                                                 | 118:11 131:18                                 |
| 151:10 265:21<br>269:23                                      | churning 159:9                                |
| <b>changed</b> 15:15                                         | Circuit 55:19                                 |
| 25:17 48:12                                                  | circumstances<br>27:7                         |
| <b>changing</b> 29:6<br>34:22,25 60:4<br>294:15              | <b>cite</b> 50:19 246:11 248:3                |
| channelling                                                  | <b>cites</b> 166:1                            |
| 260:22                                                       | civil 203:22                                  |
| <b>chapter</b> 49:12 56:25 236:10                            | <b>claim</b> 25:13                            |
| <b>chapters</b> 56:20                                        | claiming 95:10                                |
| 57:7,14                                                      | clarification 113:2 274:20 293:22             |
| characteristics<br>258:14                                    | clarify 29:17 32:14<br>40:19 71:3 102:7       |
| characterization<br>17:13,23                                 | 106:10 266:5<br>283:20 300:10                 |
| I                                                            | I                                             |



| LVIGOTIII          |
|--------------------|
| 135:21 136:2,6,8,  |
| 11 143:17,21       |
| 145:10 146:23      |
| 147:6 148:21       |
| 149:1 150:7,17     |
| 152:14,19 154:5,   |
| 8,12 155:6,9,20,   |
| 23 156:20,23       |
| 157:1,16,21        |
| 158:6,8 159:12,    |
| 17,20,24 160:7     |
|                    |
| 161:22 162:7,16,   |
| 20 163:24 164:5,   |
| 12,15 166:19,22    |
| 167:1,5,8,13       |
| 174:6,10,12,15,    |
| 19,23 175:1,4,9    |
| 178:16,20,23,25    |
| 179:6,12,15,18,24  |
| 187:14,17,20       |
| 189:22 190:1       |
| 192:8,17,19,23     |
| 193:1,5,10         |
| 194:19,24 195:1,   |
| 3,8,12,15 197:7    |
| 199:5,17,24        |
| 200:6,10,14,17,24  |
| 201:4,11,24        |
| 202:16,23 203:1,   |
| 4,9 204:1 205:4,7, |
| 12,24 206:3,7      |
| 218:2,7 223:16     |
| 224:2 226:21       |
| 228:13,16 229:10   |
| 230:10,13 231:21,  |
|                    |
| 23 232:4 233:7,11  |
| 235:25 237:8,21    |
| 238:11,16,19,22,   |
| 24 239:4,8 242:23  |
| 245:4,15 246:5,    |
| 10,23 249:9,20,22  |
| 250:3,5 252:11,    |
| 16,18,21 253:16,   |
| 19,24 254:2,7,17   |
| 255:8 259:1        |
| 261:20 262:7       |
| 263:3,6,11,16      |
|                    |

| Evidentiar                                                                                                                                      | / Hearing April 17                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Evidentiar :2,6,8, 21 :23 21 7,17 154:5, 9,20, 23 1 9:12, 60:7 :7,16, 164:5, 19,22 3 2,15, 1,4,9 23,25 5,18,24 20 :1 9,23 195:1, 97:7 4 4,17,24 | Hearing April 17 264:10,23 265:4 266:1,5,12,18,21, 24 267:18,22 268:1,3,13,17,22 269:1 271:5,8,10, 13,15 272:8,15,18 273:2,5,8 274:16, 22 275:1,6,15 276:5,8,11 283:9, 11 291:23 293:17 294:24 295:8,10 296:4,16,19,22 297:6,14,17,21,23 298:15 299:12,16 300:23 301:1,6, 12,15,18,24 302:24 303:2 304:8,12 306:3,6, 8,12,17,22 308:4, 13,15,18,21,24 309:2 310:18,22, 25 312:9,12,17,20 313:8,12,15,18,22 314:1,17,20,23 315:2,6,10,14,17 316:15,19,21,24 317:3,9,24 318:6, |
| 1<br>203:1,                                                                                                                                     | 10,13 319:11,15,<br>18 320:11                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 05:4,7,<br>3,7                                                                                                                                  | class 273:24                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 3:16<br>21                                                                                                                                      | classified 234:11, 15                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 229:10<br>231:21,                                                                                                                               | <b>clay</b> 142:17                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 33:7,11                                                                                                                                         | clean 277:15                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| :8,21<br>19,22,                                                                                                                                 | cleaner 147:24<br>148:3,4                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 242:23<br>46:5,<br>9,20,22                                                                                                                      | <b>cleaning</b> 241:13, 16,23                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 2:11,<br>53:16,                                                                                                                                 | cleanliness<br>241:18                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 2,7,17<br>1<br>:7                                                                                                                               | <b>cleanup</b> 193:24 210:24 258:7                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 16                                                                                                                                              | clear 10:5 13:3                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

| ag , , , , , , ,                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | ioz midoza olamymignordo a                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 64:10,23 265:4 66:1,5,12,18,21, 4 267:18,22 68:1,3,13,17,22 69:1 271:5,8,10, 3,15 272:8,15,18 73:2,5,8 274:16, 2 275:1,6,15 76:5,8,11 283:9, 1 291:23 293:17 94:24 295:8,10 96:4,16,19,22 97:6,14,17,21,23 98:15 299:12,16 00:23 301:1,6, 2,15,18,24 02:24 303:2 04:8,12 306:3,6, 3,15,18,21,24 09:2 310:18,22, 5 312:9,12,17,20 13:8,12,15,18,22 14:1,17,20,23 15:2,6,10,14,17 16:15,19,21,24 17:3,9,24 318:6, 0,13 319:11,15, 8 320:11 1ss 273:24 1ssified 234:11, 5 1sy 142:17 2an 277:15 2aner 147:24 48:3,4 2aning 241:13, 6,23 2anliness 41:18 2anup 193:24 10:24 258:7 2ar 10:5 13:3 | 19:13 46:19 82:2 117:3 125:22 127:19 138:22 150:20 197:20 212:23 244:10  cleared 127:18 clearing 221:14 clearinghouse 220:14 close 18:2 60:14 63:6 71:4 85:6 258:11 284:16 287:3 299:3 closed 210:21 277:17 287:18 290:23,25 291:5 closely 264:24 closer 20:15 97:1 260:8 closes 285:11 287:20 closest 85:23 closure 30:20,22 206:22 211:5,7,9 214:20 215:24 231:8 235:17 265:12 266:6 267:7,19 273:12 276:15,18,21 276:15,18,21 276:15,18,21 276:15,18,21 276:15,18,21 276:15,18,21 276:15,18,21 276:15,18,21 276:15,18,21 276:15,18,21 276:15,18,21 276:15,18,21 276:15,18,21 276:15,18,21 276:15,18,21 276:15,18,21 276:15,18,21 276:15,18,21 276:15,18,21 276:15,18,21 276:15,18,21 276:15,18,21 276:15,18,21 276:15,18,21 276:15,18,21 276:15,18,21 276:15,18,21 276:15,18,21 276:15,18,21 276:15,18,21 276:15,18,21 276:15,18,21 276:15,18,21 276:15,18,21 276:15,18,21 276:15,18,21 276:15,18,21 276:15,18,21 276:15,18,21 |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| ear 10:5 13:3                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| ai 10.5 13.3                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | 50:10                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | i e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |



| <b>coal</b> 23:18 94:5,6, |
|---------------------------|
| 8,18,19,20,22,25          |
| 95:11,13,17,18,           |
| 20,21 96:11,12,           |
| 17,21,23,24               |
| 97:10,11 98:9,25          |
| 99:15 100:21              |
| 103:6,12,13,14,           |
| 18,21,25 104:2,9,         |
| 12,13,18,23               |
| 105:10,13,21              |
| 106:2 107:17,25           |
| 108:1,5,14,18,22,         |
| 24 109:7,8,11,22,         |
| 23 110:2,3,14,18          |
| 113:10,22 114:20          |
| 115:2,11,12               |
| 116:5,22 117:10,          |
| 18,23 118:9,12,20         |
| 119:6,11,18,19,23         |
| 120:1,2,11,12,18,         |
| 20,21 121:3               |
| 124:11,17 125:12          |
| 126:13,18,19              |
| 127:4,5,6,24              |
| 130:4,10,23,24            |
| 131:6,7,8,15,20,          |
| 22,23,24,25               |
| 132:2,5,6,8,13,16,        |
| 20,23,25 133:1,           |
| 20,22,25 134:1,2,         |
| 3 136:24,25               |
| 137:4,7,8 138:4,8,        |
| 10,15,16,20               |
| 140:16,18 141:19,         |
| 22,25 142:9,10,16         |
| 143:11,13 144:19,         |
| 25 145:9,15,20,           |
| 21,22 146:1,17            |
| 147:3,10,16,22,           |
| 23,25 148:1,4,10,         |
| 13,15,17 149:6,9,         |
| 10,15,22,23,24            |
| 150:10,22 151:5,          |
| 17,22,25 157:6,           |
| 14,25 158:1,17,24         |
| 159:7 161:25              |
| 100.7 101.20              |

| Evidentia                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 174:14 193:23<br>195:25 209:18<br>211:1 212:12<br>213:9 233:24<br>241:15 247:12<br>248:3 251:9<br>255:17,19,23,24<br>256:2,3,4,14,15,<br>17,20,22,25<br>257:2,6,11,13,19<br>258:3,8,12,16,19<br>262:16 277:1<br>289:6,7,24 |
| coal's 115:1                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| coals 138:9                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| coexist 47:4,5                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Coffman</b> 6:25 7:1, 3 9:17 11:25 22:2 38:25 53:2                                                                                                                                                                      |
| coincidence 106:6                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>colleague</b> 144:9 147:9                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>collect</b> 122:5<br>166:7 257:21<br>277:14 311:14                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>collected</b> 165:19 166:10 180:19                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>collecting</b> 182:11, 14,15                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| colored 290:1                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>column</b> 100:24<br>101:6,8,13,22<br>169:11 170:18                                                                                                                                                                     |
| columns 169:9                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| combination 99:1                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>combined</b> 183:9 279:7 289:3                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| combust 277:3                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| combusting                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |

| ndex: coalCommission              |
|-----------------------------------|
| 18 183:14,19                      |
| 184:4 186:2,4                     |
| 187:15 192:20                     |
| 193:1 199:20<br>203:2 206:9 215:3 |
| 216:20 217:2                      |
| 228:21 230:13                     |
| 234:11,15 236:11                  |
| 237:6,11,16 238:3                 |
| 244:13,15 245:16,                 |
| 21,24 250:3                       |
| 252:13 254:10<br>261:21 262:8     |
| 263:4 264:20,22                   |
| 266:16,21 276:8                   |
| 293:18 301:18                     |
| 307:9 308:22                      |
| 315:11,17 316:16                  |
| 318:7,14 319:12                   |
| Commission's                      |
| 40:6 46:1 134:17                  |
| 158:9 175:10                      |
| 237:20,24 245:12,<br>21 309:8     |
|                                   |
| commissioned                      |
| 109:12,18                         |
| Commissioner                      |
| 69:23 70:2,25<br>71:2,3 73:4,6    |
| 75:5,7 76:2 86:3,                 |
| 4,6 88:18,20                      |
| 91:16 103:2,3,4,5                 |
| 106:21 110:9                      |
| 114:17 117:20                     |
| 118:5,6 123:14,                   |
| 16,25 127:17<br>136:13,14,19      |
| 143:16 145:15                     |
| 146:23 148:12                     |



157:21,22 158:4 193:3 200:23 201:7,8,11,12 202:8,18,25 203:3 206:10,11,15

217:25 218:12

226:21,23 228:12

257:16

253:24 254:12 255:6,7,11 258:24 259:1 261:18 264:19 266:23,24 267:1,5,15 276:10,11,13,14 279:24 283:7,9 291:24 292:1,2 293:15,17 299:22, 23 301:19 308:23 315:18,19 316:13 318:15,16 319:9 Commissioner's 228:20 commissioners 13:11 86:15 219:13 266:13 **commit** 122:21,22 **common** 103:24 263:19 279:11 commonly 149:25

compact 257:19, 24 compacted 142:12 258:13

compaction

149:24 150:1 257:14 company 14:17,20 15:19,23 16:2,18, 21,25 22:17,22 23:23 24:3,19,20 25:17,19,21 26:14,18 29:15 33:19 38:1 40:7 44:10 45:15 50:14,19 62:15,20 74:23 76:4 86:23

87:7 88:7 92:3

95:2,5,16,18,21

121:22 127:4,11,

105:6 116:3

20,23 128:3

132:12 133:18 134:7,18,20 135:17 136:21 164:20 165:1,5,14 166:5 172:20 187:10 188:12 190:9,16 201:13 208:12,22 210:12 212:11 213:13,19 216:21 217:3,19 220:12 222:23,25 227:1,10 230:24 236:23 288:9 300:3 303:10 311:14,18

Company's 24:16 25:14 44:6 45:25 46:6,8 57:21 67:9 70:16 74:6 89:10 130:4 165:8,12 188:2 202:20 206:19 224:16,22

comparable 187:1,3 comparatively

148:2 **compare** 122:4

compared 17:16 147:23

comparing 17:14 74:1,13

**comparison** 142:3 161:8 173:22 220:25 303:13

compensate 105:5

compensated 96:19

**competitive** 279:18 280:20

complaint 51:12 complete 56:18

184:8 199:5

completed 54:21 55:7 199:18 242:4 283:18 285:18,22 286:2,5,7,15,18, 21,22,23 287:2,9 291:12 303:9

**completely** 108:7 159:1

completeness 249:19

completes 67:22

**compliance** 44:7,8 197:3 259:19

complicated 186:11

complies 183:23

**comply** 20:5 184:6 262:13 277:13

component 212:15 224:16 226:6

comports 176:25 composed 133:22

compress 142:6

compressed 149:19

**computer** 100:7, 14 106:15

**concept** 103:7 122:12 219:5,13, 15

concern 16:7 19:22 24:13 25:13 116:14 121:23 123:9

concerned 24:3, 21 207:21 237:17

concerns 16:1 19:18 45:8 63:19 64:1 94:5 256:3, 16

**concise** 13:3 24:12

conclude 184:17 concluded 320:16

concludes 283:7

**conclusion** 151:10 303:3

conclusions 64:16

**concrete** 116:20 137:1,13,16,17,20 148:16 255:21 256:9,11 291:22

condense 265:5

**condition** 224:11 239:24 240:12 241:23 252:25 280:9

**conditions** 26:8 34:23 35:1,7,8 61:12 280:14

**conduct** 48:22 124:16

confidence 273:25 274:10

confidential

36:20,21 42:10 53:9 59:9 78:4 99:14 101:1 232:21 269:10,12 271:1,7 274:21 275:7,18,21,23,24 276:17 279:9,12 281:6 290:14 302:25 307:14 308:2 314:25

confidentiality 34:16

**confirm** 100:13,14

|                         | Evidentia                | ry Hearing April 17, 2024 | Index: confirmationcorrec          |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 272:23                  | construction             | 88:7 110:3 225:6          | core 134:12                        |
| confirmation            | 32:20 291:8              | 285:8,10 303:12           | 138:14 149:22                      |
| 106:24                  | 312:1,4                  | continues 251:3           | 151:4,13,15                        |
| 100.24                  | 220:1                    |                           | 256:19                             |
| confirmed 43:18         | consumed 320:1           | 320:6                     | 00 mm                              |
| 107:5 144:10            | Consumer 6:24            | continuing 88:11,         | <b>coring</b> 139:15               |
| 237:22                  | 9:16 38:23               | 14 235:16 318:23          | corporate 179:25                   |
| confused 245:2          | Consumers 6:13,          | 319:7                     | correct 16:16                      |
|                         | 10 7.0 11.01             | continuously              | 37:1,25 39:24,25                   |
| confusion 29:19         |                          | 217:4                     | 41:24 47:13,14,18                  |
| 30:1 91:4               | contained 11:7           |                           | 52:6 55:5 65:7,11,                 |
| Conservation            | 162:9 202:14             | contract 85:17            | 12 70:8,24 71:4,9                  |
| 236:9                   | contaminants             | 288:5                     | 76:14 78:20                        |
|                         | 197:16 217:12            | contracting 146:9         | 83:12,24 84:3,24                   |
| consideration           | 247.5 252.12             |                           | 85:17,20 88:13                     |
| 46:2 51:21 122:2        | 302:14                   | contractor 276:23         | 90:18,19 93:2                      |
| considerations          |                          | 278:14,17 279:5,          | 96:10 102:7                        |
| 48:1 258:5              | contaminates             | 16,19                     | 107:15 110:6                       |
|                         | 197:23                   | contractors               |                                    |
| considered 18:2         | ontamination             | 279:20                    | 112:3 115:23                       |
| 45:21 51:24             | 142:25                   |                           | 116:2 118:10                       |
| 122:19 132:3            |                          | contracts 85:14           | 124:19,20 128:1,                   |
| 137:10 211:4            | contemplating            | contracturally            | 25 130:5,6,12,13                   |
| 234:17 241:3            | 108:9                    | 288:2                     | 132:23 133:9,15<br>134:5,6 135:3,7 |
| 242:4                   | contend 14:20            | contrary 116:8            | 138:5 150:16                       |
| considers 199:2         | 0 contending             | 184:19 186:8              |                                    |
| <b>consist</b> 253:10   | 154:25                   | 222:15                    | 157:11,12 164:10,<br>12,22 168:18  |
|                         |                          |                           | '                                  |
| consistent 150:2        | 24 <b>content</b> 150:14 | <b>control</b> 52:5 70:23 | 169:3 171:4,8,10,<br>17 176:9,23   |
| 152:10 184:3            | contention 47:5          | conversation 76:8         | 180:23 183:18                      |
| 227:3 261:5             | 0.000                    | 91:15 166:15              |                                    |
| 304:6,7 310:13          | Contents 243:10          | 187:25 202:22             | 190:10 191:11,14<br>193:16 194:3   |
| 316:5                   | contested 45:21          | 226:1 244:6               |                                    |
| <b>consists</b> 95:11,1 | 7 78:6 102:19            |                           | 198:20,21 206:24<br>207:6 215:10   |
| 131:15 134:1            | context 94:14            | conversations             |                                    |
|                         | 103:11 147:15            | 177:3                     | 218:22 219:3,4,<br>19,24 221:7,16  |
| consolidate             | 148:13,14 240:17         | conversely 311:17         | 223:13 225:19                      |
| 160:19                  | 146.13,14 240.17         | convoluted                |                                    |
| consolidating           | contexts 148:20          | 175:22 186:12             | 229:14,15,18<br>231:16 235:13      |
| 160:17 270:24           | contingency              |                           | 238:17 240:23                      |
| consolidation           | 49:20                    | <b>copied</b> 229:13      | 246:23 247:6                       |
| 264:15                  |                          | <b>copies</b> 245:13      |                                    |
|                         | continue 72:6            | •                         | 250:10 251:7<br>253:1,2 258:24     |
| constantly              | 128:4 227:6,7            | <b>copy</b> 168:8         | 253.1,2 256.24 259:1 262:21,22,    |
| 131:19,20,21            | 234:8,9 235:17           | 223:19,24 229:11          | 25 270:20 271:14                   |
| constitute 83:2         | 280:9 320:8              | 238:4 239:4               | 275:12 278:22,23                   |
|                         | continued 52:10          | 245:13                    | 284:7 287:22,23                    |
|                         |                          |                           | 204.1 201.22,23                    |



288:25 289:1,18 290:6,7,10,13 293:14 294:16 298:10,20 300:16, 21,24,25 301:9 306:14 307:23 311:11 312:15,16 313:4 314:17 corrected 11:1,18 153:17 270:14 289:21 correction 269:22 289:22 corrections 8:9 11:4 68:18 72:5 246:4 269:15 270:16 307:16 correctly 169:2 182:3 241:2 277:9 correlation 227:8 corrosion 256:19 cost 21:19 26:17, 20 27:11,19 32:11 41:23 42:5 56:23 60:21 61:24 62:4, 17 95:12,13,16,20 96:20 97:1,10 118:20 119:11 120:1,4,6,9 127:7 130:8,23 140:21 141:10 145:8 146:4,5 149:16 150:2 151:2,3 152:1 161:7 169:8 175:20 177:17,21 180:8 194:12 206:20 212:12,17, 20 213:6,18,19 214:14,15 215:7 218:21,25 219:11, 16,18,22 220:5 221:15 223:11,12 225:14 226:10,15 227:6,12,13,25

228:2,8 231:2 242:6 256:10,25 260:18 261:7 266:6 267:7,8 278:22 280:6,10 281:1 292:24 309:20 311:10

costs 21:19 25:6 32:21 35:17 41:22 52:13 61:14 63:9 95:1,3 127:10,13, 15,16 130:5 135:9 137:18 161:8 165:9 166:6,12 169:1 175:14 176:2,5 181:18,24 194:3,8 195:23 196:1,5,10,17,20, 23 197:1,2 207:7, 8,10,17,19,21 208:1,2,23 209:3, 8,12,15,16,21 210:24 211:5,7,8 212:6,17 214:18 215:23 216:1,2,5 218:13,19 219:10 220:9 221:14 222:4,19,23 223:1,2 224:23 225:2,7,10 226:5, 14 227:23 229:2 230:2,4,22,23 231:1,4,8,14 234:1 241:4,11 243:4 244:1,2,9, 19 247:23 248:9. 11,12 259:3,5,21 265:12,13,14,15 266:8 267:19 272:4,5,12,21 273:12,13,15,23 276:15,19 278:15, 19,20,25 279:7,16 280:8,13,21 294:3 295:17 296:10 298:16,19,23

21 303:23 304:20, 25 305:2,12 306:13 308:11,12 310:7,11 311:8,9 313:3,4 314:8 320:5,7

Council 6:22,24 7:2 9:16 11:24 38:23

38:23 **counsel** 6:8,10 9:23 12:4 22:6 33:23 48:21 52:17 55:25 57:5 69:19. 21 71:18 72:21 75:21 76:22 77:17 92:14 98:3 114:8 123:22 126:15,23 129:16 145:11 151:8 153:9 159:21 167:6 174:10,24 178:18 179:3,4 180:2 189:23 192:24 194:24 195:13 197:10 200:15 218:8 228:14 232:2 252:19 266:19 268:17 271:3 276:5 294:25 295:1 297:8 301:13 304:10 310:20 312:17,18,21 313:23,24 316:22, 25 317:1,10,25 319:19

**Counsel's** 76:22 231:24

**count** 316:9 318:22 319:5,7

**counted** 196:18 316:4

**counting** 316:7 318:21

**country** 257:4 281:18

couple 12:21 49:2 143:18 203:7 220:8 246:4 250:6 260:13 277:11 280:8 292:5

court 14:7,13 16:13 18:13 20:6 22:14 23:7 24:5, 15 32:24 33:3,4, 10 34:4 55:5,14, 16,19 59:15 60:17,24 69:3,7, 18 96:6 168:4 181:15 288:11

**Court's** 34:12 43:5 50:6

**cover** 96:20 135:9 229:13 242:25 289:7 292:4

**covered** 147:11 208:20 225:8 228:24 256:24

covering 33:23

**covers** 113:9 145:16 196:13

**CPA** 185:11 235:2

crack 319:21

**Craig** 247:9

**crawl** 142:9

**create** 180:8

created 128:12 178:3 181:6 303:16

**creates** 149:24

creating 108:17

credible 203:24

**credit** 130:18 165:23 168:23



302:1,7,10,14,19,

| 175:14 177:6,9,<br>11,16 178:2 181:3<br>182:21 183:5<br>185:5,22 189:7                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| credited 185:5                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| crew 292:11 299:2                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| criticism 30:13                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| cross 9:14,18,21, 25 11:22,23 12:3, 6 24:8 28:3 29:2 38:19,22 39:1,7 48:22 49:6 64:22 68:21,23,24,25 69:18 71:12 72:8, 16,17,21,24 75:15 79:3,6,9,12 97:20, 21,24 98:2,8 114:10,11 115:20 129:14,15,18,24 154:5,7,8,13 166:25 167:1,5 174:22,23 175:1 179:12,15 192:16, 19,23 195:11,12, 15,22 199:19 200:22,25 201:5 233:7,11,14 239:12 250:1 261:22 262:10 266:11,16,18 275:14 276:1 284:9 285:24 295:2 301:10,12, 15 308:10,15,18 313:8,12 315:10, 14 318:6,10 |
| crossing 200:22                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| crossover 286:12                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| crushed 142:13,<br>14                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>crystal</b> 127:19                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| culminated 29:6                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Cunigan 302:20                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |

| <br>cu<br>CV | cu 2 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 2 2 2 2 2 | 1<br>2<br><b>cu</b><br>1 | 1<br>2<br><b>cu</b><br>1<br>1 | cu<br>cu<br>1 | 3<br>3<br>3 |
|--------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------|-------------|

| 306:11,12,23<br>307:6 308:6,25<br>311:2 312:11,12                                                                                                                                                 |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| curious 48:8                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| current 97:2 99:7<br>105:21 128:7<br>139:4,19 141:10<br>156:5,6,13 209:18<br>237:19                                                                                                               |
| customer 117:14<br>182:21 183:5<br>185:5 209:22<br>210:22                                                                                                                                         |
| customer's<br>185:22 189:6                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 27:13,17,19 50:14 108:7 119:25 121:24 122:7 127:13 128:8 165:6,20,22 166:11,13 168:23 175:17,24 176:18 177:9,13 178:1,9 190:13 219:21 220:1,3 221:6 222:1 223:11 225:17 228:23 280:22 283:6 293:9 |
| cut 260:1                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| CWC 221:20 222:7<br>CWIP 303:7                                                                                                                                                                    |
| D                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>D2</b> 111:22                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>D3</b> 111:22                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>D5</b> 169:6                                                                                                                                                                                   |

ily 70:10

damage 148:16 150:12

data 16:18,22 40:13,16 44:20 45:1 81:6 85:20 87:9,12 88:6 108:20 109:4 133:12,13,15,16, 23 134:8,17,24 135:19,24 138:7 141:18 149:21 151:14 154:16 155:9 196:16,20 197:8,10 201:13, 23 202:10,13 203:10,15 204:4, 6,7,8 207:23 210:2,4 218:17 246:12,14,18,25 248:10,25 249:2 250:14 251:18 258:23 260:6,12 272:3 295:4 297:9,11

date 34:9 42:21 49:23 50:21 61:4. 11 71:4,5,7 82:15 83:7 91:22 92:6 169:13 175:19 176:1 237:17 288:9 319:5 dated 243:7

dates 34:5 50:17 60:24 70:16 82:17 171:20 182:16

**dating** 102:16

287:1

day 18:1 69:8 70:4 75:17 104:15 166:16 301:3

day-to-day 212:10 213:14,20

days 36:5 44:19, 22 45:11,14 53:17 70:9 85:2 146:3,7, 8

deal 160:20 210:12 279:4

dealer 283:2

**dealing** 197:13 200:2 210:19 227:4

dealt 203:16

**debris** 147:2 148:15

**debt** 214:15

decades 96:14

decay 141:22 256:8,18

December 65:24 79:19 83:11 85:6 92:21 133:18 172:15 201:15 286:1,5

**decide** 106:13 126:11

decided 62:25 122:24 183:20 184:4 186:2,3,4 215:3 228:21

decides 97:8

deciding 164:24

decision 14:5,6 21:4,8 26:2 28:22 29:3,5,7,10 30:5 32:24 34:8 43:5 55:5,14 58:3 59:14,15 60:13 61:10 65:25 79:19 83:11,17,22 85:5 88:5 92:20 166:1 170:12 202:19,20

decisionmaking 29:8 30:10

decisions 13:14 14:13 29:14,20 31:11 32:25 33:3,



4,10 245:23 deficiency 25:13 **Department** determination 293:8,9,10 45:10,23 236:11 248:5 45:17 120:10 decommission define 83:20 89:4 **depend** 170:2 determine 19:21 220:7,12 251:8 309:5 240:15 20:3 117:10 120:17,23 124:9 defined 240:4 depending 21:18 decommissioning 125:19 138:16 78:18 265:14,15 85:11 258:13 definite 291:15 172:22 234:14 266:7 267:8 depends 27:5 definition 236:20 272:4,12,21 determined 21:14 54:13 91:25 146:8 240:3.14 244:9 273:11,13,17,23 41:17,20 60:22 deposition 15:24 66:3 104:20,21 274:8 278:19,22, **degree** 274:9 25 280:8 281:2 281:10 depreciate 90:1 delineance 90:5 288:15 295:17 determines 21:18 depreciated 296:10 306:13 delineate 119:18 252:8 110:14 308:11 309:10,16 delineating 13:13 determining 18:24 310:14 311:8 depreciation 120:9 220:16 313:4 314:8 316:3 70:13 79:21 81:16 delineation 82:3,6,11 87:5 detriment 23:23 deconstruction 120:11 90:2 110:15 24:6 312:4 167:20 169:10 **deliver** 103:14 detrimental 24:16 dedicated 128:14 180:4,16 181:6 delivered 130:24 182:18 183:2 **develop** 172:22 **deduct** 187:6 131:7 132:6,25 187:24 211:23 174:4 **deducted** 181:18, 137:16 139:4,13, 213:4 developed 56:17 23 19 140:4,5,21,23, **derived** 74:10,11 165:24 25 145:1,8 deduction 167:22 140:11,14 144:7 developing 173:1,16 180:4,10 delta 73:17 105:17 158:17,18 280:2 280:17 deductions demand 56:24,25 describe 142:15 **devices** 278:11 167:18 180:17,25 146:15 285:6.8 182:19 183:2 differ 267:7 **demo** 276:23 design 144:4 **deed** 225:10 278:17 290:10,16, difference 18:1 255:25 258:18 20 70:4,5 73:14,22 **deeply** 13:11 designated 290:9 80:2 86:22 87:6 **demoed** 284:3 def 171:19 172:3, designed 135:8 91:20 92:5 93:12 289:14,15 12 117:23 122:5 **desire** 160:25 **demoing** 290:18 Defense 6:22 143:10 174:2,3,4 166:18 231:8 demolished 305:1 177:4,12,23 178:5 deferral 128:3 destination 152:4 186:22 189:16 demolition 215:23 **deferred** 160:10, 196:15 214:16 destroyed 104:4 288:24 289:4,6 14,15 165:7 219:16.21 259:4 291:12 302:16 detail 64:1 89:7 171:12,18 173:21 differences 91:16 267:10 176:6 177:5,10,25 demonstrate 132:21 280:12 178:4 184:25 107:11 detailed 54:13 differentials 209:2 189:11 196:21 demonstrates deficiencies 16:1 differently 15:19 109:12 details 32:8,9 18:6 25:22 51:10 45:6 46:14 33:13



|                                | Evidentiai                        | y riearing April 1         | 7, 2024Index: difficultydu        |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 88:15 145:7                    | disallow 320:6                    | 156:12 165:4               | <b>DOE</b> 314:15                 |
| 176:19 187:10                  | disallowances                     | 210:6                      | dollar 70:5 128:5                 |
| difficulty 18:17               | 31:2 73:18                        | disputed 124:18            | 221:16 227:3,13                   |
| 149:18                         | disallowed 83:3                   | disputes 165:11            | 282:14,15                         |
| lig 256:22 258:11              | 196:24 302:1,5                    | disputing 135:20           | dollars 65:21                     |
| dip 128:4                      | 310:8 318:20                      | 155:21,22 156:2,           | 70:12 93:20,21,23                 |
| Dire 273:3,9                   | disappears 38:4                   | 4,8 157:5,8,13             | 166:6 218:22<br>219:7 220:19,21   |
| direct 7:24 10:20              | disclose 274:21                   | disseminating              | 221:13 222:2                      |
| 37:21 38:5 77:9                | 279:14                            | 23:22                      | 225:21,25 227:2,                  |
| 92:25 99:25 100:1              | disclosed 51:19                   | distinct 12:17             | 8,17 278:7                        |
| 105:16 111:25                  | discontinue                       | 29:3,5                     | 303:19,21                         |
| 112:2 153:2                    | 260:10                            | distinction 47:24          | dots 290:2                        |
| 167:23 168:12<br>232:12 254:21 | discount 185:7                    | 64:14                      | double 128:4                      |
| 255:9 263:8                    | discounted                        | distribution 57:1          | 196:18 271:17                     |
| 269:7,9,19,24                  | 227:17                            | <b>District</b> 22:14 23:6 | 316:3                             |
| 270:2,8 271:10,11              | discovery 45:5                    | 24:5,15 34:4,12            | dozers 115:8,9                    |
| 274:18 275:18                  | 89:5                              | 50:6 55:14,16              | 257:23                            |
| 285:1 288:19<br>293:23 307:1   | discuss 29:25                     | 59:15 60:17 186:3          | draft 57:13                       |
| 312:25 314:6                   | 239:14                            | divide 102:2               | drafts 56:20 57:10                |
| 317:14                         | discussed 35:18                   | dividing 140:16            | drain 267:12 277:7                |
| irected 160:22,                | 39:19 50:1,9 54:8                 | <b>DM-S-2</b> 161:12       | draw 303:13                       |
| 23                             | 93:12,14,15 151:9                 | 163:13                     |                                   |
| irection 87:20                 | discussing 30:1                   | <b>DM-S-8</b> 161:12       | drawing 64:14                     |
| 102:1                          | 43:10 53:12                       | 163:13                     | drill 109:4                       |
| irectly 268:10,12              | discussion 28:20                  | <b>DNR</b> 252:10          | driver 17:14                      |
| 289:24                         | 30:18 33:22,24                    | docket 22:22               | DROPC8516                         |
| pirector 255:1                 | 34:11 39:12 49:8                  | 25:11,12 40:10             | 269:22                            |
| 292:5,7                        | 53:25 54:17                       | 133:17 269:9               | <b>DRS</b> 241:3                  |
| lirtier 149:11                 | 144:22 146:16<br>190:24 201:21    | 280:5                      | dry 52:6,11 257:14                |
| irty 146:17 147:3,             | 202:11,15 298:15                  | dockets 25:12              | duct-tailed 33:10                 |
| 8,12,16,19,22                  | ,                                 | document 201:18,           |                                   |
| 148:10,13,20                   | <b>discussions</b> 16:21 30:25    | 25 202:1,2,14              | due 15:17 62:11                   |
| 149:6,15 150:2                 |                                   | 203:1,5,7 229:16           | 249:24 256:18                     |
| isagree 17:12                  | dismantle 257:25 280:6            | 239:6 245:5,18             | <b>dug</b> 58:6                   |
| 27:4,7 81:15                   |                                   | 249:17 296:17              | duly 7:22 10:18                   |
| 131:11 252:4                   | dispose 191:22,23 277:9           | documentation              | 39:5 69:25 73:8                   |
| 302:12                         | _                                 | 82:18                      | 77:7 98:6 129:22<br>152:25 167:11 |
| lisagreement                   | disposition 214:2                 | documents 81:17            | 175:7 179:22                      |
| 145:6                          | dispute 116:8,14<br>132:10 144:24 | 99:24 125:24               | 193:8 195:20                      |
|                                | □ プス゚ン゚プイ\ 7 // // ')//           | l                          | 1                                 |



|                                     |                                  | <del>, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , </del> | +index. dumpedessemian                 |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| 232:10 254:19                       | edits 77:25                      | 84:9 104:15                                       | entitled 272:9                         |
| 267:3 269:5                         | effect 50:24 60:7                | 127:18 148:23                                     | entity 128:12,15,                      |
| 301:22 306:24                       | 257:9                            | 182:15 200:20                                     | 19,25                                  |
| 312:23 314:4<br>317:12              | effective 82:13                  | 210:14 215:6,16<br>225:24 286:7,25                | environmental                          |
|                                     | 175:21 176:3                     | 287:5 288:5                                       | 41:8,13 104:7                          |
| dumped 110:2<br>131:15              | 287:25                           | endeavor 104:13                                   | 110:1 194:5,16,18                      |
|                                     | effectively 149:16               |                                                   | 210:20,24 258:5                        |
| dumping 131:20                      | 150:3                            | <b>ended</b> 136:8                                | 292:24 303:16                          |
| dynamic 26:8                        | effects 251:9                    | endorse 46:8                                      | EO-2022-0040                           |
|                                     | 253:13                           | endorses 296:15                                   | 245:22                                 |
| E                                   | efficiency 264:11                | energy 6:17 94:25                                 | EO-2022-0193                           |
| <b>E15</b> 170:25                   | efficient 186:24                 | 95:3 103:15 130:5                                 | 245:23                                 |
| <b>E35</b> 171:6                    | effluent 277:13                  | 133:21 161:5<br>166:12 169:1                      | <b>EPA</b> 193:16,20 200:6 217:3,13    |
| <b>E37</b> 171:3                    | <b>efforts</b> 292:19            | 181:24 236:10,11                                  | 241:17,20 252:7,                       |
|                                     | <b>EFIS</b> 111:9 162:6          | 284:10 288:25                                     | 10 281:19                              |
| earlier 25:21<br>26:14,19,20,21     |                                  | Energy's 6:13                                     | <b>EPA's</b> 247:11                    |
| 27:11,16,17 30:22                   | <b>electric</b> 238:5,7,10 290:6 | engineer 307:10                                   | 248:3                                  |
| 31:11 50:1,10,16                    | electrical 210:17                | engineering 77:17                                 | <b>equal</b> 101:23                    |
| 61:16,17 65:16<br>69:7 124:3 140:11 |                                  | 137:5,7 292:8,12                                  | 127:20,23 185:7                        |
| 256:12,24 259:11                    | <b>ELG</b> 259:9 277:11,         | <b>ensure</b> 258:19                              | 261:14                                 |
| 260:24 277:12                       |                                  | 262:16 285:14                                     | equipment 52:5                         |
| 285:12 292:14                       | <b>email</b> 266:13              | 298:11                                            | 63:9 149:13 200:4<br>257:16,19 261:11, |
| 294:10 296:2<br>316:6 317:15        | emerging 281:18                  | enter 23:13 162:14                                | 15 267:12 282:2                        |
|                                     | emissions 52:4                   | entered 24:1                                      | <b>ER</b> 182:8                        |
| early 14:21 15:2,<br>17 40:2 165:9  | 147:18 148:6                     | 295:3                                             | ER2008-0318                            |
| 205:13                              | emphasis 46:19                   | entering 72:7                                     | 124:5 125:16                           |
| earn 121:10,18                      | Empire 178:5                     | 306:16                                            | 143:22                                 |
| 212:8                               | 243:1 244:24                     | entire 6:23 7:5                                   | ER2019-0374                            |
| easiest 112:10                      | employed 77:15,                  | 28:13 119:23                                      | 182:9                                  |
| 264:21                              | 16 153:7,9 307:7                 | 120:2,13 137:11<br>172:20 173:15                  | err 215:12                             |
| easily 139:8                        | employee 283:14                  | 182:17 183:1                                      | erroneous 207:2                        |
| <b>Eastern</b> 132:19               | employees 298:22                 | 206:1 215:17                                      | error 220:23                           |
| 149:9                               | <b>EMS</b> 87:3 88:1             | 229:12,15 242:25<br>245:19 280:5                  | essential 18:19                        |
| economic 34:23                      | encourage 28:9                   |                                                   | essentially 30:9                       |
| 35:1,7 305:10                       | Encouraging                      | entirety 100:3<br>125:24 132:5                    | 65:12 86:21                            |
| <b>edge</b> 214:9                   | 31:10                            | 141:19                                            | 127:21 138:6                           |
| edification 139:25                  | end 18:1 24:23                   | entities 279:10                                   | 202:3 204:16                           |
| 3434.31.                            | 45:14 49:16 76:3                 | 291:17                                            | 207:24 213:12                          |
|                                     |                                  |                                                   | 257:25 318:20                          |
|                                     | I                                | I                                                 | I                                      |



| establish 28:6<br>61:1                                                                                                               |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| established 66:1                                                                                                                     |
| estimate 61:4,14,<br>18 70:5 104:22<br>117:17,24 122:4,6<br>216:18 269:20<br>273:11,14,20,22,<br>25 274:1,5,7,10<br>280:16 294:12,18 |
| estimated 161:7<br>165:1 171:12<br>311:7,9                                                                                           |
| estimates 21:1<br>33:14 42:19 60:22<br>62:1,2 63:9 165:2<br>207:6,12,13 209:8<br>210:14 274:6<br>290:10 296:10,14<br>311:15          |
| <b>estimation</b> 88:12 279:8                                                                                                        |
| Eubanks 12:14,<br>19,23 18:18 19:12<br>20:24 21:13 24:25<br>25:5 26:24                                                               |
| Eubanks' 25:4                                                                                                                        |
| evaluate 32:22                                                                                                                       |
| evaluation 86:24                                                                                                                     |
| <b>evening</b> 307:3,4                                                                                                               |
| <b>event</b> 173:9<br>208:15 227:5                                                                                                   |
| eventually 109:25                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Evergy</b> 141:10 303:15                                                                                                          |
| evidence 83:5<br>95:15 116:4,8<br>179:10 199:12<br>201:16 203:22<br>204:17,19 206:14<br>207:8 216:12                                 |

| Evidentiary                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 295:4                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| evidentiary 7:17<br>10:14 36:14 68:12<br>72:12 77:3 152:22<br>165:24 204:18<br>232:7 254:4<br>306:20 317:6                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>evolve</b> 35:5,6                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| evolving 108:23                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>exact</b> 102:10 159:5 205:22,24                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>exam</b> 68:24<br>185:11                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 9:19,22 10:1,20<br>11:23 12:3,6<br>22:11 24:8 28:3,<br>19 38:19,22 39:2,<br>7 49:6 53:11 56:5<br>68:21,23 69:1,19<br>71:12 72:16,17,<br>21,24 76:1 77:9<br>79:2,3,6,9,12<br>91:12 92:10,16<br>97:21,24 98:2,8<br>114:16 115:18,20<br>123:24 127:2<br>129:14,15,18,24<br>145:13 150:9,19<br>153:2 154:4,5,8,<br>13 167:1,5<br>174:22,23 175:1<br>179:11,12,15<br>187:21 189:25<br>192:19,23 195:11,<br>13,15,22 200:25<br>201:5 218:7,10<br>223:18 228:19<br>230:16 232:12<br>233:8,11,14<br>239:12 252:22<br>254:21 261:22<br>262:10 266:16,18<br>269:7 273:9<br>275:14 276:1 |

| 293:20 295:11<br>297:22 301:10,12<br>15 304:16 307:1<br>308:10,15,18<br>311:1 312:25<br>313:7,8,12 314:6<br>315:9,10,14<br>317:14 318:5,6,10<br>319:22                                         |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| examined 7:22<br>10:18 39:5 65:4<br>69:25 73:8 77:7<br>98:6 129:22<br>152:25 167:11<br>175:7 179:22<br>193:8 195:20<br>232:10 254:19<br>267:3 269:5<br>301:22 306:24<br>312:23 314:4<br>317:12 |
| <b>exceed</b> 262:23                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>exceeded</b> 215:6, 15                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Excel</b> 112:12 162:9 170:20                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Excellence</b> 255:1 292:7                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Excellent 223:25                                                                                                                                                                               |
| exception 107:24                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>exceptions</b> 250:1 251:11                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>excess</b> 160:15 171:15 172:18,23                                                                                                                                                          |
| 184:25 189:11 <sup>°</sup>                                                                                                                                                                     |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 184:25 189:11                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 184:25 189:11 <b>exchange</b> 105:12                                                                                                                                                           |
| 184:25 189:11  exchange 105:12  exclude 310:15  excluded 185:1                                                                                                                                 |

| 2,     | excused 6:18,21,<br>23 7:4 35:25<br>67:16 76:18 301:3<br>312:11,13 316:24<br>320:12                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|--------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 0      | exercise 46:18,21<br>47:8 54:9<br>exhausted 210:11                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 1      | exhausted 210:11 217:1  exhibit 8:6,7,20, 24,25 9:6,7 10:25 11:2,14,17,18,20 36:20,21,23 37:22 38:14 67:2,3,4,8 77:20 78:3,24 111:7 112:21 113:23,24,25 133:5,8 135:14,16 151:9 153:13,20 154:14,19 157:17 161:16,17,18,19, 21,22 162:21,24 163:7,14,25 164:5 197:9 199:1,11 232:17 233:1 244:25 245:1,7,11 249:25 269:10,12 271:1,7 275:21, 23,24 295:3,12,21 |
| ;<br>4 | 297:8 315:6<br>317:22 318:1,2                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 18     | exhibits 37:11,20<br>153:22,25 161:1<br>162:3 307:13<br>308:2,5,7                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 3<br>2 | exist 61:13 108:10<br>138:9 172:8,16<br>231:5 268:11                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|        | <b>existed</b> 106:5 107:8                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|        | <b>existence</b> 47:19 48:2                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|        | existing 127:16<br>157:24 236:24                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |



**exists** 70:18 109:1,5 **expect** 129:4 159:9 221:18,21 222:1 expectancy 281:15 expected 6:19 83:16 164:7 185:8 247:20 281:13 expending 219:8 expenditure's 219:17 expenditures 311:24 **expense** 110:15 139:7 180:4,10 209:11 211:17 219:23 220:20,23 221:21 226:4 235:6,17 248:17 expensed 110:17 expenses 82:14 180:7,16 210:20, 22,25 212:13 213:16 217:17 220:2,17 233:23 234:5,12 305:8 expensive 214:7, 10 222:8,11 261:9 experience 32:5 200:2 expert 42:1 103:24 123:5 199:20 203:23 204:12,13, 14.21 205:18 208:8 272:17 experts 23:17 194:5 199:21 272:9 274:12,13

**experts'** 272:10

**expire** 288:2 explain 12:20 61:7,20 139:22 166:17 170:5 173:20 184:23 205:19 253:3 290:15 309:11 explained 31:20 93:10 explaining 31:20 117:20 explanation 97:13 137:15 143:1 206:12 explanatory 61:8 explicit 51:15 114:20 124:10 **explicitly** 14:18,24 50:2,25 115:25 125:2,11 **express** 13:20 **extend** 288:9 293:3 extended 99:4 extensive 49:1 extent 58:5 163:16,21 170:9 external 139:20 extra 184:10,15 extract 70:9 extraordinary 243:4 **extreme** 40:4,7 F **FAC** 27:17

facilities 277:4

278:4,6 281:12

**facility** 110:19 193:21 273:18 291:19 **facility's** 310:14 fact 13:12 15:10 23:3 78:1 102:16 105:5 131:14 135:24 153:25 160:21 165:8 188:2 194:10 229:23 233:1 234:8 235:14 243:21 249:9 270:13 272:20 274:3 280:3 296:1 313:18 factored 105:12 **factors** 51:21,24 110:1 220:8,15 222:9,10

facts 28:6 74:7 229:21 factually 14:16 fail 122:23 127:15 fails 261:11

failure 14:6 19:3

141:8

fair 17:24 19:9,10 27:2 58:7 79:19 91:19 92:4 138:12 141:20 143:13 144:17 151:12,18 215:20 216:15 217:25 267:14 303:20

fairly 21:1 43:6 44:22 122:8

fairness 159:6 faith 132:24 133:15

**fall** 54:21 65:4

276:20 287:13 falsification 155:1 falsified 201:19 familiar 39:15 85:13 103:10 148:7 158:9,13 159:5 175:10,15 176:11,15,16 183:12 193:11,18, 20 200:6 203:13 224:22 235:19,20,

familiarities 57:20 familiarity 56:14 58:17,19 fashion 63:24

22 236:5 240:20

242:7 250:16

279:3 296:16

faster 174:13 252:2

fate 282:24 fault 274:24

**Featherstone** 147:10

**federal** 198:19 209:25 236:10.12 238:7,8 247:21 248:1 288:11

feedback 63:22

feeds 277:20

feel 17:3 74:7 122:6 216:8 279:5

**FERC** 236:10

**FGD** 42:1

field 284:3 291:4

**figure** 59:10 62:13,16 66:20 67:3 89:9 95:14 100:25 101:2,4,5,

| 8 115:21 117:9                      | 135:9 151:24                            | flows 123:12        | forward 19:17                        |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 130:19,23 131:6<br>134:10 136:17    | 161:7 166:6 213:1<br>309:8              | 256:2,10            | 31:4,15 64:3<br>76:12 79:22 81:24    |
| 144:6,8 156:24                      |                                         | fluent 245:9        | 82:3 83:17 87:1,4,                   |
| 235:9 279:21                        | find 19:19 31:2<br>44:24 90:20          | focused 147:17      | 24 88:9,10 98:12,                    |
| 288:22 289:2                        | 139:25 144:13,14                        | focusing 148:6      | 14,16 99:2 102:8,                    |
| 316:2                               | 145:21 184:11,17                        | folks 279:2 280:19  | 17 105:20 116:12                     |
| <b>figures</b> 115:25               | 237:24 274:14                           | 284:11 292:12       | 170:11 215:7<br>231:2                |
| 116:14                              | 280:4,14 281:17<br>282:19,21            | <b>follow</b> 40:21 | found 10:5 44:6                      |
| file 8:4 38:2 44:15                 | ·                                       | follow-up 291:25    | 51:3,7 144:8,13                      |
| 45:5 57:11 85:1<br>111:11,19 112:5, | finding 130:18,21                       | 313:19              | 152:10 168:15,20                     |
| 12 125:25 126:5                     | Findings 229:21,                        | football 291:4      | 169:20 244:14                        |
| 160:22,23                           | 22 243:20                               | footnote 43:19      | 282:16                               |
| filed 12:22 22:17,                  | <b>finds</b> 46:14 139:20 199:21 244:15 |                     | foundation                           |
| 22 23:12,21 43:17                   |                                         | footprint 261:4     | 103:12,21 108:15,<br>17 109:24 110:8 |
| 44:17,18 46:13                      | fine 36:7 58:22<br>243:17 254:1         | forecasting 56:23   | 116:21 119:16                        |
| 54:25 56:15 65:4<br>79:25 81:9 85:5 | 264:8                                   | foregoing 27:21     | 135:16 136:25                        |
| 112:12 161:13                       | finer 258:13                            | foremost 164:21     | 203:18 271:21                        |
| 255:9 300:19                        | finish 129:5                            | forever 109:1       | fourth 95:10                         |
| files 245:22                        | 231:24                                  | forget 37:15        | 287:5,17 298:11                      |
| filing 44:20,21,22,                 | finished 160:8                          | forgive 141:5       | framework 281:19                     |
| 23 45:13,20 46:3,                   | 263:12,17                               | forgot 235:1 268:5  | frankly 61:19                        |
| 5 53:16,20 56:9,<br>15 57:3,6,24    | fire 256:3                              | forgotten 151:21    | 125:5                                |
| 116:4 269:9                         | fired 94:19                             | form 64:16 89:20    | <b>free</b> 177:15 181:8,            |
| filings 34:19 49:22                 | firm 32:8,9 33:14,                      | 116:21 153:16       |                                      |
| 51:20                               | 17 137:5                                | 272:10              | front 21:23 82:19<br>88:25 90:9,11   |
| filter 259:18                       | firms 137:7                             | forma 161:6         | 99:13 112:3,5                        |
| final 18:8 74:22                    | fix 261:12                              | formal 45:1         | 122:17 176:15                        |
| 104:17,20 122:3                     | fixed 144:23                            | formally 49:17      | 187:12 190:17<br>203:11 221:6,22     |
| 274:6                               | flip 170:14                             | format 59:5 90:11   | 243:5 293:24                         |
| finally 60:22                       | •                                       | 109:1               | fuel 103:20                          |
| <b>finance</b> 103:23               | float 212:3                             | formula 171:13      | 108:14,18 139:6                      |
| 135:10                              | floor 130:20 137:1                      | 213:18              | full 63:4,6 96:20                    |
| financed 192:11                     | 255:19                                  | formulate 62:13     | 166:9 221:1                          |
| 265:13,15,18                        | flow 27:17 123:10<br>256:7              | Fortson 10:10,17,   | 223:11 227:11                        |
| financial 127:3                     |                                         | 23 11:18,19 22:12   | 245:12,13 319:1                      |
| 191:19                              | flowed 209:22<br>210:22                 | 28:5 35:24 50:16    | fully 96:19 97:8                     |
| financing 94:9                      | 210.22                                  | Fortson's 11:13     | 105:8 127:12<br>173:25 225:3         |
| 127:4,10,15,16                      |                                         |                     | 110.20 220.0                         |
|                                     | I                                       |                     | I                                    |



**Evidentiary Hearing** April 17, 2024Index: function..hamstrung 283:15 318:25 74:12 142:21.24 39:8.9 41:20 44:1. 134:3 148:17 182:8 191:18 2 49:7 61:13 62:1 208:2 255:19 function 108:4 244:17 304:1 65:6 67:17 73:11, 262:17 284:3 186:19 12 79:13,14 86:8, groundwater generally 46:7 functionally 9 91:13,14 104:2 132:2,17 180:12, 197:15,23 198:7, 119:12 109:20 129:25 18 183:25 236:6 15,20,23 200:4,7 130:2 131:4 fund 222:16 254:8 281:15 208:1,6 209:19 132:24 133:14 210:13 233:22 fundamental generate 122:16 139:11 140:13 234:9 239:18 159:6 204:18 188:21 144:24 168:21 247:1,5,9,16,17, fundamentally 206:17 233:15 generated 84:10, 21 248:8 250:9,19 121:2 180:7 260:11,12 261:23, 13 253:6,8,9,23 24 264:15,19 **funds** 208:20 258:2,17 259:3,4 generating 283:21 273:19 307:2,3 210:11 262:18,21 generation 26:11 **goods** 227:6,13 **group** 6:13 194:16 **fungible** 131:23 67:9 305:6.7 283:3,4 292:9,10 governance 41:8 furnaces 142:22 generators 276:24 governed 234:23 grow 227:6,7 future 19:25 20:9 genuinely 13:21 government **guess** 14:5 16:9 21:3,12 25:7 31:4, Giesmann 247:9 279:10 22:13 27:5 29:7 9 34:17 39:14 31:22 58:5 65:5 41:23 51:14 64:17 **aive** 7:17 10:14 governmental 66:24 80:21 96:25 104:21 12:16 14:4,9 41:14 106:23 109:16 117:6,25 120:17 36:13 44:7 62:11 grand 221:25 122:11,19 128:8 141:7 181:23 63:3.22 68:11 72:11 77:2 96:9 196:14 222:13,14 139:11 165:12,16 **grant** 215:3 169:15,22 173:7,9 110:24 125:13 225:5 229:5 granted 6:23 7:5 289:10 304:4 185:2,17 188:11 126:2 128:7 38:3 54:6 307:4 312:5 196:24 207:18,21 130:17 138:25 208:24 209:6 152:15,21 164:13 **grants** 107:20 quidance 235:4 165:22 175:22 231:2 247:22 granular 120:24 238:20 288:13 310:16 311:13 193:3 198:1 232:6 298:3 **guide** 20:2 315:24 236:1 237:23 gravel 103:20 238:10 249:24 guideline 259:15 255:22 254:4 255:19 G quidelines 277:13 267:6 276:16,19 gray 90:5 306:19 311:18 **guys** 13:12 53:15 **GAAP** 234:23 **grease** 259:13 317:6 gain 279:9 great 170:23 189:3 Н giving 96:7 121:5 267:10 **gained** 177:3 134:21 195:18 Hahn 43:24,25 gas 41:4 145:2 greatly 95:20 glad 138:21 48:16 49:3 53:12 210:17,18,19 arid 283:22 284:10 **glycol** 277:5 54:1,8 212:12 gross 180:21,24 goal 121:24,25 half 131:4 141:6 gave 18:15 65:20 164:23 219:9 around 97:2 220:21 243:13 296:2 108:25 110:2,7 good 6:14 12:19 hamstrung 24:4 general 25:2 46:17 127:5 131:16



| hand 7:16 10:13<br>77:1 146:2,12,15<br>152:20 232:5<br>235:23 254:3<br>306:18 317:4<br>319:4 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>handed</b> 197:8<br>224:3                                                                 |
| handing 99:24<br>238:25 295:12                                                               |
| handle 21:19<br>245:14                                                                       |
| handled 176:13<br>183:17                                                                     |
| hang 205:2 235:19                                                                            |
| hanging 37:15                                                                                |
| <b>happen</b> 223:19 312:1                                                                   |
| happened 14:23<br>23:3,5 26:11<br>141:22 245:6                                               |
| happening 262:19                                                                             |
| <b>happy</b> 106:8,12 300:17                                                                 |
| hard 13:12,15,17<br>48:9 57:23 58:21<br>142:7 250:19                                         |
| hardened 108:15                                                                              |
| harm 18:19 19:1,6,<br>12 20:8 21:3,11<br>25:5 31:1,8 32:24                                   |
| harmless 12:25                                                                               |
| 13:6 20:18 24:25<br>25:2 29:24                                                               |
| 13:6 20:18 24:25                                                                             |
| 13:6 20:18 24:25<br>25:2 29:24<br>harms 19:11,15                                             |
| 13:6 20:18 24:25<br>25:2 29:24<br>harms 19:11,15<br>25:7                                     |

| Evidentia                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| hear 7:7 11:20<br>38:13 48:19 88:22<br>112:22 121:23<br>132:11 163:4,9<br>175:5 179:19<br>245:20 251:22<br>252:3 265:10<br>296:7 308:6 318:1                                                                                                                                                                         |
| heard 20:24 50:16<br>86:20,21 105:1<br>140:11 239:14<br>289:21 292:14                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| hearing 6:23 7:5,<br>18 8:25 9:7,8<br>10:15 11:19,21<br>13:19 36:14 37:2,<br>10 68:12 72:12<br>77:3 112:22<br>113:25 114:1<br>116:25 152:22<br>162:25 163:3,5,8,<br>10,14 164:6 232:7<br>249:25 254:5<br>272:1 275:10,17,<br>22,23,25 296:23<br>297:1,8 306:20<br>308:6,7 314:12<br>315:4,7 317:6,19<br>318:3 320:16 |
| hearsay 199:2,8,<br>12 203:23 249:3<br>271:16,17,20                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| helpful 107:11<br>111:4 113:20<br>203:8                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| helping 206:13                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>helps</b> 189:3 252:24                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>hey</b> 282:9                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| high 46:19 138:3<br>141:25 146:15<br>147:24 257:22<br>273:25 274:9                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

83:7,10 291:24 92:1,2 293:15 99:22,23 301:19 08:23 315:18,19 16:13 318:15,16 19:9 Isman's 116:18 46:21 254:11 **me** 18:15,21 6:21 119:2 **nestly** 42:13 16:1,12 nor 6:14,25 9:5, 7,20 11:25 12:2 2:2,4,10 38:21 2:25 53:2 56:4 1:13,22 72:19 3:1 75:11 78:15 9:5 111:13 15:16 154:18 64:11 166:16 70:24 195:18 00:13 253:18 **pe** 150:8 260:3, 280:20 283:5 **peful** 21:7 ping 283:20 pper 131:22 ppers 142:11, 3 278:12 rizon 207:9,16 25:5 **stility** 46:16 urly 279:23 urs 279:22 use 118:24,25 19:5 ıdsonville 73:17 ndreds 53:21 56:12 146:12



|                         | Evidentia                     | ry Hearing April 17,            | 2024Index: hurryindividua |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| hurry 236:4             | implementation                | include 16:15                   | 173:21 176:7              |
| hurt 256:20             | 31:24                         | 51:20 56:22 66:21               | 177:10 178:4              |
|                         | implementations               | 79:17 83:10 86:25               | 179:25 180:5,9,           |
| hydrogen 276:24         | 32:4                          | 161:2,3 162:13                  | 11,21,25 181:1            |
| hypothetical            |                               | 172:25 173:8                    | 184:25 185:1              |
| 27:11,19 31:18          | implemented                   | 180:20 185:6,22                 | 191:13 192:1              |
| hypothetically          | 247:16                        | 189:7 198:23                    | 213:23                    |
| 27:11 62:24 207:7       | implication 60:23             | 207:19 209:10                   | inconsistent              |
| 27.11 02.21 207.7       | 61:15                         | 219:9,10 231:8                  | 166:3 295:25              |
|                         | implicit 229:6                | 251:23 270:4                    | 296:2,15 316:11           |
|                         | <u>-</u>                      | 302:18 303:18,20                | 318:24 320:4              |
| id 306:12               | implicitly 229:5              | included 13:7                   | incorporate 31:10         |
|                         | imply 19:23                   | 55:22 65:19 74:14               | 34:22,25                  |
| idea 21:1 80:4,25       | 198:22                        | 91:21 94:8,22                   | ·                         |
| 124:23 139:11           | importance 47:1               | 95:5 96:11,12                   | incorporated              |
| 159:6 181:2             |                               | 99:3 111:17,20                  | 30:22 33:6                |
| 216:13 229:6            | important 46:22               | 127:8 130:7                     | incorrect 268:4           |
| ideal 283:6             | 47:7,9 63:17,18,<br>19 104:19 | 139:17 175:17,20,               | increase 261:11           |
| ideally 223:10          | 19 104:19                     | 24 176:2 194:2                  | 286:10                    |
| -                       | importantly                   | 196:8,24 206:20,                |                           |
| identical 74:6          | 173:19                        | 22 207:24 209:8                 | increased 227:14          |
| identification          | impossible 13:21              | 212:17,20 219:2<br>220:9 224:23 | increases 169:10          |
| 77:20 144:19            |                               | 229:5,16 231:1,7                | incurred 197:1            |
| 153:20 232:16           | impressed 130:20              | 259:22 260:16,17,               | 207:18 209:21             |
| 297:2                   | improper 203:18               | 23 274:9 290:10,                | 219:10,17 230:23          |
| identified 40:4         | improve 63:24                 | 23,24 299:10                    | 231:4,6,15,16             |
| 45:13 135:18            | improvement 48:4              | 302:21,23 303:14                | 304:25                    |
| 285:15                  | improvement 40.4              | 304:1 310:11                    | incurring 52:13           |
| identify 93:19,22       | improvements                  | includes 67:1                   | 135:10 215:23             |
| •                       | 303:16                        | 77:19 87:25 88:1                | 216:2                     |
| Illinois 109:10         | imprudent 29:21               | 153:12,17                       |                           |
| 132:19 138:3            | imprudently 29:23             | ,                               | incurs 219:23             |
| 141:25 147:23,24        |                               | including 17:17                 | 220:5                     |
| 148:3 149:9 255:3       | inability 13:23               | 33:15 67:5 83:14<br>84:6 95:2,8 | independent               |
| imagine 99:18           | inaccurate 207:2              | 130:11 151:23                   | 199:13 235:11             |
| imminent 51:5           | 240:3                         | 182:19 184:25                   | independently             |
| impact 26:2 32:24       | inadvertently                 | inclusion 108:1                 | 296:11                    |
| 34:11 52:7,9            | 270:3,14                      | 130:4 139:3                     | indeterminable            |
| 190:12 211:18           | incentive 222:22              | 229:20,25 243:24                | 138:8                     |
| 220:16 221:18           | 223:1,3                       | ·                               | index 229:13              |
| impacted 35:14          | inches 132:1,2                | inclusive 183:2,10              |                           |
| •                       | 137:10 142:2                  | income 96:15                    | indication 63:2,23        |
| impacts 52:12<br>147:18 |                               | 160:10,14,15                    | individual 203:13         |
| 147.10                  | incinerator 142:1             | 165:10,12,16                    | 263:22                    |
|                         |                               | 169:18,25 170:9                 |                           |
|                         |                               |                                 |                           |



| individually<br>263:22                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Industrial 6:17                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| industry 103:25                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| infinitum 216:2                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| inflated 121:6                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| inflation 121:6<br>226:24 227:5<br>228:1,5,7                                                                                                                                                                     |
| inflows 219:25                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| influence 33:3<br>170:5                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| inform 87:9 272:7<br>296:13                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| informally 45:2<br>141:13                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| information 11:7 20:21,22 23:23 24:14 32:12,21 33:20 35:7 40:10 54:14 57:8,9 64:2 69:9,10 81:7 86:13 87:8,11 89:16 92:1 134:21 202:14 204:14 205:19 210:5 270:21 272:10 274:13 290:22 300:18 309:11 311:23 317:5 |
| informative 54:10,                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| informing 272:14                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| infrastructure<br>60:5                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| inhibit 302:15                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| initial 34:8 50:6<br>95:12 105:6<br>115:20                                                                                                                                                                       |
| initially 302:18                                                                                                                                                                                                 |

| Evidentia                                                                                                                                                                         |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| initiates 262:1                                                                                                                                                                   |
| inject 260:25                                                                                                                                                                     |
| injection 52:6,11                                                                                                                                                                 |
| input 274:3                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>inquire</b> 85:19 126:7                                                                                                                                                        |
| inquiry 66:4 92:18                                                                                                                                                                |
| insight 106:9                                                                                                                                                                     |
| inspect 260:21                                                                                                                                                                    |
| install 213:2                                                                                                                                                                     |
| installation 285:2,<br>4 287:21                                                                                                                                                   |
| installed 15:4<br>260:21                                                                                                                                                          |
| installing 286:6                                                                                                                                                                  |
| instant 211:20                                                                                                                                                                    |
| integrated 33:15<br>49:8,16 51:19                                                                                                                                                 |
| intelligent 62:13                                                                                                                                                                 |
| intend 49:4                                                                                                                                                                       |
| intended 15:6<br>21:10 147:20<br>162:13                                                                                                                                           |
| intending 202:9                                                                                                                                                                   |
| intent 96:8 162:7,8                                                                                                                                                               |
| intention 231:24                                                                                                                                                                  |
| interacts 29:24                                                                                                                                                                   |
| interest 107:19,21<br>108:7 121:10,19<br>122:10,16,18<br>123:1,10,12<br>128:13,24 177:15<br>181:8,10 185:8<br>190:21 212:25<br>221:9 223:13<br>291:17 292:21<br>293:1,6,12 295:25 |
| interested 257:15                                                                                                                                                                 |

| 291:21                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | investn                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| interesting 280:4                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 10,12                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| interim 126:10                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 25 82:<br>83:10,                                                                                                                                                                        |
| internal 177:2                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 84:8,1                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 191:22 280:18                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 93:22,                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| internet 260:7                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 127:24<br>173:25                                                                                                                                                                        |
| interpose 146:18<br>148:11                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | investn<br>30:23                                                                                                                                                                        |
| interpretation<br>178:15 211:15                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 305:5,                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 260:3                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | invoice                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| interpreting 66:19                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | invoice                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| intersection 101:8                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| intervening 89:13                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | involve                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| introduce 202:20<br>254:14<br>introduced                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 37:10<br>256:11<br>292:13                                                                                                                                                               |
| 201:16,22 266:10                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| inventories                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | involve<br>50:10                                                                                                                                                                        |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 30.10                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 146:13,20                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | involve                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 146:13,20 inventory 94:6,7,                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 146:13,20                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | involve<br>involvir<br>IRP 12<br>10,11<br>18:5 2<br>23:9,16<br>11 29:<br>12,16,<br>6,7,9,2<br>39:12<br>9,14,16<br>44:4,6<br>18 45:<br>12,16,<br>49:14,<br>15,22<br>53:13,<br>56:9,1     |
| inventory 94:6,7,<br>8,23 95:21 96:11,<br>12,17 104:11<br>110:14,16 119:19,<br>23 124:17 127:24<br>144:18 145:3<br>146:5,7,8,12,15<br>151:23 265:18<br>281:7,10,11<br>282:7,10,21<br>291:11 302:25<br>303:4,15,22,24,25<br>304:5 305:14<br>315:22,24<br>invested 79:18<br>investigation<br>35:11,19<br>investigatory | involve<br>involvir<br>IRP 12<br>10,11<br>18:5 2<br>23:9,11<br>11 29:<br>19,22 1<br>12,16,<br>6,7,9,2<br>39:12 1<br>9,14,1<br>44:4,6<br>18 45:<br>12,16,<br>49:14,<br>15,22 1<br>53:13, |



nents 62:16 293:2 6,

44:25

**220:13** 

**es** 216:7

**32:7** 

**ed** 23:15,18 127:9 139:6 1 273:16,18 3,17,18

ement 136:23

**s** 13:16

**ng** 190:5

::23 14:1,3, 16:15 17:25 2:18,22 0,16 25:10, :15 30:18, 31:21 32:9, 17,19 33:2, 24 34:20 40:6 41:1,4, 8 43:12 ,7,9,11,14, :20 46:8,11, 19 47:1,7, 19,21 48:5 18 50:11, 51:18 20 54:9,13 5,19 57:4, 21,24,25 59:1,3



63:13,21 64:2,11, 24 65:3,13,14,18 **IRP's** 35:11 **IRPS** 14:12,17 17:7 32:3 49:25 50:18 51:1 Irrespective 67:2 **IRS** 177:16 178:7 192:4 **Island** 14:22 15:2 17:19 18:14 19:21 20:6 21:8 22:19 25:19 35:10 40:24 41:23 67:24 79:18 80:6,10,13 81:14, 22 82:21 83:2,6, 11,24 84:11,14,19 85:17 89:22 92:21 94:7 100:22 101:7,13 115:11 133:21 140:19 141:1 142:4 147:13 148:9 149:8,16 160:12 168:2,13 171:21 172:21,24 173:2, 12,15 182:18 183:1 191:25 197:16 198:15 200:5 224:17 247:5,11 268:9,11 272:13 283:18 285:11,24 287:3 288:25 291:13 295:16 315:23 **Island's** 41:11 43:15 197:23 **isolate** 48:10 issuance 185:3 288:15,17 309:5 issue 6:19,21 7:9 12:17 13:5,24

17:2 18:15 19:6

25:13 28:9 30:1 31:6,8 46:5,9 67:22,23 76:19 78:6 81:6 89:17 91:17 94:4,5,14 95:22 97:6.16 110:22 112:1 126:6 129:4 130:3 136:16 145:5,6 151:21 152:16 155:16,17 160:8, 9,21 164:8,10,21, 24 165:4 179:2 192:9 197:13 204:5,18 211:5 215:2 229:4 231:25 255:12,15 256:25 258:1,21 259:23 263:12,23 265:11 266:6 268:5.7 273:4 276:15 281:6 301:7 311:17 316:1 318:5 320:13 issued 55:9,10 95:8 196:17 204:8 300:13 309:9 319:6 issues 6:6 12:21 13:1,13 19:25 20:8 24:4 28:23 31:3,16 34:17 45:12,14,16 57:16 63:20 78:19,21 148:7,9 149:8,12 154:3 179:9 200:3 233:5 238:8 256:5 257:3 263:19,21 265:6,8,9,11 266:2,15 270:24 271:18,19 283:8 300:24 301:7,11 308:11 313:4 314:9 315:9

italics 236:18 item 96:14 196:7, 19 213:22 220:11 items 20:16 127:22 213:8,9 223:3 281:24 282:1,5,13,14 310:12 319:23 J **J-O-H-N** 153:6 **James** 254:18,25 269:4 January 97:3 138:25 140:22.24 141:1 182:14 **JAR-R-3** 89:19,24 **Jeff** 37:4 **Jim** 117:1 136:20 152:3 267:9 268:24 **iob** 12:19 119:13 159:23 286:1 John 7:1 76:24 77:6,11,13 152:18,24 153:4,5 179:4,21 313:24 314:3 joint 45:13 46:3,5 **JSR-R** 153:12 **JSR-R-02** 161:11 163:6 **JSR-S-1** 153:18 **JSR-S-2** 153:19 **JSR-S-5** 153:19 judge 6:2,7,12,16 7:3,15,20 8:22 9:6,15,18,21,25

23 12:1,3,6,8,9,10 21:24 22:3,5,8 24:7,10,12 25:3 27:23 28:1,2,11, 15,17 29:25 30:4, 15,25 32:14 33:2, 6,8 35:24 36:4,8, 12,16,17 37:1,4,7, 17,20 38:1,10,13, 18,19,22 39:1 43:23 48:18,20,23 49:4 52:17.24 53:1,3 54:17 55:24 56:2 58:12, 22 59:10 60:21 61:6,24 62:6,10, 12 64:20 67:14, 15,17,21 68:9,14, 22 69:2,3,6,12,16, 22 71:2,7,10,14, 16,17,20,23 72:3, 9,14,15,17,20,24 73:2,4,6 75:6,7, 12,16,23 76:16, 17,20,25 77:5 78:7,10,14,16,25 79:3,6,8,9 86:2,4 88:19,20,24 89:8, 12,18 90:4,16,19, 21,23 91:6,10,11 92:10,13 94:3,12, 16 95:24,25 96:2, 5 97:12,15,21,24 98:1,2 99:23 102:22,25 103:2,3 106:14,18 107:12 110:10,11,13 111:3,14 112:18, 24,25 113:6,12, 16,20 114:6,8,11, 15 115:15 118:2, 3,5 123:15,16,20, 21 124:22 125:13, 17 126:1,12,14, 20,25 129:3,9,11, 13,15,18,20 133:4,6,7,9



10:2,3,8,12 11:16,

135:13,21 136:2, 6,8,11 143:16,17, 21 145:10 146:23 147:6 148:11,21 149:1 150:7,17,18 152:13,14,19 154:5,7,8,12 155:6,9,15,20,23 156:20,21,23 157:1,16,20,21 158:5,6,8 159:12, 16,17,19,20,24 161:20,22 162:2, 7,12,16,20 163:24 164:5,12,15 166:19,22 167:1, 3.5,8,13 168:6 174:6,9,10,12,15, 17,19,21,23 175:1,4,9 178:16, 20,23,25 179:6, 12,14,15,18,24 187:14,16,17,20, 22 188:22 189:22 190:1 192:8,17, 19,21,23 193:1,5, 10 194:19,22,24 195:1,3,6,8,12,15 197:7 198:25 199:5,17,24 200:6,10,14,17,24 201:4,8,11,24 202:16,23 203:1, 4,9,17 204:1,20 205:4,7,12,24 206:3,7,11 218:1, 2,7 223:16 224:2 226:21 228:12,13, 16 229:10 230:10. 13,15 231:20,21, 23 232:4 233:7,9, 11 235:25 237:3, 8,21 238:11,16, 19,22,24 239:4,8 242:23 245:4,14, 15 246:5,10,23 249:2,9,20,22

250:3,5 252:11, 14,16,18,21 253:16,19,24 254:2,7,17 255:8 258:25 259:1 261:19,20 262:7 263:3,6,11,16 264:5,10,17,23 265:4 266:1,5,9, 12,17,18,21,24 267:18,22,24 268:1,3,13,15,17, 21,22 269:1 270:23 271:3,5,8, 10,13,15 272:8, 15,18 273:2,5,8 274:11,16,20,22, 24 275:1,6,14,15 276:3,5,8,11 283:9,11 289:19 291:23 293:16,17, 19 294:24 295:8, 10,22 296:4,13, 16,19,22 297:6, 14,17,19,21,23 298:2,15 299:12, 15,16 300:23 301:1,4,6,9,12,15, 17,18,20,24 302:24 303:2 304:8,12,17 305:15 306:3,4,6, 8,10,12,17,22 308:4,9,13,15,18, 20,21,23,24 309:2 310:18,22,25 311:4,6 312:9,10, 12,16,17,20 313:8,10,12,14, 15,18,22 314:1, 17,20,23 315:2,6, 10,12,14,17,18 316:14,15,17,19, 21,24 317:3,9,21, 24 318:6,8,10,12, 13 319:10,11,13, 15,17,18 320:11

Judge's 24:23 jump 56:7 jumping 37:5 juncture 202:21 **June** 55:1 74:17 175:21 176:3 285:18,22 286:8, 25 287:6.15 justification 87:18 justify 47:12,17 justifying 84:6 JW-D1 294:2 **JW-D2** 271:7,13 K **Keevil** 37:4,7,8,17 Keith 69:4 72:4 73:7 129:10,21 161:10 163:1 174:18 175:6 195:7,19 235:9 239:6 301:5,21 Kenneth 42:1 kickoff 30:11 **Kim** 186:13,15,22 kind 14:11 28:21 30:5 44:23 57:5 86:13 107:11 108:21 119:15 125:3 134:9 145:23 159:8 204:12 212:14 223:7 230:17

231:10 251:8

280:4 289:23

290:1,2 291:4

309:20

259:7,20 264:15

296:24 303:6,18

**kinds** 31:3 191:7 **KM-S1** 163:3 **KMS-1** 161:10 knew 51:11 174:13 knowable 20:17 **knowing** 215:15 280:3 knowledge 8:11, 13 11:8 14:10 33:14 44:14 45:20 46:7 102:15 103:23 105:16 134:14 153:24 199:10,13,25 267:21 270:21 307:24 L **L-A-N-G-E** 8:3

**Labadie** 50:6 52:4, 8 281:25 282:3 Labadie's 52:10 labor 261:16 298:23 lack 15:22 191:4 **laid** 109:17 185:18 319:1 land 74:25 75:2 **landfill** 196:11 258:12 landfilled 152:7 283:1 289:8 Lange 7:13,21 8:2, 23,25 10:5 **Lange's** 8:18 language 188:25 **Lansford** 68:8,9,



| 17 69:23,24 71:24 74:19 93:12 95:22 97:3,14,16,19 98:5,9 99:24 106:14 112:8,13 113:4,11,22 114:2 118:1 125:14 127:3 129:3 132:11 161:24 162:4,22 165:25 166:16,21,24 167:10 174:15 185:18 186:16 187:5 192:14 193:7 195:3 223:20 224:9,19 263:25 266:3,5,8 267:2 268:6,22 |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Lansford's 74:1,                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 11 87:25 90:6<br>111:6 112:21<br>132:15 138:23<br>157:3 161:3,9,16<br>196:15,18 224:4<br>225:11 238:25<br>239:3,15 251:19                                                                                                                                                 |
| laptop 105:11<br>106:9,13 141:16<br>170:22                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| large 145:24<br>146:20 211:17<br>214:17 237:25<br>302:22                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| larger 302:9                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| late 18:3 64:25<br>65:8 132:9 164:17                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| law 167:15,16<br>236:25 248:1                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| lawyers 23:15                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| lay-down 290:19<br>291:8                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| layman's 86:13                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| lays 271:23                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |

| Hearing April 17, 20                                                                                  | 24Index: Lansford'slonge                                                                                |  |  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--|
| 23 176:5 181:17,                                                                                      | listing 144:1                                                                                           |  |  |
| 23 188:2,4,5,9<br>190:24 191:3,6,20                                                                   | lists 138:24                                                                                            |  |  |
| 210:10 236:21                                                                                         | literally 137:24                                                                                        |  |  |
| 309:25 311:3                                                                                          | litigated 65:5                                                                                          |  |  |
| Liberty 152:11<br>166:1,4,10<br>175:11,17,24<br>178:6 181:12<br>185:15,24 186:12,<br>23 190:4 228:21, | litigation 14:19<br>15:10 16:15 17:2,<br>19,23 21:15 22:14<br>24:5 49:19 50:11,<br>14                   |  |  |
| 22 230:2 242:12,<br>15,18 243:2,25<br>309:15                                                          | load 39:11,13,19,<br>23 51:8,13 56:22<br>66:7,13,22 67:4,8,<br>10 142:10                                |  |  |
| Liberty's 182:7                                                                                       | loaders 142:8                                                                                           |  |  |
| <b>life</b> 177:14 207:16 213:3 225:7                                                                 | loading 131:19                                                                                          |  |  |
| 281:15 293:3                                                                                          | loan 177:15 181:8,                                                                                      |  |  |
| light 145:23                                                                                          | 10                                                                                                      |  |  |
| lighter 290:1                                                                                         | <b>loans</b> 314:15                                                                                     |  |  |
| lighting 277:21                                                                                       | locate 90:8                                                                                             |  |  |
| likewise 6:20                                                                                         | located 304:21                                                                                          |  |  |
| limit 277:13                                                                                          | location 258:5<br>285:17,20                                                                             |  |  |
| limited 184:22<br>196:10 299:5                                                                        | logic 159:7                                                                                             |  |  |
| <b>limits</b> 19:23                                                                                   | logically 319:3                                                                                         |  |  |
| line-by-line 112:7                                                                                    | logistical 103:17                                                                                       |  |  |
| liner 211:1,11<br>257:17,18 260:16<br>liners 211:2,3<br>260:20<br>lines 49:2 168:1,7                  | long 129:4 134:17<br>197:14,21 198:14,<br>18 208:4 247:3<br>251:13 252:5<br>286:1 298:5 301:3<br>315:23 |  |  |
| 270:9                                                                                                 | long-lived 236:23                                                                                       |  |  |
| list 15:18 50:20<br>314:22<br>listed 46:4 50:22                                                       | long-term 31:23<br>32:3 144:25<br>210:23                                                                |  |  |
| 78:5 203:14<br>285:7,9 310:12                                                                         | longer 114:4<br>147:25 181:20<br>182:1 210:16                                                           |  |  |
| listening 118:7                                                                                       | 211:17 225:20                                                                                           |  |  |



283:22 284:10,20 10,17 37:11 38:18 178:17,25 195:7, М 288:4,12 42:11 56:4,5 8,11,19,23 197:8 58:10,15,16 60:20 199:9,19,24 looked 51:2 73:24 M-A-K-O-N 137:6 61:7,24 62:9,12, 200:13 201:25 81:17 125:6 206:6 15 64:19 67:13 202:4 203:7 272:23 276:21 macro 280:1 94:12,17 96:10 204:12,21 218:11 282:6 **made** 17:25 26:2 97:14,19 99:17 230:17 231:21 31:2 59:14,16 lose 34:3 100:16 106:16,18 235:10 239:7,9 60:13 64:7 68:18 244:6,8 245:8 111:8 113:11 loss 22:20,25 72:5 80:5,10,13 115:16,18 118:1 256:24 264:4 30:13 173:1,12 82:20,21 83:10 126:1,14 127:1,2 301:5,6,10,21 182:19 183:3 84:19 85:5,8,9 129:2,20,24 304:17 306:6 **losses** 183:7 92:19,20 110:2 133:4,7,10 310:6 128:8 131:5 134:7 lost 22:23 30:5 135:12,18,23 **Majors'** 161:10 135:25 138:11 235:19 136:5,7,10 146:18 162:14 235:13 157:24 162:4,5 147:25 148:11 lot 18:15 31:17 201:20 202:7 **make** 13:14 14:6 150:8,9 154:10, 34:5 36:8,10 44:3 219:17 244:24 17:8 21:3,8 24:12 13,18 155:15 49:7 59:5 83:18 245:7 269:22 37:5 41:3,6,12 156:21,25 157:19 107:2 124:25 293:2,3,8,10 45:13 50:12 61:10 159:19 162:2,11 137:20 146:16 309:22 77:23 79:15 82:1 163:16 164:4 218:11 221:18 86:19 88:12 91:3 264:5,17 265:25 main 87:5 123:9 222:9 235:7 94:13 107:14 266:3,9 268:2,19, 255:24 256:5 maintain 146:5 111:6 117:4,12 21,24 269:7 257:14 261:13 284:20 128:4,8 138:21 270:23 273:3,6,9 277:7 278:9 151:20 160:25 maintained 274:11,24 275:13 279:24 282:13 164:22 184:15 284:17 295:22 296:7.12 291:8 292:9 204:12 211:18 297:2,5,19,22 maintenance 212:23 218:20 lots 42:18 299:14,20 300:22, 211:3 212:6 234:5 222:10 224:20 25 301:17 303:1 **loud** 55:4 235:16 241:2,4 227:14,15 235:15 304:14,16 306:2 244:16 248:14 love 254:17 244:24 257:9 308:20 310:24 260:16,19 283:24 260:21 276:22 low 95:18 109:7.8 311:1 312:8 284:1,6,8 292:11 277:3,21 278:15 313:14 315:5,16 132:8,13,16,22 298:16,19,25 280:19 294:17,18 316:20 318:12 133:1,22,25 134:1 320:5 296:15 305:1 319:17 141:24 148:1 major 210:16,18 307:17 223:1 **lowest** 39:14 majority 303:8 **makes** 17:20 lower 26:20 27:11 **Lowry** 281:4 45:17 118:7,12 95:14 259:14,16 Majors 69:4 72:4, luck 282:23 121:14 235:14,15 16 73:7 76:2,18, lowering 190:14 265:24 280:8 lumber 118:24 20 92:2 129:7,10, **Lowery** 6:2 9:1,11, 11,14,21,25 **making** 61:19 119:1 12 10:2 12:8 133:10 135:12.18. 138:7 142:1 **lumped** 12:21 15:24 22:10,11 25 143:19 145:14 204:14 236:3 24:7,8,11,13 28:2, lunch 129:6 150:20 152:12,14 **Makon** 137:6 14,16 29:11 30:2, 152:16 160:4,6 161:17 163:1 139:19 12 35:12 36:2,6, 174:18,22 175:6



|       |                    | Lviderillai                     | y nouning / tpin                      | 17, 2024IIIdex. IllanIllillo     |
|-------|--------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
|       | man 279:22         | 305:20,23 314:8                 | megawatts 39:14                       | <b>Metro</b> 303:15              |
|       | manageable         | 315:22 318:5                    | 66:7,13 292:16                        | Michels 15:24                    |
|       | 211:19             | <b>math</b> 70:9 73:19          | meld 14:11                            | 27:3 36:2,17                     |
|       | management         | 74:7 165:14                     | member 200:2                          | 37:21,23 39:4<br>44:1 48:17 49:7 |
|       | 278:18             | <b>Matt</b> 36:2 37:21,23       | mention 59:11                         | 52:19 61:9 62:7,                 |
|       | manufactured       | 39:4                            | 277:10 302:8                          | 14 67:15                         |
|       | 210:19             | matter 30:19                    | mentioned 15:23                       | Michels' 17:12                   |
|       | Manzell 317:1,11,  | 102:19 160:20                   | 17:21 21:14 28:12                     | 28:7 37:11                       |
| 22,25 | ·                  | 223:12 228:1                    | 36:6 37:11 60:2                       |                                  |
|       | margin 39:20       | 313:18                          | 66:24 76:5 132:9                      | micro 279:25                     |
|       | 66:14,21 67:1      | matters 7:6                     | 162:22 163:13                         | microfiche 130:19                |
|       | margins 27:16,18,  | 144:18 199:10                   | 194:1 256:12<br>259:11 287:15         | <b>mid</b> 130:25                |
|       | 22 39:11,13 84:10  | MDNR 198:8                      | 291:18 311:5,6                        | Midwest 6:13                     |
|       | 146:4              | 217:13 247:11                   | mentioning 62:7                       | miles 305:10                     |
|       | mark 66:24 162:3,  | means 44:8,10,13                | 64:17                                 |                                  |
|       | 5 245:2 251:2,4    | 95:8 110:17                     |                                       | mill 231:1                       |
|       | marked 8:5,6,7     | 119:25 148:20<br>165:5,13 188:6 | <b>Meramec</b> 273:18 282:6           | million 70:5,12                  |
|       | 10:25 11:2 77:19   | 240:17 248:7                    |                                       | 73:13,14 80:1,2                  |
|       | 133:5 151:9        | 283:19                          | Mers 6:4,7 7:13,24                    | 83:2,15 84:6<br>86:22 93:13 95:4 |
|       | 153:13,19 161:21,  |                                 | 8:18 9:13 10:10,                      | 98:11 99:4,8                     |
|       | 22 179:9 197:9     | meant 27:15                     | 20 11:13,22                           | 101:19 102:2                     |
|       | 232:16 245:3,5     | 106:22                          | 28:18,19 29:17                        | 105:9,12 107:1,20                |
|       | 246:21 269:10      | measure 219:25                  | 30:6,8,17 32:16<br>33:4,7 35:23 37:6, | 117:12 120:10                    |
|       | 295:3,12 307:13    | 278:11                          | 9,19,25 38:8,12                       | 121:18 122:14,16                 |
|       | 313:7 314:19       | <b>MECG</b> 6:15 9:19           | 39:3,7 43:21 53:5,                    | 130:7,11 131:4                   |
|       | market 34:23 35:1, | 12:1 22:3 38:20                 | 8,11 55:23 56:8                       | 137:21 141:2,6,17                |
|       | 7 213:7 281:17,21  | 52:24 68:23 71:11               | 57:17 58:8 59:8                       | 143:2 156:1,5                    |
|       | 282:11,22          | 72:18,21 75:10                  | 60:16 61:21 64:21                     | 157:1,9 158:23                   |
|       | massive 145:19     | 79:4 91:8 97:22                 | 66:5,10 69:6,11                       | 159:2 165:3,13,                  |
|       |                    | 114:4                           | Mers' 60:23                           | 14,16,18,20                      |
|       | <b>MAT</b> 113:15  | mechanism 128:3                 |                                       | 166:10,11,14                     |
|       | MAT&SUP2           | 223:4,5,6,8                     | mesh 51:25                            | 171:9 173:23                     |
|       | 113:15,18,23       | medium 255:18                   | met 57:4 252:8                        | 174:2 183:8                      |
|       | 161:25             |                                 | method 134:5                          | 184:11,15,16                     |
|       | material 78:19     | meet 198:18 244:9               | 144:18 176:23,25                      | 185:21 187:6,7<br>206:19 207:1   |
|       | 258:4 281:7        | 287:1                           | 183:22,23 184:5                       | 208:13 211:25                    |
|       | 282:9,25 285:21    | meeting 13:16                   | 186:10 190:2,10                       | 212:1 215:3,11,14                |
|       | 319:6              | 44:21                           | mothodology                           | 216:9,21,25                      |
|       | materials 113:18   | meetings 292:20                 | methodology<br>186:14 318:19,21       | 217:20 218:19,20,                |
|       | 265:16,17 266:7    | meets 241:17                    | ·                                     | 22 219:7 220:19                  |
|       | 268:7,9 281:9,16,  |                                 | methods 146:1                         | 221:2,7,13 222:2,                |
|       | 20 301:7 302:15    | megawatt 39:19                  | 187:1 190:13                          | 3 225:25 227:2                   |
|       |                    |                                 |                                       |                                  |



| 248:11 258:22                   | MISO 26:2 40:3                 | 296:10 297:12                   | <b>MJL-S5</b> 170:15               |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 259:22 267:8                    | 43:7 60:12,17,18,              | misspoke 287:12                 | <b>MJLS5</b> 112:13                |
| 274:7 281:9,10,                 | 20 61:23,25 62:3,              | _                               |                                    |
| 13,22,25 282:12,                | 8,19,21 70:20                  | mistake 168:22                  | <b>MJLS5-S8</b> 112:9              |
| 18,25 303:4                     | 85:20,24 284:15,               | mistaken 161:20                 | mode 29:2                          |
| 315:21 318:19,22                | 22 286:9 287:18,               | misunderstanding                | model 58:1                         |
| million-four 151:7              | 25 288:9 298:7                 | 141:11                          |                                    |
| mills 256:17,21                 | <b>MISO's</b> 85:13            | misunderstood                   | modeling 16:3<br>17:17 57:22 146:1 |
| mind 50:23 51:2,                | missed 78:11                   | 29:18 289:9                     |                                    |
| 25 74:16 120:15                 | 297:5                          |                                 | models 14:21                       |
| 137:6 138:14                    | <b>Missouri</b> 6:1,17,        | Mitch 69:24 97:14               | 15:1,3,12,13 58:6,                 |
| 159:10 189:13                   | 20,24 7:2 9:16                 | 98:5 165:25<br>166:21 167:10    | 17                                 |
| 199:9 209:17                    | 10:1 11:24 12:7                | 193:7 223:20                    | moment 62:6 69:2                   |
| 227:16 228:6                    | 22:9 26:10 38:24               |                                 | 152:15 195:17                      |
| 230:24 250:20                   | 49:10,19,22 56:3               | 224:3,19 238:25<br>239:14 266:3 | 198:2 204:3                        |
| 254:16                          | 64:12 68:3 71:21               | 267:2                           | 205:3,5 218:3                      |
| minds 13:16                     | 72:25 75:24 77:16              |                                 | 225:10 236:1                       |
| minas 13:16                     | 79:10 81:7,9 85:4,             | Mitchell 68:8                   | 238:12 264:24                      |
| mine 90:13 132:21               | 16 92:11,19,20                 | 161:3 225:11                    | 266:13 275:2                       |
| 258:13                          | 93:9 96:16,19                  | Mitchell's 17:5                 | momentarily                        |
| mini 96:2                       | 97:3,18 98:11                  | Mitchells 36:5                  | 89:14                              |
| minimal 83:16,20,               | 126:16 129:19                  |                                 | <b>Monday</b> 37:10                |
| 22 84:5,8                       | 132:7 133:11,24                | mitigate 31:16                  |                                    |
| •                               | 154:9 158:25                   | 251:9 252:2                     | monetary 31:7                      |
| minimize 17:7                   | 159:1,2 164:8                  | 253:12                          | money 21:16,17                     |
| 222:23                          | 175:2 179:16                   | mitigated 251:12                | 83:6,18 121:12                     |
| minimizing 247:22               | 182:25 183:14<br>187:18 195:16 | mitigating 253:13               | 128:6 187:12                       |
| minimum 137:9                   | 197:14,21 198:14               | 256:14                          | 190:16 208:18,21                   |
|                                 | 204:10 220:5                   | mitigation 50:7                 | 212:13 213:16,18                   |
| minus 121:7 174:2               | 221:4,5 228:17                 | mitigation 50:7                 | 215:6 216:22                       |
| 269:20,21 270:1                 | 233:12 247:4,16                |                                 | 217:21 225:17                      |
| 294:15,16                       | 248:4 250:1                    | mixed 9:12 138:9                | 280:23 311:15,18                   |
| minute 67:18                    | 252:16 255:4                   | 150:11                          | monitor 197:15,22                  |
| 160:4 214:16                    | 263:4 268:20                   | mixes 110:6                     | 198:15 208:5                       |
| minutes 28:6                    | 272:5,12 275:10                | 142:17                          | 210:7,9 234:9                      |
| 160:1 178:14                    | 288:14 295:5,6                 | mixture 157:25                  | 247:4 259:12                       |
| 238:10                          | 297:18 301:16                  |                                 | 260:7 261:3                        |
|                                 | 304:13 307:9                   | <b>MJL-D1</b> 111:22            | 262:19 299:3                       |
| misalignment<br>46:24 47:3 64:7 | 308:19 310:23                  | 161:4                           | monitored 193:21                   |
|                                 | 315:15 318:11                  | <b>MJL-D2</b> 161:6             | monitoring                         |
| misconception                   | 319:16                         | MJL-D3 161:7                    | 193:14,15,17,24                    |
| 309:14                          | Missouri's 36:1                |                                 | 194:2,12,17                        |
| mishear 143:20                  | 39:11 43:10 94:11              | <b>MJL-D4</b> 161:8             | 196:20,22,25                       |
| misheard 144:5                  | 95:4 190:12 204:6              | <b>MJL-D5</b> 169:5             | 198:7,23 200:4                     |
| OIIOGIG I TT.O                  | 247:10 248:13                  |                                 |                                    |
|                                 |                                |                                 |                                    |



208:2 209:19 210:13,24 215:5 216:10 217:20 218:12 224:7,15 227:25 230:19 233:23 239:18 240:22 247:1,10, 23 250:10,19,22 251:24 252:24 253:5 258:2,17 259:4,5 260:10 261:1,2,8 262:12, 20 284:4 month 43:17 month-to-month 303:25 **monthly** 259:13 **months** 57:3,11 62:22 146:14 **Montrose** 147:11 morning 6:14 39:8,9 44:1,2,3 49:7 73:11.12 79:13,14 86:8,9 91:13,14 129:25 320:15 **motion** 9:2,9 22:17 23:21 37:23 38:3 164:1 motions 37:12,15, 19 38:10 **move** 24:11 64:3 68:20 78:8 135:14 151:18 154:19 245:1 248:24 270:25 moved 32:12 82:3 162:14 199:3 244:23

moves 76:12

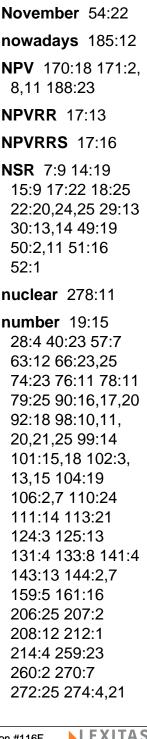
142:9 160:3

moving 31:3 88:10

164:15 258:21 mowing 260:20 **muddy** 264:13 mulch 255:20,21, 22 multi-year 19:7 multiple 91:24 115:12 265:8 multiplication 101:21 multiply 174:3 **Murray** 161:11 163:18 **Murray's** 161:19 163:12 164:1,2 **mute** 75:18 mutually 46:22 47:2 MVA 285:19 Ν **names** 42:9 **Nathan** 6:9 48:20 69:20 225:24 natural 6:22 41:4 241:20 248:5 nature 31:1 53:24 54:12 60:7 122:20 **NBMT** 171:18,19 172:3.12 nebulousness 28:22 necessarily 17:22 51:20 52:9 63:2 75:1 131:11 136:15 138:10

26:21 16 277:23 Nicole 6:4 202:13 210:6 19:8 21:2

214:5 222:18 normalization 192:5 209:14,15 necessitated **note** 196:14 212:16 needed 27:15 62:17 63:10 **notice** 124:7,24 276:22 285:7,9 125:10,18,20 286:9 298:11,12 126:5,9,21 244:25 245:11,19,21,25 **negative** 14:7,19 246:6 15:9,16 16:13 17:9.18.22 19:4. nouns 240:14 negligible 215:12 neighborhood **NERC's** 40:2 **net** 27:12 52:12 67:23 79:17 89:15,21 90:25 160:9,11 165:1, 11,15 170:17 171:2,13 176:7 177:5,8,19 180:20 52:1 182:5 183:8 184:1,2,13 185:2, 6,9,15,22 186:19 187:2 189:7,9 207:10 316:6 318:19 319:4 night 20:10 **nights** 164:17 non-ash 258:3 non-legitimate nonlegal 178:15 nonquantifiable Noranda 51:8,12 normal 83:23 121:6 169:13,14



144:14 145:2

149:10 202:8

275:8 276:17,18 277:10 278:21,22 279:12,21 280:1,3 281:2,6,7 283:13 289:3 297:3,10 302:8,9,10,11,22, 23

numbers 33:14 53:7,8 54:16 59:6 73:21,24 74:1,3,6, 7,10 76:4,6,7 82:3 86:23 87:12 90:12,13 105:25 140:2 141:3 170:21 184:22 189:4 221:22 245:24 279:8,13 280:5,24 294:6 310:12

0

nunc 246:2

numerous 161:11

O&m 248:11,12 284:13,18 298:24 320:1 oath 97:17 129:12 166:23 174:20 179:7 192:18 195:9 266:8 269:2 312:21 314:2 object 27:23 29:11 58:8 60:16 80:7 126:2 135:15 154:20 198:25 203:17 237:3

201:14 **objection** 9:1,4 11:20 30:12,16 37:2 38:5 111:8

126:3,8 146:19

objected 37:12

249:14

147:6 148:12 157:17 162:2,23 163:2,24 164:4 199:6 200:11 230:7,11 245:7 249:1,24 264:7 265:22,25 271:4, 6,15 273:7 274:17 295:22 296:23 297:7 300:11 315:2,5 317:24

objections 8:22 11:16 111:5 112:20 113:24 125:21 163:4,8, 11,15 245:20 265:10 274:17 275:17,20,21 280:14 308:4 318:2

obligation 224:10 234:22 236:21 239:23 241:19

obligated 250:9

obligations 165:10,12,17 192:10,11 196:2 236:17 243:13 263:17

**obsolescence** 303:15

occur 70:14 85:1 216:23

obsolete 303:14

occurred 62:8 93:18 142:20 172:8 173:4,5

October 68:1 70:14,15 71:6 74:2,20 90:23,24 160:13 164:25 171:16,24,25 172:8 173:6 284:9,17,19,22 287:14,21 288:2, 4,12 298:17,18 299:1,5

offer 8:19 11:14 36:19 78:3 179:10 203:5,6 245:10 295:21 308:2 314:18,25 317:22 318:4

offered 18:5 24:19 48:4 249:19

offering 245:7 249:13,17

office 6:8,10 9:22 12:4 22:5 57:5 77:16 98:3 123:21 153:9 167:6 174:24 179:2 180:1 192:24 195:13 197:10 212:11 213:10 218:8 252:18 266:19

**official** 125:17,20 126:5,21 244:25 245:21,25 246:6

**offset** 165:21 166:11 169:1 177:17 178:13

**offsets** 165:7

oftentimes 86:14

oil 267:12 278:10

**oils** 259:12 277:6, 7,8

**oldest** 159:7

on-site 241:16

one-time 211:8 214:17 215:22,24 216:1 227:23 228:8 ongoing 161:7 208:19 209:10 217:5 234:5,12 235:6,16 244:16 261:8 262:2 287:22

**online** 75:17

OPC 69:13 73:13, 15,18 79:25 91:20 95:7 104:23 105:9 116:15,16 118:19 130:17 133:13,16 135:20 151:8 152:16,18 154:16, 22 166:1,8 193:11 196:20 197:18 201:2,5,13,20,23 202:2,10 203:20 204:3,4,6,7 231:25 262:8 297:11 304:19 308:16 316:9

**OPC's** 79:17 91:17 96:1 105:3 135:22 205:22 265:24 301:25 302:4 310:4,6 315:20,25

**OPC1105** 246:12

**OPCDR-8515** 297:14

**open** 28:13 112:4, 5,6.8 284:25

opening 94:13 96:3,7,9 105:4 164:14

**openings** 164:17

operate 41:22 284:20 288:4,12 318:23 319:7 320:6

operating 34:23 35:1,8 52:10 85:16 256:4



315:23 316:8,10 320:2 operation 52:10 70:7 212:6 241:1, 4 262:3 284:6 285:10 298:16 303:12 305:3 operational 84:20 85:10 256:3,16 257:3 283:23 298:19 Operationally 256:13 operations 119:24 212:10 213:14,20 248:14 255:1,2 262:4 284:1,8 292:6,7 320:5 operator 279:10 opinion 14:16 29:3,15 35:14 45:24 55:16,20 58:24 59:1,18 64:11 73:21 177:2 203:24 204:12,13, 14 205:19 210:4,6 211:14 214:19 215:21 222:20 234:6,7 235:7,13 272:7,10,11,17, 19,22 273:10,13, 14,21,22 opinions 60:17,24 199:21 **Opitz** 6:14,15,16 9:20 12:2 22:4 38:21 52:25 71:13 72:19 75:11 79:5 91:9 97:23

opportunity 48:22

292:23 295:6

**oppose** 166:5

opposed 15:17 18:10 54:6 116:21 126:16 150:14 222:11 opposes 95:7 **option** 46:11 227:23 options 52:2 256:22 257:8 283:5 order 18:13 19:22 20:6 22:17 23:13, 21 24:1 26:19 46:9 50:6,7 56:6 82:2 108:9 111:12 112:5 161:6 175:11 181:16 229:12 242:16,19, 25 244:24 245:19, 22,24 246:2,4,7 265:21 272:10 284:15 287:3 309:8 ordered 43:11 71:8 82:11 160:22 285:21 orders 125:23 126:17 158:12 **orient** 44:23 original 118:11 131:7 169:8 182:17 183:1 224:11 239:24 240:12 241:23 252:25 originally 66:2 132:19 originated 105:14 273:1 originating 99:10 outage 85:11

outages 85:1 outcome 7:9 14:7, 19,23 15:10,16,22 16:3,8,13 17:18 18:8 19:4,16 21:15 31:12 32:18 outcomes 15:13 17:9,23 50:2 51:17 outer 37:5 outfalls 299:3 outflows 220:1 **outlay** 105:6 outlooks 41:8,14 output 52:8,12 **outputs** 15:13 over-under 209:1 216:7,14 222:16 over-unders 207:12 209:7 overlap 265:6 302:5 overload 264:12 overrule 249:23 274:16 296:22 overruled 147:7 owe 188:12 owing 188:18 owns 230:24 P packages 280:17 pages 53:19 56:9 243:9 paid 128:14 134:2 165:9 177:13,14 178:1,7 181:19,25 188:6 208:21

225:14 227:11 231:4,6,15,16 **paper** 90:11 100:20 111:1,2,6 112:19 124:6 141:16 157:3 **papers** 42:22 53:22,23 57:16,22 58:18 59:2 81:12, 17 99:20,25 100:1,8,10 105:20 106:20 107:2 110:21 111:12,15, 18 112:3,6,9,14, 22 113:3,22 138:23 142:4 144:9,10,11,13 160:24,25 161:3, 23 162:16,17,21 163:2,12,17,18, 19,25 196:15,16 235:8 paragraph 198:4, 13 206:3 208:3 229:18.25 243:23 247:15 paraphrase 194:11 paraphrasing 197:19 251:25 pardon 156:21 parking 291:8 part 28:12 29:10 32:1 41:16 43:6 49:17 50:7 60:19 63:20 65:6 76:11 108:5 111:9 113:16 115:2,10 117:25 122:8 138:22 139:4 141:7 142:11 163:20 165:23 166:4 176:16 197:2 198:17



202:11 205:25 206:2 207:21 210:25 211:3,4 215:7,22 216:22 218:25 219:1 235:23 236:16.20 237:1 241:2,10 242:7 245:5 247:8 249:10 258:16,18 272:8 277:11,14 280:15 281:23 **partial** 245:18 partially 108:21 participate 181:12 242:13 participating 266:14 **parties** 13:16 29:20 32:21 34:13 44:19,24 45:11 47:21 53:16 56:21 57:21 98:15 102:9 108:2 111:5 125:4,21 160:22, 23 164:18 265:21 267:23 partly 50:2 parts 303:11 party 22:13 23:6,9 24:14 34:12 pass 272:17 past 30:23 34:19 48:7 58:6 87:9 119:22 234:12,15 **path** 64:16 patient 317:4 pause 266:12 pay 107:19,21 108:7 178:9 180:21 182:5

190:18 213:7

219:21 220:4 223:11 paying 190:20 213:16 221:7,12 222:2 **payment** 216:22 220:14 payments 169:15, 22 185:17 **Payne** 317:2,3,11 318:4,17 320:11 **Payne's** 78:12 317:23,25 **pays** 219:23 220:12 peak 66:6 67:4,8,9 pending 16:15 17:1,2,4 89:5 penny 221:25 **people** 23:17 123:13 278:16 284:12 291:20 299:5 percent 140:17,19 221:10,19 222:2 269:20,21 270:1,2 282:15 percentage 140:18,20 perfect 13:22 246:20 perfectly 264:8 perform 45:4 62:23 186:19 performance 45:9 performed 42:25 43:7 65:17 184:10 185:19 performing 261:7

**period** 82:12 105:14 172:11 193:25 194:10 260:15 263:10 284:1 permeate 257:11 **permits** 158:11 permitting 29:13 person 184:21 211:10,12 283:14 personal 88:4 199:25 personally 203:15 274:3 perspective 73:16 96:1,10 103:15 118:8 122:9,13,18 174:1 211:13,24 216:5 227:1 312:5 **ph** 259:12,14,17 phenomenon 131:18 **phone** 101:20 photocopy 242:24 phrase 30:6 188:23 physical 132:5 137:25 144:19 319:24 physically 93:25 115:1 147:16 **pick** 36:7,8,10 61:11 88:5 119:10 151:18 178:6 picked 92:6 145:22 picking 257:1 picture 13:5 289:16 290:8,11

**piece** 13:6 145:22 165:7 224:11 239:24 **pieces** 256:19 **pile** 94:19 96:22 103:12,13,14,21 104:12 108:5,23 109:5,6,13,24 110:3,4 115:2,3,6, 7,9,10,11 119:7 120:1,2,4,5,8,13 131:21 132:2 134:15 137:4,7,8, 12 138:1,15 142:9,16 144:20 145:15 159:8 255:24 256:2,23 257:2,11,13 258:16,19 289:6. 24 **piles** 104:1 115:12 place 63:7 88:5 231:10 237:14 251:9 260:5 275:9 286:14,16 **places** 152:7 **plan** 14:6,18 17:3, 16,18 19:3 25:18 30:13 31:17 33:15 34:17 45:9 49:16 51:13.20 54:25 58:3 61:16 194:7. 15 252:1 280:15 288:14 **planned** 15:2,9 16:12 18:6 29:15 30:19 74:14 planning 7:9 12:23 14:3,10,18, 25 15:5,7,22 16:15 17:9,22,25 18:5 25:14,21 26:14,15 31:4,10,



15,19,23 32:3,9,

25 33:16,18,20 39:11,13,20 43:8 45:25 49:8,10,11, 12,20,21 51:16 63:20,24 66:13,21 **plans** 17:14 22:23 56:18 288:8 291:13 310:14 plant 12:18 18:2, 24 19:6 22:25 26:9,18,21 27:15 30:23 52:12 60:14 61:5 62:18,25 63:11 67:23,24 70:7.13.19 71:4 74:12,15,17,23 79:17 82:5 83:12 84:20 85:6,10 89:21 90:25 91:21 93:7 94:19 103:8 104:5 109:11,18 119:3,24 120:3 127:24 130:24 131:7,14 132:19 158:23 160:12 161:6 164:25 165:1,21 169:8, 12,16,19,23 170:1 174:1 177:14 182:18 183:1,8, 11,13,15 188:14, 16 191:21.23 209:18 210:20 211:9 214:20,25 215:22,24 226:7,9 235:18 243:3 257:2 258:11 261:5 262:1,2 273:17 274:8 276:22 278:1,3,15 279:2 281:25 283:21,24 284:16, 21 287:18,20 289:5 290:2,4 292:12 293:4,6

304:21 305:1,6,7, 16,21 316:6 318:19,23 319:4, 24 320:2,5,8 plant's 277:17 plants 74:24 75:4 94:20 127:6 136:24 139:6 140:15,16 210:20 234:18,19 255:3 257:4 273:19 platform 103:19 plentiful 137:3 plug 185:10 **pluggage** 148:7,9, 19 149:5,7,12 **pockets** 138:8 point 6:20 14:15, 24 16:10 28:3,4 31:23,25 32:2 35:13 39:14 42:8, 13 51:4 56:16 60:8,11 61:18,19 74:2,4 78:5 79:23 87:5 88:9 98:17 99:10 107:13 109:9,14 116:12 117:18,19 121:15 124:16 126:1,4 131:1,5,10 138:12 139:17 147:3 156:8,10,11,19 158:16 160:2 164:16,18 170:11, 13 172:4,18 187:22 199:1 200:21 203:21 204:16 222:18 234:21 237:4 264:11,12 272:11 274:19 280:24 284:11 294:18

pointed 20:12

pointing 15:21 131:5 points 28:22 29:4, 5 42:19 59:24 87:24 91:24 **pole** 213:3,8 **policy** 16:14,25 41:14 281:19 pollutants 253:6 262:21 **pond** 196:13 206:22 214:22 239:17 240:10.11. 15,25 241:10 260:16,19 290:23 291:5 ponds 196:8 211:2 231:5 240:6,8,20, 23,25 262:17 290:25 **pool** 209:23 213:15 **poorly** 32:16 **porous** 145:23 256:9 porta 277:22,23 278:7 portable 267:20 294:7 portfolio 43:11 portion 89:15 107:6 123:1 158:25 159:2 172:21 201:17 225:1 244:24 275:9 299:19 portions 164:2 posed 124:22,23 270:17

position 20:4 21:21,22 24:16 47:12,17,20 67:5, 10 70:16 79:17,24 87:10 89:21 91:23 98:13 121:22 130:10 150:21 151:19,22 206:18, 19 230:18 285:4 301:25 302:4 310:4,6 315:20,25 positions 47:22, 23 309:15 **positive** 237:19 possibilities 50:4 possibility 85:12 197:4 220:7 **possibly** 261:13 post 92:20 post-closure 209:25 260:2 post-december 93:11 pot 215:4,15 potential 19:11,15 21:19 31:8 32:18, 23 50:2.24 51:16 52:1 56:24 82:17 potentially 15:8, 21 20:8 45:23,24 47:3 122:23 136:22 215:18 227:4 255:16 pots 277:22,23 278:7 pour 137:20 **pouring** 256:11 power 52:8 94:19 236:9,12 238:7,8 255:3 277:16 278:4 283:21



309:17 311:9

| 289:4 290:17<br>305:16                                                   |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| practice 223:9                                                           |
| practices 146:9,10                                                       |
| <b>PRB</b> 149:10                                                        |
| pre-pandemic<br>48:10                                                    |
| precedent 87:21                                                          |
| preceding 40:11                                                          |
| precipitators<br>277:2                                                   |
| precludes 19:24                                                          |
| predicated 140:3,                                                        |
| <b>prefer</b> 100:3 245:18                                               |
| preference 70:15,<br>17 161:15 245:4,<br>17,25                           |
| preferred 25:17<br>54:25 58:3                                            |
| prefiled 77:20<br>93:2,5 153:13<br>271:18                                |
| preliminary 7:6<br>201:17                                                |
| premised 105:4                                                           |
| prepare 10:24<br>77:18 153:11,16<br>232:15 296:19<br>307:11              |
| prepared 10:24<br>126:10 201:15,25<br>202:1,21 269:8<br>287:6            |
| present 83:5<br>160:9,11 165:11,<br>15 170:17 171:2<br>177:5,8,10 184:1, |

2,13 185:6,10,16,

prior 32:25 49:21 50:5 62:8 106:5 107:6 108:3 146:14 151:6 201:21 245:7 288:15,17 291:19 303:22 309:5 **PRM** 67:6,11 **pro** 161:6 246:1 **problem** 154:23 199:11 228:1 237:25 300:4 problems 258:15 proceed 7:20 205:14,15 proceeding 199:15 214:11 215:18 317:15 proceedings 19:25 31:9 86:11 285:12 proceeds 221:6 process 13:12,15 14:10 19:7 26:5 29:9 30:10 31:21 32:10,13 33:12 41:16 43:7 44:4, 17 45:25 46:16,20 47:7,12,17,20,22 48:2 49:18 50:15 53:13 60:12,19, 20,21 61:7,9,20 62:8,20 63:1,4,6, 13,20,21 64:15, 17,18 76:11 85:20,24 117:6 122:8,12 201:9 206:13 207:4 216:15 217:15 257:23 260:5,9, 10,14 288:16 292:15 309:12 311:13 312:7



|                                     |                                   | 7                                    | , _ u =u u p. u u u u u p              |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| <b>processes</b> 32:17 70:20        | <b>properly</b> 34:17 234:1       | provisionally 9:2, 7 36:22,24 37:13, | <b>pull</b> 40:21 170:23 185:13 255:23 |
| procured 157:25                     | property 128:18,                  | 18 38:7,8,15 43:9<br>163:22,25       | 271:8                                  |
| produced 7:22                       | 20 210:19 224:11<br>239:24 240:11 | provisions 44:11                     | <b>pulling</b> 101:20 256:13           |
| 10:18 39:5 69:25<br>73:8 77:7 98:6  | 241:22 252:25                     | 122:1 274:12                         | pulverized 142:23                      |
| 129:22 152:25                       | proposal 12:24                    | prudence 14:3,5                      | pump 261:2                             |
| 167:11 175:7<br>179:22 193:8        | 24:25                             | 244:18 311:17                        | pumped 247:17                          |
| 195:20 232:10                       | proposals 21:19                   | prudency 19:25                       | purchase 213:10                        |
| 254:19 267:3                        | propose 265:5                     | prudent 18:25<br>19:22 20:3,5        | purchased 108:16                       |
| 269:5 301:22<br>306:24 312:23       | proposed 128:2,3                  | 293:9                                | 109:21 121:1                           |
| 314:4 317:12                        | 176:20,21,22<br>183:16,23 184:5   | prudently 29:22                      | 158:1                                  |
| producing 27:16                     | 186:10 190:2                      | public 6:8,10,11                     | purchasing 146:9                       |
| 120:1                               | 263:18                            | 9:22 12:4 22:6                       | purpose 104:7                          |
| professional                        | proposes 95:9                     | 36:20,21 48:21                       | 108:17 109:22<br>118:22 120:13,15      |
| 307:10                              | proposing 176:23                  | 55:24 57:5 69:19,<br>20 71:18 72:21  | 121:4 128:12,15,                       |
| prohibited 280:3                    | proposition                       | 75:21 76:22 77:17                    | 18,25 172:22                           |
| project 30:11<br>278:17 280:22      | 139:16                            | 78:4 92:13 98:3                      | 249:13 254:8<br>262:11                 |
| 285:9,23 286:5,                     | propping 108:4                    | 114:8 123:21<br>126:15,23 129:16     | _                                      |
| 13,20                               | prospects 293:5                   | 145:11 153:9                         | purposed 183:21                        |
| projected 74:16,                    | protective 22:17                  | 159:20 167:6                         | purposes 15:20<br>49:11 98:9 126:18    |
| 19 76:6 82:15                       | 23:13,21 24:1                     | 174:10,24 178:18<br>179:2,4 180:1    | 139:14 141:15                          |
| 209:3                               | <b>prove</b> 262:18               | 189:22 191:19                        | 142:3 144:15                           |
| projection 172:9<br>216:11          | provide 40:9                      | 192:24 194:24                        | 153:20 173:13<br>180:5,11 191:10,      |
|                                     | 56:20 57:7,10,14<br>62:23 110:7   | 195:13 197:10<br>200:14 218:8        | 14 192:5 237:13                        |
| projections<br>207:11               | 127:13 254:22                     | 228:13 231:24                        | 304:2                                  |
| projects 29:9 32:4                  | 270:5 278:5                       | 232:2 252:19                         | pursue 148:22                          |
| 61:25 83:1 93:24                    | 280:10 284:10<br>300:17,18        | 266:19 268:17<br>269:11,13 271:2,3   | <b>pushed</b> 196:12                   |
| 147:21 285:2,7,15                   | provided 42:22,23                 | 275:18,22,24                         | <b>put</b> 13:2 26:16,19               |
| 286:9,16,19 287:2<br>297:24 303:7,8 | 53:16 57:2 58:18                  | 276:5 280:2,25                       | 48:9 49:23 50:13,                      |
| 312:1                               | 111:23 116:4,8                    | 281:2 294:24,25<br>297:8 301:13      | 24 79:22 82:12<br>92:1,23,24 93:4,     |
| promulgated                         | 127:10 136:21<br>165:6 273:24     | 304:10 307:9,14                      | 17 95:12 99:5                          |
| 44:12                               | 295:19 302:2                      | 308:2 310:20                         | 104:19 105:20                          |
| <b>proof</b> 138:10                 | providing 299:24                  | 312:17,18,21<br>313:23,24 314:25     | 106:10 117:15<br>126:12 142:22         |
| proper 64:16                        | provision 20:18                   | 316:21,25 317:1,                     | 151:25 154:22                          |
| 204:23                              | 237:15                            | 9,25 319:18                          | 155:24 158:19                          |
|                                     |                                   |                                      | 186:9 194:8 206:1                      |



auestions 8:15 207:10 208:23 73:15 75:9 76:3 246:24 248:23 215:11 219:6,20 80:8,15,17,19,22 9:15,19,22 10:1,2, 250:4,5 252:12, 221:2 222:15 84:16,23 104:10 4,6 11:10 12:1,8, 14,17 253:14,25 229:11 249:5 106:10,23 107:15 9,10,11 13:23 254:11,13,15 255:5,10,11,15 255:21,22 257:16 108:13,21,22 18:18 21:25 24:23 259:19 272:13,25 116:19 117:2 28:4,15 29:12 261:20,21 262:7,8 282:9 286:2,4 118:4 123:7 33:9 38:25 43:23, 263:2,3,4,10,25 292:23 124:23 132:4 25 44:25 45:3,5 264:1,2,3,4 134:19,20 136:22 48:17,19 52:16, 266:22 267:5,18, puts 145:4 205:22 140:13 141:21 18,19,20 56:8 23 268:13,14 206:1 142:19 146:19,20 57:6,15,17 59:8 270:17 276:3,6,9, putting 27:10 147:17 149:5 60:19,23 61:1,21 14 283:11,12 51:18 52:4 98:12 150:8 154:10,22 63:13,14 64:6,21, 291:24,25 292:2,5 121:2 131:22 155:12,18 156:16 23 65:17 67:13 293:22 297:23 215:14 227:3 157:23 159:11 69:12,22 70:2 301:18,24 304:9 169:2 172:5 71:1,11,15,18 305:14 307:19 308:21 309:2 175:22 182:12 72:20,22 73:3,10 Q 194:20 197:13,17, 75:8,10,13,21,24 310:19,20,23 18,20 201:9,10,19 76:15 81:4 86:1,2, 313:10,14,15,20 qualified 224:19 202:3,12,20,24 7 87:8 88:21,22, 315:12,17,19 qualifies 94:25 203:14 206:18 24 91:6,8 92:9,18 316:16,17,20 296:3.8 207:23 208:10 94:2 100:19 318:8,13,16 qualify 235:5 319:12,13 320:10 216:8 217:24 102:23 103:1,5 273:19 296:5 223:22 226:12,22 106:19 110:12,13 quick 101:20 114:2,4,6,12,14 227:14 228:20 quality 61:13 64:1 202:24 262:1 229:1 230:9 115:14,19 118:2,6 267:10,11 qualm 186:17 235:20 238:21 123:18,19 124:21 quickly 137:18 241:14 244:10 135:13 136:5,12, quantification 247:2 249:4 19 138:2 143:18, 19:13 99:3 **quote** 168:10 251:23 253:22 21 145:11,14 205:22,24 quantified 79:25 255:17 261:6 146:21 147:1 **quoted** 249:10 quantify 120:16 262:6 267:22 150:6 152:13 250:13 181:18,24,25 268:6 274:2 155:3,23 157:19, 182:4 289:11 292:21 22 158:8 159:13. R 294:13 295:16 14,18,25 167:3,8, quantity 114:20 299:22,24 304:4 9,13 174:7,8 117:11 120:17,19 **R-I-L-E-Y** 153:4 305:15 310:5 175:4,5,9 178:14, 125:12 126:19 315:18 316:5 17,18,21 179:19, R-O-B-I-N-E-T-T **queried** 271:22 318:18 24 187:15,18 77:12 189:21 192:7,21 query 125:20 questioned 12:13 rail 291:19 193:2,5,10 question 17:10 questioning 27:25 194:21,22 199:22 rain 256:2 277:18 22:21 30:3,4,15 33:1 49:1 123:25 200:13 203:7 raise 7:15 10:12 32:14,15 33:9 136:9 190:8 206:9,10,15 15:25 25:13 45:20 49:9 55:3 202:9,18 217:18 218:11 223:15 63:15,19 76:25 58:13,14,23 61:15 233:6 224:25 226:20,23 152:19 232:4 62:11,14 65:10 231:20 233:9 254:2 259:17 66:12,15,17 67:7



| 300:6 306:17<br>317:4                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| raised 126:15<br>155:19 229:2<br>273:4 300:6                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 304:19                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| raising 19:24<br>271:18,19                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| ran 170:19 281:16                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| range 50:3                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| ranges 41:17                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| rate 20:15 73:24<br>80:5,9,12 81:10,<br>13,18,21 86:16<br>96:14,20 102:9<br>104:24 105:21<br>106:5 107:9,16<br>115:21 117:6,25<br>122:11,19 123:2<br>124:2 127:8,9<br>128:5,8 139:2,3,7,<br>11,18 141:9,13<br>142:18 143:10,15<br>144:4,16,25 151:6<br>165:7,21 169:10<br>171:14 174:4<br>175:17,24 177:13,<br>17,18,19 178:2<br>180:20 181:1,11,<br>24 182:6,7,8,11,<br>15,16 183:9<br>185:1,2,7,8 192:6<br>196:25 203:16<br>207:5 208:23<br>209:6,12 212:3,4,<br>5,7 214:8,11<br>215:6,17 217:16<br>218:14,24 219:2<br>220:25 221:12<br>222:11,14,19<br>225:4,18,22<br>226:5,14,17<br>227:4,18 228:25<br>230:20 231:2,12,<br>18 244:21 279:23 |

| Evidentiar                                                                                                                                                                             |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 303:22 304:5<br>311:13                                                                                                                                                                 |
| rate-base 108:2,9                                                                                                                                                                      |
| rate-based 96:11,<br>12 127:22 212:7                                                                                                                                                   |
| ratemaking 98:16<br>108:11 139:14<br>140:7 144:17<br>169:14 177:9<br>191:4,10 219:5<br>230:3 244:2 304:2                                                                               |
| ratepayer 107:21<br>118:9 119:10<br>121:3 190:17<br>211:14,18 212:1<br>214:2 226:25<br>227:9 279:11                                                                                    |
| ratepayers 21:20,<br>22 107:19 118:18<br>175:19 176:1<br>177:16 180:20<br>181:19,25 182:5<br>230:2 243:25<br>293:2,7,13                                                                |
| rates 58:2 82:11<br>94:22 117:14<br>127:11 128:7<br>169:13,17,23<br>175:20 176:2<br>180:10,14,18<br>181:19,25 182:6<br>209:22 210:22<br>211:21 219:6,22<br>221:9 229:8 231:7<br>311:15 |
| reabsorbed<br>281:12                                                                                                                                                                   |
| reach 45:1                                                                                                                                                                             |
| reaching 13:18                                                                                                                                                                         |
| read 19:22 78:21<br>89:4 139:24<br>143:22 144:1,3<br>176:14 183:25                                                                                                                     |

| 184:9,12,13,24<br>186:5 189:6<br>198:1,3 217:6<br>223:21 229:15<br>242:9,15,17,20<br>246:16 250:17 | R<br>re |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| readily 137:3,12<br>257:1                                                                          |         |
| reading 16:11<br>17:5 168:9 186:5,<br>8 209:24 276:16                                              |         |
| reads 185:22<br>236:21                                                                             | re      |
| ready 7:10 160:8<br>164:9 199:22<br>205:14,15 275:11<br>298:14                                     |         |
| real 101:20 127:15<br>202:24 255:18                                                                |         |
| <b>realize</b> 100:6 292:3                                                                         |         |
| realized 205:21                                                                                    |         |
| reason 24:3 83:14<br>84:4,5 116:20<br>121:16 135:25<br>137:2 139:5                                 | re      |
| 150:10 168:8<br>172:16 194:11<br>215:13 230:22                                                     | re      |
| 235:12 240:2<br>252:4 279:15                                                                       | re      |
| 302:19 reasonable 21:1                                                                             | r       |
| 26:13 46:13<br>272:23 273:11,14,<br>22 303:5                                                       | re      |
| reasoning 87:18                                                                                    | re      |
| 118:15 119:14<br>137:14 138:18                                                                     |         |
| 137:14 138:18<br>211:15                                                                            | re      |
| 137:14 138:18                                                                                      | ro      |

|   | rebar 256:10                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|---|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|   | <b>Rebate</b> 123:1                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|   |                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|   | rebuttal 8:5,20,23<br>9:3,4 10:25 11:1,<br>17,18 77:18 78:12<br>92:25 93:8 153:11<br>193:12 232:15,23<br>233:1,19 300:19<br>307:12,17,20<br>308:5 309:3,14<br>314:19 315:3<br>317:23,25                   |
|   | recall 16:20 28:24                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 5 | 30:20 34:14,20<br>35:10,17,21,22<br>39:10 42:13,14,20<br>43:9 53:12,15<br>54:3,10,19,24<br>55:2,15,19 56:10<br>91:15 92:17 94:1<br>111:23 149:4<br>190:5 218:15<br>240:7 241:2<br>242:20 244:12<br>297:24 |
|   | receive 165:21<br>212:21 227:10<br>309:4                                                                                                                                                                  |
|   | received 16:14<br>249:5 309:10                                                                                                                                                                            |
|   | <b>receives</b> 128:19 135:3                                                                                                                                                                              |
|   | receiving 128:23<br>135:5 213:17                                                                                                                                                                          |
| • | recent 47:6,10<br>54:1 145:8 158:18<br>246:1                                                                                                                                                              |
|   | recently 41:20<br>44:12 48:8 84:1                                                                                                                                                                         |
|   | recess 67:18,20<br>106:12 231:25                                                                                                                                                                          |
|   | recognition<br>182:19 183:3                                                                                                                                                                               |



212:14 19,21 28:7,8 37:3 recross 21:25 refer 38:23 122:1 38:6 59:13 112:22 22:3,5,8,11 28:13 213:23 recognize 173:25 113:25 114:1 52:24 53:1,3,11 **reference** 124:1,5 186:25 215:18 132:14 160:7 55:24 71:10,12, 295:13 303:17 125:15 169:20 14,17 75:9,12,20, 162:15,24,25 172:4 recognized 173:2, 163:3,5,8,10,15 23 76:1 91:7.12 12.16 referenced 12:24 164:6 165:24 92:10 114:11,13, 166:2 205:4,7,9, 16 123:17,18,24 recognizes referred 40:17 145:10,13 150:7,9 11,13,21 218:2,4, 182:17,25 89:11 113:12 6 238:11,13,15,16 159:14,17 174:7 181:9 recognizing 245:18 246:8 178:17,20 187:14, 178:12 referring 37:14 250:1 254:23 17.21 194:20 52:3 98:19 113:19 recollect 166:13 263:17 264:25 218:7,10 223:16. 125:23 191:1 265:1,3,4 275:1,3, 18 228:13,16,19 recollection 231:13 248:9 5,16,22,25 296:23 252:12 293:18,20 137:11 143:25 297:1,8 300:10 294:25 295:11 reflect 41:7.13 recommend 95:2 306:16 307:5 297:15 304:9,12, 74:23 105:15 141:17 308:3,6,8 315:4,7 16 310:19,22 173:17 211:21 318:1,3 311:1 316:15,19 recommendation reflected 95:3 319:11,15,22 79:16 130:12 recorded 260:6 105:9,20 117:14 136:1 143:3 redirect 28:17.19 305:5.6 182:20 183:4 196:4,5 293:12 56:2,5 71:20 229:2 **records** 74:12 76:16,17 92:13,16 recommendations 119:17 245:12 reflective 51:23 114:3 115:15,18 280:9 299:24 **recover** 118:20 reflects 59:13 61:4 126:25 127:2 recommended 127:12.15 152:5.6 75:4 132:14 246:9 136:11 150:17,19 150:23,24 166:5 230:4 244:2 159:20 174:12,14 refresh 42:17 315:21 178:23,24 189:22, recommending **refund** 122:5 25 195:1 200:14, 73:18 83:3 196:23 recovered 21:21 166:7,11 20 201:2,3 230:19 305:19 95:16 96:20 97:8 230:13,16 252:18, refunded 175:17. 123:8 165:5,9 recommends 22 263:5,7 268:1, 24 180:8,10 185:3 280:11 309:3 2,19 294:24,25 218:24 221:3 reg 311:20 reconcile 280:12 297:17,22 306:3,4 225:2 230:2,20 regard 14:1 18:1 312:9,10 316:21 244:1 303:4 reconciled 76:11 52:3 161:24 319:18 104:21 117:25 309:24 163:1,6 190:3 225:22 315:24 reduce 217:21 recovery 21:20 209:3 213:15 223:1 62:2 94:23 95:7 reconciliation 266:15 96:25 97:7,9 117:6 122:1 **reduces** 167:16 region 40:3 105:6 107:17,20, 225:18 227:20 177:20 180:5 22 121:11,14,19 260:14 311:13 regular 191:5 reducing 168:23 122:22 170:4 reconciling regulated 198:8 190:14 209:6 220:25 247:11 299:25 221:1 230:4 244:3 reduction 168:2. regulations 104:7 record 8:1,21,25 303:19,20 13 173:4 178:2 9:7,8 10:22 11:15, 194:18 200:7 190:15



|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | LVIGERIII                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Ty Healing April 17, 202                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 4index. regulatoryrequire                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 241:17 262:14,15  regulatory 175:14, 16,23 176:5 181:17,22 191:3, 24 192:1,4 236:11 280:11 281:19 309:24 311:3  reiterate 86:19  relate 245:24  related 51:16 104:10 125:24 146:21 168:3,14 169:19,25 170:3 211:9 214:20,21, 22,24 224:16 233:23 248:8 264:24  relates 14:12 | 274:12  relying 64:15 203:22 235:4,9,12 272:19  remain 45:16 149:12 284:12  remainder 117:22 120:21  remained 51:9  remaining 169:12 170:4,8  remains 59:7 227:3  remediation 217:21 228:10 259:8,25  remediation/ | remove 258:1 275:8 276:24 277:1 removed 104:8 115:1,3 169:17,23 removing 278:3 Renew 6:20 rental 277:22 repeat 41:10 67:7 169:21 181:21 rephrase 22:21 29:2 58:12 80:9 82:1 83:8 302:3 replace 256:21,23 replaced 149:14 replacement | represents 70:13 117:23 120:18 165:20 181:4 208:13 215:5 218:20 repurposed 292:14 request 16:19,22 23:25 40:13,16 85:20 108:20 109:4 113:2 133:12,14,15,17, 23 134:8,18,24 135:19,24 138:7 149:21 151:14 154:16 155:10 196:16,20 197:8, 10 201:13,20,23 202:10,13 203:11 |
| relating 25:6,14<br>49:20 169:1 185:2<br>relation 48:5<br>239:17<br>relationship<br>304:18<br>relevancy 237:17<br>relevant 144:4                                                                                                                                             | treatment 261:7 remedies 21:14,18 remedy 50:24 52:1,3 59:15 remember 16:11 17:5 24:18 33:23 40:18 42:7 53:6 57:18 59:11 62:7 63:15 64:8 65:1                                                                       | 285:3  report 42:2 85:21 217:11,12 242:16, 19 245:22,24 246:7  reporter 69:3,8,18 181:16  reporter's 168:4  reporting 187:10                                                                                                         | 204:4,6,7,8<br>207:23 210:2,4<br>218:17 238:17,21<br>246:12,14,18,25<br>248:10,25 249:3<br>250:15 251:18<br>258:23 272:3<br>295:4 297:9,12,13<br>309:4<br>requested 6:18,22                                                                                              |
| 172:21,23 201:18,<br>22 202:14,17<br>237:5<br>reliability 40:3<br>285:14 286:10<br>298:12,13<br>reliable 199:22<br>274:14 285:10<br>298:8<br>relied 98:13 102:8<br>107:7<br>relieved 210:11<br>rely 33:19 172:10<br>199:21 204:15<br>235:7 249:8                             | 66:11 76:7 159:4 162:8 184:21 187:25 226:1 299:20,25 304:22 309:6  remind 97:17 129:11 166:22 174:19 179:6 192:17 195:8 266:8 269:1 312:20 314:1  reminding 9:10  removal 74:24 226:10,13,15 302:14                | 217:5 reports 45:6 85:1, 5,8 292:10,11 represent 168:22 169:12 171:19 188:11 191:5 representation 74:15 208:11 216:9,13 representative 134:3 represented 183:7 representing 134:20 188:10                                            | requesting 81:6 requests 44:20 45:2 81:6 141:19 203:15 require 40:6 104:7 126:6 134:18 193:17,23 204:10 209:19 required 18:14 56:19,20 84:25 89:7 103:11 118:17 126:17 166:7 194:6,14 197:14,22 198:14                                                                   |



| 208:5 211:2 217:3<br>234:9 236:23<br>241:15 247:4<br>251:24 253:11<br>258:11 259:15<br>284:20 311:13                    | res<br>25<br>49<br>20<br>56<br>res |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| requirement 17:8<br>127:11,12 140:2<br>141:15 144:15<br>161:4 168:3,14<br>193:20 211:1<br>214:13 221:21<br>250:12 262:2 | 57<br>25<br>67<br>24<br>res        |
| requirements 49:12 58:2 193:15 194:7,17 198:19, 22 247:22 283:24 284:15,22                                              | res<br>40<br>19<br>29<br>30        |
| requires 76:10<br>117:5 166:8<br>193:15 209:25                                                                          | 93<br>37                           |
| requiring 279:13                                                                                                        | res                                |
| research 234:14                                                                                                         | res                                |
| resell 119:5                                                                                                            | res                                |
| reserve 39:11,13,<br>20 66:14,21 67:1<br>82:5 169:10<br>226:16                                                          | 65<br>13<br>13<br>24               |
| <b>reserves</b> 82:15 87:1                                                                                              | 14<br>15<br>19                     |
| residual 193:23<br>262:16                                                                                               | 19                                 |
| residuals 149:11<br>195:25 209:17<br>214:23 233:24<br>247:12                                                            | 17<br>20<br>2'<br>2'               |
| resolution 105:8                                                                                                        | 25<br>27                           |
| <b>resolve</b> 231:10                                                                                                   | 29                                 |
| resolved 45:15                                                                                                          | 30                                 |
| 46:4 314:15                                                                                                             | res                                |
| resolving 45:12                                                                                                         | res                                |

| Evidentiar                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| resource 22:23<br>25:18 33:15 45:9<br>49:8,10,11,12,16,<br>20,21 51:20,22<br>56:18                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| resources 6:22<br>51:6,8 56:23,24,<br>25 60:6 64:17<br>67:11 236:10<br>241:20 248:5                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| respect 9:3 50:10<br>163:22                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| respond 16:21<br>40:9 108:20<br>199:16 273:7<br>295:7 301:25<br>302:4 310:4,6                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| responded 87:10<br>93:10 109:3 190:8<br>311:4                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| responding 40:18                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| responds 45:15                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| response 16:13,<br>20 37:5 46:6<br>65:16 114:17<br>133:12,15,16<br>134:8,24 135:19,<br>24 141:18 145:14<br>149:21 151:10,14<br>154:21,24 155:1,3<br>190:23 197:9<br>198:1 199:1<br>202:4,6 204:6,8,9,<br>17,22 207:23<br>208:25 210:2,3<br>218:18 241:3<br>249:3,9 250:14<br>251:18,22 252:23<br>272:3 273:2<br>295:5,19 297:12<br>300:7 |
| responses 249:15                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| responsibility                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |

| April 17, 202                         | HIIIUEA.             |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 210:10 284:18                         | 4 52                 |
| responsible                           | 62:8<br>70:          |
| 208:22                                | 83:                  |
| rest 106:10 277:24                    | 92:                  |
| 305:24                                | 160<br>173           |
| restrooms 294:8,                      | 183                  |
|                                       | 11                   |
| result 22:24 51:4<br>52:13 60:10      | 224                  |
| 105:10 167:16,18                      | 236<br>242           |
| 182:6 236:24                          | 262                  |
| 272:24                                | 287                  |
| resulting 169:18,<br>25               | 316                  |
| _                                     | retire               |
| results 48:1 59:20, 21,25 62:23 64:16 | 10 (<br>86:2         |
| 65:19 167:14                          | retire               |
| 180:25 187:1                          | 104                  |
| 272:2,11                              | retiri               |
| retail 161:4                          | 65:                  |
| retire 20:6 22:19,                    | 214                  |
| 25 26:18 27:16<br>40:24 41:11,19      | retri                |
| 43:1 61:5 62:25                       | retro                |
| 64:25 65:8,10,18                      | 41:<br>64:           |
| 70:19 79:19<br>83:12,17 92:20         |                      |
| 283:19 287:13                         | retro                |
| 305:16                                | <b>retu</b> r<br>104 |
| retired 67:24 68:1                    | 107                  |
| 75:1 89:22 94:20                      | 114                  |
| 152:7 160:12,13<br>169:12,16,19,23    | 122<br>165           |
| 170:1 175:19                          | 169                  |
| 176:1 181:19                          | 173                  |
| 182:1,10,13<br>188:14,16 191:21       | 177<br>20,2          |
| 226:8,9 283:19,24                     | 20,2<br>11,          |
| retirement 12:18                      | 21,                  |
| 14:21 15:2,17                         | 5 2                  |
| 18:24 19:6,20<br>25:18 26:2 43:16     | 226<br>241           |
| 50:17,18,21 51:3,                     | 250                  |
|                                       |                      |
| I I                                   | 1                    |

2:2 61:10,11 8,18 63:6 18 82:15,17 7 89:13 91:22 5 158:14 0:12 169:13 3:1,16,24 3:14,15 192:10, 196:1,8,11 4:12 234:22 6:16,22 239:25 2:1,6 243:3,13 2:1 263:17 7:10,13 293:5 8:6 ements 26:9, 60:6 79:23 25 es 63:11 4:5 164:25 ing 26:21 21 165:22 4:24 215:22 ed 67:25 ofit 40:25 12,19 43:1 25 65:8,10,18 ofitting 65:22 rn 96:15 4:24 105:5 7:16 108:10 4:19 121:20 2:11 135:4,5,8 5:7 167:18 9:18,24 170:10 3:3 175:18,25 7:25 180:14,18, 21,22 182:5,7, 15 212:4,5,8, 24,25 213:2,4, 19:2 224:10 6:18 239:23 :22 247:20 0:23 252:25



| returned 176:18<br>177:6,22 247:19<br>251:15                                                                                                  |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| returning 217:22<br>240:11 241:12                                                                                                             |
| returns 180:1<br>217:7                                                                                                                        |
| revenue 17:7 58:1<br>127:11,12 128:5<br>140:2 141:15<br>144:15 161:4<br>168:3,13 191:22<br>213:17                                             |
| revenues 180:19,<br>22,24                                                                                                                     |
| reverse 56:6                                                                                                                                  |
| review 41:15<br>44:16,20 53:17<br>62:22 117:25<br>216:5,6,15 217:16<br>303:22 309:19                                                          |
| reviewed 32:2<br>76:4 102:18<br>179:25 274:5<br>281:25 282:13,14<br>304:5                                                                     |
| revised 294:14                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Richardson</b> 275:7 299:17                                                                                                                |
| rid 143:11,12<br>211:22                                                                                                                       |
| Riley 95:7 96:18<br>97:4 130:18 131:8<br>135:23 152:18,19,<br>24 153:4,7 154:3,<br>14,25 159:22<br>179:5,6,10,20,21<br>187:22 189:21<br>192:8 |
| Riley's 134:25                                                                                                                                |

```
rise 45:10 65:20
risk 40:4 43:11
 50:14
road 20:15 126:11
Robinett 74:22
 76:24,25 77:6,11
 78:5,18 79:2,15
 88:22 91:13 92:17
 94:3 155:17 264:3
 313:25 314:1,3,7
 315:3,20 318:18
 319:2
Robinette 75:3
robust 165:24
rock 145:23
 256:12,14
rocks 142:24
 150:11
room 68:24,25
 71:11 106:15
 239:9
roughly 80:2,23
 98:11
round 64:22
 267:14 290:2
rounding 220:22,
 23
route 190:19
 222:11,12
routine 212:17
routinely 257:24
row 101:8 164:17
rude 249:22
rule 40:6 198:5,9
 204:18 209:25
 233:24 237:6
 238:3 241:12,15
 247:12 250:13,16
 261:25 311:22
```

| rules 17:7 44:7,9, 11 45:7,8 56:19, 21 134:18 193:23 194:6,18 203:22 217:4 234:23 237:20 248:4,8  ruling 9:9  run 74:3 88:1 150:13 194:9 231:1 257:18,23 277:16 320:8  running 83:19 84:8  runoff 258:16  runs 213:19  Rush 14:22 15:2 17:18 18:14 19:20 20:6 21:8 22:19 25:19 35:10 40:24                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <b>A-W-N-E</b> 8:2<br>71:14                                                                                                                                                       |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 11 45:7,8 56:19, 21 134:18 193:23 194:6,18 203:22 217:4 234:23 237:20 248:4,8  ruling 9:9  run 74:3 88:1 150:13 194:9 231:1 257:18,23 277:16 320:8  running 83:19 84:8  runoff 258:16  runs 213:19  Rush 14:22 15:2 17:18 18:14 19:20 20:6 21:8 22:19 25:19 35:10 40:24                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | I-A-B-E-N 14 A-W-N-E 8:2 71:14 12:13 134:6 211:4,7 12 266:6 6,19 273:12 15,18,21,22 4,21,25 15,20 283:25 7,13 294:3 24 299:2,8,10                                                 |
| 217:4 234:23 237:20 248:4,8  ruling 9:9  run 74:3 88:1 150:13 194:9 231:1 257:18,23 277:16 320:8  running 83:19 84:8  runoff 258:16  runs 213:19  Rush 14:22 15:2 17:18 18:14 19:20 20:6 21:8 22:19 25:19 35:10 40:24  232: S-H-A S- | 14<br><b>A-W-N-E</b> 8:2<br>71:14<br>12:13<br>134:6 211:4,7<br>12 266:6<br>6,19 273:12<br>15,18,21,22<br>4,21,25<br>15,20 283:25<br>7,13 294:3<br>24 299:2,8,10                   |
| ruling 9:9  run 74:3 88:1 150:13 194:9 231:1 257:18,23 277:16 320:8  running 83:19 84:8  runoff 258:16  runs 213:19  Rush 14:22 15:2 17:18 18:14 19:20 20:6 21:8 22:19 25:19 35:10 40:24                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 71:14<br>12:13<br>134:6 211:4,7<br>12 266:6<br>6,19 273:12<br>15,18,21,22<br>4,21,25<br>15,20 283:25<br>7,13 294:3<br>24 299:2,8,10                                               |
| run 74:3 88:1<br>150:13 194:9<br>231:1 257:18,23<br>277:16 320:8<br>running 83:19<br>84:8<br>277:<br>runoff 258:16<br>runs 213:19<br>Rush 14:22 15:2<br>17:18 18:14 19:20<br>20:6 21:8 22:19<br>25:19 35:10 40:24                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | 12:13<br>134:6 211:4,7<br>12 266:6<br>6,19 273:12<br>15,18,21,22<br>4,21,25<br>15,20 283:25<br>7,13 294:3<br>24 299:2,8,10                                                        |
| 67:24 79:18 80:5, 10,13 81:14,22 82:21 83:1,6,11, 24 84:11,13,19 85:16 89:22 92:21 94:7 100:21 101:7,12 115:11 133:21 140:19,25 142:3 147:13 148:9 149:8,16 160:12 168:2,13 171:20 172:21,24 173:1,11,15 182:17 183:1 191:25 197:16,23 198:15 200:5 224:17 247:5,10 268:9,11 272:13 283:18 285:11,24 287:3 288:25 291:13 295:16                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | 5 304:19,25<br>1,12 306:13<br>11 310:7,11<br>8 313:3<br>les 134:12<br>15 149:22<br>5,13,15 261:3<br>ling 134:9<br>196:12<br>y 73:25<br>factory<br>2,5<br>fies 194:17<br>fy 165:16 |



161:10,18 163:6

| scaffold 279:16              | scorecard 309:20                | securitize 70:18   | sequence 93:1                   |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------|
| scaffolding 278:8            | scrap 283:2                     | 223:7 227:1 228:2  | series 64:23 87:7               |
|                              | -                               | securitized 75:2   | 125:6 255:15                    |
| scenario 223:10              | scratch 55:2,22                 | 94:9 128:16 130:8  |                                 |
| scenarios 23:12              | 159:10                          | 152:9 177:11       | served 121:4                    |
| 88:3                         | scrubbers 15:3                  | 185:4 190:15       | 211:14 212:2,3                  |
| Schaben 206:8                | 41:24 42:5                      | 192:12 196:9       | <b>serves</b> 249:13            |
| 232:3,4,9,14,15              | seated 68:14 77:5               | 216:21 244:14      | service 67:24                   |
| 233:4 249:16                 | 97:18 166:23                    | 265:13,16,18       | 74:14 89:22 90:25               |
| 250:6 253:16                 | 179:7 192:17                    | 280:13 309:23      | 122:23 127:13                   |
| 264:2 304:19                 | 195:9 254:7                     | 311:18             | 161:6 180:8                     |
| 312:19,22                    | 306:22 317:9                    | securitizing       | 191:22 212:18,21                |
| Schaben's                    | Secretary 238:1                 | 211:25 212:2       | 215:7 218:25                    |
| 193:11,19                    |                                 | 215:19 293:5,11    | 219:11 231:2                    |
| ,                            | section 89:13                   | 305:19             | 307:9                           |
| schedule 40:23               | 177:1 184:12                    | seeking 87:8       | services 213:25                 |
| 88:1 89:19,24                | 189:6 229:21                    | 106:24             | 227:7,12                        |
| 90:7,23 91:1<br>93:18 105:19 | 271:23                          |                    | set 59:2 93:6                   |
| 110:24,25 111:21             | securitizable                   | selection 45:9     | 94:14 114:21,23                 |
| 113:4 124:6                  | 152:1                           | 50:21 58:3         | 115:25 119:9                    |
| 131:20 153:18                | securitization                  | self-serving       | 136:24 138:19                   |
| 161:10 162:13,17,            | 21:9 84:7 94:21                 | 135:17             | 176:5 288:5                     |
| 18 163:3 164:16              | 95:1 108:8 117:4                | send 217:14        |                                 |
| 169:5,12,15                  | 122:10,11,21                    | 266:13             | <b>sets</b> 191:16              |
| 170:14 171:6,14              | 127:20 128:11                   | senior 255:1 292:7 | setting 223:8                   |
| 196:18 271:6,13              | 151:24 152:11                   | 307:10             | <b>settle</b> 236:24            |
| 274:15 287:1                 | 158:10,12 161:5                 |                    | settled 192:15                  |
| 294:1 295:17                 | 165:15,23 168:3,                | sense 17:8,20      |                                 |
| 302:21 310:10                | 13 175:11 176:12                | 63:8 121:14 226:7  | settlement 13:18                |
| scheduled 255:13             | 177:4,7 178:8,13                | 227:14,15 235:14,  | 98:13,19,23,24                  |
| 317:19                       | 181:13 182:22<br>183:5,15,18,23 | 15 265:24          | 102:13,15 106:25                |
| schedules 53:19              | 184:12 185:8                    | sentence 198:11,   | 107:6 114:18,21,                |
| 77:19 93:16                  | 187:11,13 190:4                 | 17 207:24 240:10,  | 24 116:1 119:9                  |
| 110:20 111:16,19,            | 207:4,25 208:17                 | 18 270:10 275:9    | 121:17 124:8<br>125:7,23 126:13 |
| 24,25 112:8,13               | 209:9 211:16                    | separate 12:17     | 138:19                          |
| 130:7 153:12,18              | 214:3 215:4,15                  | 240:24 245:23      |                                 |
| 160:24 161:1,9,12            | 218:14 222:6,16                 | 284:7              | settlements 125:1               |
| 162:21 163:12,19             | 225:3,6,21                      | separated 119:20   | shaking 281:4                   |
| 164:1 213:24                 | 228:22,24 229:3,                | 299:18             | shareholders                    |
| 232:19                       | 6,7 230:1,20                    | separately 278:20  | 123:11                          |
| scheme 221:25                | 231:9,11 242:5,                 |                    |                                 |
| scoon 1/2:10                 | 12,16,18 243:2,24               | September 67:25    | <b>Shaw</b> 42:15               |
| scoop 142:10                 | 244:20 245:17                   | 70:14 89:23        | <b>Shawne</b> 7:13,21           |
| <b>scope</b> 27:24 29:12     | 303:5 309:9,12                  | 160:13 173:11      | 8:2,23,24                       |
| 30:16 273:12,13              | 311:12                          |                    |                                 |



|                                    | Evidentia                          | ry Hearing April 17, 20                | 24Index: sheetspeculation           |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>sheet</b> 110:18                | significant 52:13                  | situation 12:20                        | soot 147:12                         |
| <b>sheets</b> 162:9                | similar 59:5 106:7                 | 35:15 263:6 312:1                      | sorbent 52:6,11                     |
| shield 227:25                      | 312:7                              | size 137:4,12,22,                      | sort 12:20,21 20:1,                 |
| shielded 228:5,6                   | similar-like 282:2                 | 25                                     | 2 21:4 31:18 59:5                   |
| shift 215:17                       | similarities 282:3                 | <b>skip</b> 48:23 49:5 69:16 236:25    | 63:13 70:22<br>103:22 108:23        |
| shocked 59:23                      | similarity 245:16                  | skipped 52:17,19                       | 109:1,12 110:15                     |
| <b>shoes</b> 121:3                 | similarly 7:4                      | skipping 247:18                        | 125:1 170:8<br>202:20 217:5         |
| <b>short</b> 164:13                | simple 149:2                       | slap 108:25                            | sought 87:12                        |
| 205:6 263:13                       | 157:23                             | slight 215:10,19                       | sounds 39:15                        |
| 303:9                              | simply 20:13<br>255:18             | slightly 140:13                        | 66:25 187:9                         |
| shortening 251:6                   | single 6:19 161:24                 | 168:17 214:10,14                       | 234:25 264:15,19                    |
| shorter 194:10                     | singular 6:21                      | <b>slope</b> 257:15                    | source 42:3 249:7                   |
| shortly 89:14<br>182:13            | 113:7,8,12                         | <b>slow</b> 160:3 164:15               | 274:13                              |
| show 15:7 67:8                     | <b>Sioux</b> 234:16                | small 106:12                           | sourcing 280:19 283:3               |
| 95:15 260:12                       | 282:4                              | 299:2 302:22                           | <b>space</b> 37:5 290:19            |
| 280:21                             | sir 92:8 153:15,21<br>154:2 158:15 | smaller 221:23<br>302:8,10,11          | <b>spare</b> 303:11                 |
| showed 14:21<br>15:3 49:21         | 170:24 180:3,6,23                  | smashed 258:8                          | speak 16:4 26:23                    |
| showing 170:22                     | 181:10,14 187:11                   | smoother 18:7,11                       | 73:16 165:25                        |
| 295:24 320:7                       | 190:6,11,25<br>191:12,15 262:5     | Snell 42:1                             | speaking 17:21                      |
| <b>shown</b> 87:13                 | 284:24 286:17                      | social 41:7,13                         | 132:2 148:2                         |
| <b>shows</b> 67:5,8,9              | 288:11 294:13                      | soil 141:23                            | <b>special</b> 128:12,15, 18,25     |
| 237:16 288:24                      | sit 15:18 80:11<br>152:8           | 142:17,24 150:11                       | specialist 77:17                    |
| shrunk 146:4                       | site 32:12 95:12                   | 289:6                                  | specialty 279:20                    |
| <b>shut</b> 147:13 284:9           | 104:8 145:24                       | <b>sold</b> 128:13 283:2               | specific 22:18                      |
| <b>shy</b> 160:2                   | 193:22 197:24                      | <b>solely</b> 296:13                   | 44:11 53:7 54:13                    |
| <b>sic</b> 106:11                  | 247:6,11,17,21<br>258:7 261:2      | solemnly 7:16                          | 144:1 220:11                        |
| side 56:23,24,25                   | 268:11 279:18                      | 10:13 36:12 68:10<br>72:10 77:1 152:20 | 229:1                               |
| 100:22 115:6<br>139:21 215:12      | 280:6 284:3<br>291:13 292:14       | 232:5 254:3                            | specifically 15:16<br>16:2,19 17:18 |
| 228:10 292:9                       | sites 197:1 230:24                 | 306:18 317:5                           | 130:17 134:12                       |
| <b>Sierra</b> 7:4 16:18,           | 261:4 278:16                       | <b>solid</b> 21:1 33:20                | 193:25 214:20,21,<br>24 223:9 229:4 |
| 22 22:13 23:6,9,<br>14,17,22 24:13 | 282:17 284:12                      | <b>solids</b> 259:12,18                | 234:13 239:15                       |
| 34:11 50:10                        | sits 96:23 127:5                   | somebody's<br>28:12                    | speculate 58:10                     |
| signed 272:3                       | sitting 118:7 222:7                | sooner 32:17,23                        | speculation 58:9                    |
|                                    | 292:23 293:4,11                    | 217:8                                  | 230:8                               |
|                                    |                                    |                                        |                                     |



| <b>speculative</b> 19:8 31:1,22 109:15                                                                                                                                                          |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| speed 260:1                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>spell</b> 7:25 10:21 153:3,5 232:13 307:5                                                                                                                                                    |
| spelled 77:11,13                                                                                                                                                                                |
| spend 83:6,18                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| spends 84:1                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>spent</b> 44:3 121:12 236:6                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>spike</b> 211:20                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>spoke</b> 19:12 35:12 39:10                                                                                                                                                                  |
| spontaneous<br>256:1                                                                                                                                                                            |
| spontaneously<br>277:3                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>spread</b> 211:17                                                                                                                                                                            |
| spreadsheet<br>107:12 185:19<br>186:17,18 187:5                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>spring</b> 287:10                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>SSR</b> 85:13,17<br>284:17 287:25<br>288:6                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>stability</b> 285:14 286:10                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>stack</b> 136:25 277:20                                                                                                                                                                      |
| staff 6:3 7:11,13,<br>20 9:13 10:8,10<br>15:25 16:6 19:1,5,<br>24 20:4,11,13,18<br>21:2,5,20 25:5,8,<br>12,19,20 28:17<br>29:20 35:4,11<br>39:2 44:15,18,23<br>45:24 46:15,25<br>47:6,16 48:4,6 |

| Lvideritia                |
|---------------------------|
| 53:4,16 54:5              |
| 56:14,21 57:4,20          |
| 58:5,17,25 59:2           |
| 63:14,19,25 64:3,         |
| 11 69:1,3 71:15           |
|                           |
| 72:1,3,14 73:13           |
| 74:1 75:13 76:3,          |
| 16 79:7 88:7,11,          |
| 13,15 90:17               |
| 91:10,17,20 95:2,         |
| 5 97:25 102:8             |
| 114:5 123:19              |
| 129:7,9,12,14             |
| 130:3 136:11              |
| 141:15 150:17             |
| 154:6 159:13,15           |
| •                         |
| 162:13 165:2              |
| 167:2 174:8,17,20         |
| 176:22 177:24             |
| 178:23 179:13             |
| 183:16 187:15             |
| 192:20 194:21             |
| 195:6,10 200:2,           |
| 16,19 201:2               |
| 215:13 216:6              |
| 230:14,18 233:8           |
| •                         |
| 252:13 261:21             |
| 264:8,16 266:14,          |
| 16 267:24 268:15          |
| 274:20 276:1              |
| 280:8 293:18              |
| 299:24 300:19             |
| 301:1,4 302:16,20         |
| 303:13 306:8,10           |
| 312:9 313:9               |
| 315:11 316:16             |
| 318:7 319:12              |
| 310.7 313.12              |
| <b>staff's</b> 7:11 19:18 |
| 20:4 34:19,22,25          |
| 35:15 40:10 54:2          |
| 61:15 73:15 74:5          |
| 86:23 87:3 88:1           |
| 144:8 150:21              |
| 151:22 174:16             |
| 195:4 230:18              |
|                           |
| 235:7 265:23              |
| 300:7 309:14              |
|                           |

| y nearing                                                                                                           | April 17, 2022                                    |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| 312:14                                                                                                              |                                                   |
| stakeholder<br>33:19                                                                                                | 'S S                                              |
| stand 7:14 8 10:11 11:14 19 68:17,20 5,6 95:23 1 143:2 166:174:18 179 195:7 239:12 265:9 266:4 268:25 301 306:11,15 | 4 36:3,<br>0 72:4,<br>29:10 <b>s</b><br>18<br>::5 |
| stand-in 56                                                                                                         | :25 s                                             |
| standing 11                                                                                                         |                                                   |
| standpoint<br>18 119:16 1<br>305:24                                                                                 | 127:3                                             |
| stands 181:<br>205:17 248                                                                                           | S                                                 |
| start 7:10 6<br>79:15 95:18<br>133:24 160<br>192:9 256:<br>257:1,22 27<br>281:23 282<br>286:3 288:                  | 3 109:8<br>:8<br>13,14<br>76:15<br>:20            |
| <b>started</b> 55:9 90:1 132:7, 256:19                                                                              |                                                   |
| <b>starters</b> 136                                                                                                 | s·20                                              |
| starting 87:<br>91:24 148:2<br>240:13                                                                               | 5 88:9 s                                          |
| starts 30:11                                                                                                        | l s                                               |
| <b>STATCOMS</b> 286:6,24 28 16,22 298:4                                                                             | 87:4, s                                           |
| state 7:25 1<br>14:18 15:18<br>139:21 198<br>232:13 237                                                             | 3 48:3<br>:18                                     |

238:1 247:21,25 307:4 stated 14:24 50:25 168:24 192:4 249:14,16,18 250:8 275:8 statement 54:24 64:7 66:6 78:20 79:24 91:23 94:14 105:4 107:24 213:23 statements 134:8 191:19 296:8 states 279:11 283:17 **stating** 16:22 53:15 status 286:19 statute 76:10,14 94:22 95:1 117:5 121:25 122:2 158:10 176:12,14, 16,17 177:1 178:15 183:24,25 184:6,18,19,24 186:5,6,8 188:25 189:1 242:3,5,8,9 311:12 statutes 184:12 statutoral 87:20 statutory 177:13 stayed 164:16 261:15 steel 103:19 116:20 137:1 256:6,18 step 10:6 26:23 35:24 67:16 71:24 76:20 94:4 119:15 129:3 152:14 159:25 174:16



179:1 184:10,15,

| 16 186:7,25 192:9<br>195:3 231:22<br>253:4,17 263:11<br>264:6 268:23<br>301:3 306:6<br>312:12 313:22<br>320:11          |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| stipulation 102:6,<br>10,11 124:24<br>141:12 143:23                                                                     |
| <b>stipulations</b> 125:7 139:24 140:1,3                                                                                |
| stop 27:16 28:2<br>42:11 87:22 88:5,<br>6 186:19 187:8<br>202:23 247:2<br>249:20 257:12<br>267:13 299:12<br>304:4 319:5 |
| stopped 87:15<br>88:13 245:8<br>283:21 316:6<br>318:20                                                                  |
| <b>stopping</b> 86:24<br>87:19,21 88:13<br>160:2                                                                        |
| <b>storage</b> 291:11 292:16                                                                                            |
| <b>stored</b> 145:24 277:8                                                                                              |
| stores 283:4                                                                                                            |
| story 260:11                                                                                                            |
| straight 221:16                                                                                                         |
| straightened<br>148:22                                                                                                  |
| strategy 292:9                                                                                                          |
| stream 96:15                                                                                                            |
| streamline 186:21                                                                                                       |
| streamlined<br>186:11                                                                                                   |

| Evidentiary                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>stricken</b> 163:20 270:4,8                                                                                                                                                                         |
| strictly 217:20                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>strike</b> 9:3,9 37:12, 15,19,24 38:3,11 164:2 270:12 299:13                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>structure</b> 57:24 59:6                                                                                                                                                                            |
| studied 60:25                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| studies 26:2 42:6,<br>22,25 55:3,7,11<br>60:18 61:22,25<br>62:3,4 109:3<br>271:24                                                                                                                      |
| study 32:18 40:14<br>42:12 54:19 56:24<br>59:9 61:3,17<br>79:21 81:16 82:6<br>89:6 90:2 257:8<br>271:12,20,22<br>272:6,7,11 285:13<br>286:10 287:19<br>294:15,17 295:18<br>296:11,12,13<br>298:7 316:3 |
| studying 236:7                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| stuff 14:1 58:25<br>112:5 138:4<br>148:16 275:16<br>277:25 278:2<br>282:6 316:3                                                                                                                        |
| <b>style</b> 282:4                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Subchapter<br>236:12                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| subject 9:8 37:12<br>38:2,10 70:20<br>89:14 164:1<br>193:22 199:25<br>209:6 245:8<br>251:20 254:9<br>255:9                                                                                             |

| submission<br>111:20 162:4                             |   |
|--------------------------------------------------------|---|
| submissions<br>162:5                                   |   |
| submit 22:18<br>62:20 217:4<br>270:15 274:14<br>307:11 | Ş |
| submitted 309:13                                       | 5 |
| substance 116:21                                       | 9 |
| substantial 21:17                                      | 9 |
| substantially<br>307:21                                |   |
| substation 285:20<br>286:22 290:6                      | Ş |
| substrate 256:6,                                       | 5 |
| 21                                                     | 5 |
| subtly 36:6                                            |   |
| subtract 110:4                                         |   |
| subtracting 120:3<br>subtraction 187:4                 |   |
| success 282:10                                         |   |
| sudden 119:8                                           |   |
| sufficient 97:9                                        | 5 |
| 100:9                                                  | _ |
| sufficiently 298:8                                     | 3 |
| suggest 65:23                                          |   |
| 227:8                                                  | 5 |
| suggested 26:15<br>66:12 96:18<br>104:23               | ٠ |
| suggesting 25:4                                        | 9 |
| 47:6 119:21 319:4                                      |   |
| suggestion<br>264:18                                   | 9 |
| suggestions 18:9<br>48:4                               |   |
| suggests 118:19                                        | ٤ |
|                                                        |   |

| sulfur 95:18<br>109:7,8 132:8,13,<br>16,22,23 133:1,<br>22,25 134:1 138:3<br>141:25 147:25<br>148:1 150:14                              |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| summarizing<br>47:15                                                                                                                    |
| <b>summary</b> 44:8 79:20                                                                                                               |
| summation 91:19                                                                                                                         |
| summer 39:13,19<br>66:6 146:14 287:7<br>298:12,14                                                                                       |
| supervision<br>271:25                                                                                                                   |
| supervisor 153:10                                                                                                                       |
| supplies 78:19<br>113:19 212:11<br>213:10 265:17<br>266:7 268:7,9<br>281:16,20 282:25<br>301:8 305:20,23<br>314:8 315:22<br>318:5 319:6 |
| <b>supply</b> 56:23 281:7,9                                                                                                             |
| support 12:24<br>47:22 58:2 215:14<br>255:2                                                                                             |
| supporting 111:18<br>119:24 161:3<br>163:2,12 164:1                                                                                     |
| supportive 47:20                                                                                                                        |
| <b>supposed</b> 168:5, 22                                                                                                               |
| supposition 18:20                                                                                                                       |
| sur-surrebuttal<br>36:23 38:2,4,7<br>43:10                                                                                              |
| surface 73:17                                                                                                                           |



247:18 253:6,9 98:6 129:22 277:12 282:12 14 235:24 237:7 258:9 152:20,25 167:11 285:13 238:6,18,20,23 175:7 179:22 239:5 242:22 talking 24:24 25:8 surprise 39:20 193:8 195:20 244:23 245:10 66:8 28:21 43:13 44:3 232:5,10 254:3,19 246:11,21 248:23 45:2 76:3 81:24 surrebuttal 8:6,21, 267:3 269:5 249:4,19,21 250:2 93:20 101:15,23 24 15:25 28:7 301:22 306:18,24 252:17,23 253:18, 113:3,5,6,7,8 37:22 38:6 40:20 312:23 314:4 21 254:1,14,21 127:22 132:16 42:18 60:3 65:20 317:4,12 255:5 263:5,9 137:17,23 145:20 87:3 93:1,10 **system** 26:7 51:9 tax 15:4,17 160:9, 148:6,18,19 111:24,25 130:9 10,11 165:10,12, 52:11 59:19 60:4 162:17 172:9 139:22 153:17 61:12 235:21 188:22 194:4 16 167:14,15,16, 162:14 163:20 237:12 247:17,19 197:14 208:3 17,18,20,22 164:3 223:20 251:8 285:10,15 211:6,21 217:10 169:18,25 170:18 224:4 239:1,3,15 286:11 298:7 171:14,18,19 220:18,22 221:24 255:9 269:11,25 304:20 225:1 253:5 258:2 172:3,12,25 271:10 274:18 311:7,20 173:2,4,10,13,15, 275:19,20 300:8 systems 277:7 16,22,24 174:1,4 talks 151:21 302:22 307:12,17, 176:7,17 179:25 20 308:5 198:4,14 270:10 Т 180:5,10,11,13,18 surrounding tangible 236:22 181:1,4,5,7 tab 90:1 112:16 215:24 182:18 183:2,6,9 tariff 62:22 94:10 113:12,13,14,22 184:2,14 185:2,6, **suspect** 220:20 128:16 168:24 161:25 171:2,11, 23,25 187:23,24 221:20 280:24 192:12 265:14,16, 18,19 172:3,12. 188:8 189:8,9,12, 19 suspended 17,22,25 18 191:3,13 192:1 tariffs 178:8 185:4 259:12,18 table 243:10 taxable 169:18,25 sustain 30:16 **Tatro** 6:2 68:8,16, 269:23 285:2 180:5,9,25 200:10 230:11 288:19 22 71:22 73:1 taxes 160:14,15 75:25 76:1,15 Sustained 28:1 tact 118:23 170:10 171:12 78:15,17 79:11,12 177:5.10.25 **swear** 7:16 10:13 takes 166:3 171:2 85:25 89:12 36:12 68:10 72:11 178:4,6,11 180:21 92:12,17 164:10, taking 27:6 31:14 184:25 185:1 77:1 152:20 232:5 13,19,20 166:21, 120:3 124:24 188:10,11,17,18, 254:3 306:18 24 174:13 175:3 129:5 131:21 317:5 20,21 189:11,18 178:22 179:17 140:15 141:25 187:19,21 189:20 team 278:18 switches 285:25 205:17 227:11 190:23 192:14 286:4 277:18 289:5 tear 256:20 195:2,17,22 197:6 switchyard 278:2 talk 44:4 50:16 199:3,7,16,18 technical 131:1 285:24 286:15,16 205:18 223:23 200:12 203:4,6, 137:14 184:21 291:7 302:6 228:10 233:22 10,21 204:11,25 204:18 304:21 305:3,9 242:12 253:22 205:2,6,15,25 technically 212:8 310:9 291:21 293:23 206:4 223:17,18 telling 112:5 224:1 226:20 sworn 7:16,22 talked 33:25 60:17 10:18 36:18 39:5 228:18,19 229:9 114:18 160:17 temporarily 230:9,12 233:13, 69:25 73:8 77:1,7 260:24 270:3



|                                       | Lviderillai         | • •                | 2024Index. temporarytim   |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| 277:16                                | 317:12,15           | 239:15 240:7,9,24  | 318:24 320:1              |
| temporary 277:20                      | testifies 199:9     | 241:5,6 246:11     | thinking 51:17            |
|                                       |                     | 249:6,10,12 250:8  | _                         |
| 302:2                                 | 224:10 272:1        | 251:19 254:4       | 121:3,15 204:2            |
| tender 9:13 11:22                     | testify 95:22 136:3 | 266:11 269:9,11    | thought 15:21             |
| 38:16 68:21 72:7,                     | 199:11 204:22       | 1                  | 18:16 20:10 25:20         |
| · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · |                     | 270:2,5 271:18     |                           |
| 16 79:1 97:19                         | 314:12,16           | 275:19,20 283:16   | 29:20 66:6,11             |
| 154:4 166:25                          | testifying 24:7     | 284:25 285:1       | 78:19 103:8               |
| 174:22 179:10                         | 66:25 78:18         | 288:20 293:24      | 148:21                    |
| 192:16 233:6                          |                     | 296:2 300:7,8,12,  | 41 14- 40-0               |
| 255:5 266:11                          | 116:24 240:21       | 20 306:16,19       | thoughts 18:6,9           |
| 275:11,13 301:10                      | 245:8 266:6         | /                  | 63:23                     |
| •                                     | testimonies 40:17   | 307:12,17,20       | thousands 146:12          |
| 308:10 313:7                          | 269:16 270:17       | 309:3,13 312:13    | 140.12                    |
| 315:8                                 | 269.16 270.17       | 313:6 314:19       | three-year 209:16         |
| tendered 276:1                        | testimony 7:17      | 315:3 317:23       | 4b = 0 b o l ol 0 0 0 0 0 |
| terracion 270.1                       | 8:4,5,6,10,12,20,   | 318:1              | threshold 252:8           |
| tenders 129:14                        | 21,23,24 10:5,14,   |                    | thrown 34:5 87:17         |
| 195:10                                |                     | testing 134:5      |                           |
|                                       | 25 11:1,5,17,19     | text 168:9,10      | tie 284:10 285:4,         |
| tenths 221:24                         | 12:22,24 13:4       | text 100.9,10      | 23,24 286:3,23            |
| term 29:8 102:11                      | 14:15 15:6,25       | theory 95:11       | 4:-d 202.22               |
| 103:9 125:3 191:5                     | 16:8,11 17:6 20:2   | 131:8,12           | tied 283:22               |
|                                       | 25:4 26:25 28:5,7,  | ·                  | Tim 6:14                  |
| 210:16                                | 12,13 36:13 37:21   | thing 69:18 88:2   |                           |
| terminology                           | 38:5,6 39:17        | 144:24 176:8,10    | time 7:7 8:18 9:24        |
| 189:17 190:2                          | 40:14,20 42:18      | 184:3,14 189:12,   | 11:14 12:5 18:20          |
|                                       | ·                   | 19 205:21 222:5    | 26:3,20 30:14,19          |
| terms 59:24 61:2                      | 44:5 46:15 48:3     | 257:10 259:17      | 33:11 35:3,4              |
| 65:24 68:4 108:4                      | 52:23 60:3 65:20    | 261:16 279:23      | 36:19 41:18 42:19         |
| 120:25 123:6                          | 68:11,19 71:23      | 201.10 27 9.23     | 43:4,14,15 44:3           |
| 139:3 194:16                          | 72:7,10,11 73:21    | things 20:11 23:19 | 45:4 46:13 50:20          |
| 208:8 214:7                           | 74:11 76:21 77:2,   | 31:14 41:15 44:25  |                           |
| 237:19 274:3                          | 18,23,24 78:1,13    | 50:9 54:2 56:22    | 51:11 52:16               |
| 237.19.274.3                          | 83:9 85:22 86:12,   | 58:1 60:2 64:8     | 59:19,24 60:8,11,         |
| terrible 69:17                        | ,                   |                    | 15,25 61:12 63:6,         |
|                                       | 20 88:25 89:2,15    | 88:15 124:25       | 11 64:3 67:17             |
| test 82:22 209:12                     | 92:23,25 93:1,5,6   | 126:4,9 127:25     | 68:17,19 72:7,15,         |
| testified 7:22                        | 99:25 100:1 106:8   | 146:25 148:18      | 22 78:8,24 88:5           |
| 10:18 39:5 69:25                      | 111:9 130:9         | 150:12,13 176:12   | 89:16 93:1 94:24          |
|                                       | 132:15 152:21       | 180:13 211:19      |                           |
| 73:8 77:7 98:6                        | 153:11,17,22        | 221:25 222:21      | 97:1 98:17 99:10          |
| 113:4 129:22                          | 154:1 167:23        | 226:17 236:25      | 102:24 105:14,15          |
| 152:25 156:14                         | 173:10 179:8        | 257:2 259:13       | 107:4 108:15,18,          |
| 167:11 175:7                          |                     |                    | 23 109:9,14,25            |
| 179:22 193:8                          | 185:18 186:9        | 260:20 261:13,14,  | 110:5,7,18                |
| 195:20 204:21                         | 193:19 199:14       | 17 274:7,8 277:6,  | 117:18,19 119:13          |
| 232:10 254:19                         | 205:23 206:5        | 8,11,19,21         | 121:4 125:18              |
| 267:3 269:5 296:1                     | 223:20 224:4        | 278:13,15 279:6    | 126:21 129:14             |
|                                       | 225:11 231:17       | 286:13 290:20      |                           |
| 301:22 302:13                         | 232:6,16,20,24      | 291:18 300:11      | 134:17 136:23             |
| 306:24 312:23                         | 233:1,17,19         | 305:17,24 316:11   | 142:2,12 149:23           |
| 314:4 316:6                           | 200.1,17,18         | 500.11,24 510.11   | 150:6 156:9,10,           |
|                                       |                     |                    | 1                         |



| 182:24 187:22         133:13 136:16         142:3 161:4         281:24 284:11           193:25 195:10         138:11 153:23         171:17 212:12         171:17 212:12         154:1 157:24         177:19,23 174:2         172:19,23 174:2         172:19,23 174:2         172:19,23 174:2         172:19,23 174:2         172:19,23 174:2         172:19,23 174:2         173:14:259:12,18         281:13         281:13         281:13         22:25 25:14,22,22         26:3,7,10,16,19         277:0,16,19         277:0,19,21 35:17         26:13,7,10,16,19         277:0,19,21 35:17         26:13,7,10,16,19         277:0,19,21 35:17         26:13,7,10,16,19         277:0,19,21 35:17         26:3,7,10,16,19         277:0,19,21 35:17         26:3,7,10,16,19         277:0,19,21 35:17         26:3,7,10,16,19         277:0,19,21 35:17         26:3,7,10,16,19         277:0,19,21 35:17         277:18 292:23         272:19         279:13 40:22         279:13 40:22         279:2,4,5         279:13 40:22         279:13 40:22         279:13 40:22         279:2,22         279:2,22         279:2,22         279:2,22         279:2,22         279:2,22         279:17         279:18 29:20         279:17         279:18 29:20         279:2,22         279:2,22         279:2,22         279:2,22         279:2,22         279:2,22         279:2,22         279:2,22         279:2,22         279:2,22         279:2,22 <t< th=""><th></th><th></th><th>Ty Healing April 17, 2024</th><th></th></t<>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                       |                                       | Ty Healing April 17, 2024             |                                       |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 170:13 172:18 174:11,22 181:7 174:11,22 181:7 181:14 172:19 182:24 187:22 193:25 195:10 138:11 153:23 154:1 157:24 158:2 215:18 221:18 227:19.23 174:2 214:17 219:7 221:18 225:14,16, 20 230:4 236:3,6 237:4,14,23 241:17 242:20 244:3,5 251:7 256:18 260:15 266:11 270:24 280:24 288:8 292:3,22,25 293:3 295:6 299:18 300:15,18 301:10 306:15 307:16 308:1,10 314:11 315:1 317:18,21 timeframe 16:2 48:9 228:3,4 242:3 303:9 timeline 193:25  | 11,13,14,19,22,24                     | 11:10 37:18 61:21                     | 289:23                                | 95:1,3 130:5                          |
| 170:13 172:18   99:13 104:11   total 98:25 100:21   181:18.24 278:16   281:24 284:11   transitions 32:3   transmission 24:25 25:14,22,22   23:24 233:2,17   232:24 233:2,17   232:24 233:2,17   237:4,14,23   232:24 233:2,17   236:18 260:15   266:11 270:24   280:24 288:8   292:32   293:4,11 307:19   300:15,18 301:10 306:15 307:16 308:1,10 314:11 315:1 317:18,21   timeframe 16:2 48:9 228:3,4   242:3 303:9   timeline 193:25   t | 158:19,21 164:7                       | 75:18 77:24 78:1                      | tonic 242:11                          | 149:9 161:5                           |
| 182:24 187:22       133:13 136:16       142:3 161:4       281:24 284:11         193:25 195:10       138:11 153:23       172:112,23,25       172:19,23 174:2       172:19,23 174:2       172:19,23 174:2       172:19,23 174:2       172:19,23 174:2       172:19,23 174:2       172:19,23 174:2       172:19,23 174:2       172:19,23 174:2       172:19,23 174:2       172:19,23 174:2       172:19,23 174:2       172:19,23 174:2       172:19,23 174:2       172:19,23 174:2       172:19,23 174:2       172:19,23 174:2       172:19,23 174:2       172:19,23 174:2       172:19,23 174:2       172:19,23 174:2       172:19,23 174:2       172:19,23 174:2        172:19,23 174:2       172:19,23 174:2        172:19,23 174:2       172:19,23 174:2        172:19,23 174:2        172:19,23 174:2        172:19,23 174:2        172:19,23 174:2        172:19,23 174:2        172:19,23 174:2        172:19,23 174:2        172:19,23 174:2        172:19,23 174:2        172:19,23 174:2        172:19,23 174:2        172:19,23 174:2        172:19,23 174:2        172:19,23 174:2        172:19,23 174:2        172:19,23 174:2        172:19,23 174:2        172:19,23 174:2        172:19,23 174:2        172:19,23 174:2        172:19,23 174:2        172:19,23 174:2        172:19,23 174:2        172:19,23 174:2        172:19,23 174:2        172:19,23 174:2        172:12,22,25        172:10,19,213:17        172:19,23 17        172:19,19,23 17                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 170:13 172:18                         | 95:13 104:11                          | -                                     | 166:12 169:1                          |
| 193:25 195:10 211:17 212:12 214:17 219:7 2218 225:14,16, 20 230:4 236:3,6 237:4,14,23 241:17 242:20 241:17 242:20 244:3,5 251:7 256:18 260:15 261:19 265:5 266:29 218 300:15,18 301:10 306:15 307:16 308:1,10 314:11 315:1 317:18,21 timeframe 16:2 48:9 228:3,4 242:3 303:9 timeline 193:25 timely 63:24 times 101:22 124:25 146:6 171:14 176:14 183:9 188:22 235:7 timing 34:1 50:23 521:15 4:18 61:1,3 65:3 219:16,20 230:14 236:8 252:15 290:5 title 236:8 254:15, 22 29:5 297:14  138:11 153:23 171:12,23,25 172:19,23 174:2 187:11 259:12,18 281:13 187:11 259:12,18 281:13 187:11 259:12,18 281:13 187:11 259:12,18 281:13 187:11 259:12,18 281:13 187:11 259:12,18 281:13 187:11 259:12,18 281:13 187:11 259:12,18 281:13 187:11 259:12,18 281:13 187:11 259:12,18 281:13 187:11 259:12,18 281:13 187:11 259:12,18 281:13 187:11 259:12,18 281:13 187:11 259:12,18 281:13 187:11 259:12,18 281:13 187:11 259:12,18 281:13 187:11 259:12,18 281:13 187:11 259:12,18 281:13 187:11 259:12,18 281:13 187:11 259:12,18 281:13 187:11 259:12,18 281:13 187:11 259:12,18 281:13 187:11 259:12,18 281:13 187:11 259:12,18 281:13 187:11 259:12,18 281:13 187:11 259:12,18 281:13 187:11 259:12,18 281:13 187:11 259:12,18 281:13 187:11 259:12,18 281:13 187:11 259:12,18 281:13 187:11 259:12,18 281:13 187:11 259:12,18 281:13 187:11 259:12,18 281:13 187:11 259:12,18 281:13 187:11 259:12,18 281:13 187:11 259:12,18 281:13 187:11 259:12,18 281:13 187:11 259:12,18 281:13 187:11 259:12,18 281:13 187:11 259:12,18 281:13 187:11 259:12,18 281:13 187:11 259:12,18 281:13 187:11 259:12,18 281:13 187:11 259:12,18 281:13 187:11 259:12,18 281:13 187:10,9,21 35:17 182:18 29:12 187:10,9,21 35:17 182:18 29:12 187:10,9,21 35:17 182:18 29:12,18 28:17 28:17 28:79 29:19 29:19 27:10,19,19 21 27:10,19,19,13 35:17 182:18 29:12,18 28:17 28:17 28:79 29:19 29:19 27:10,19,21 28:17 28:17 28:17 28:17 28:17 28:17 28:17 28:17 28:17 28:17 28:17 28:17 28:17 28:17 28:17 28:17 28:17 28:17 28:17 28:17 28:17 28:17 28:17 28:17 28:17 28:17 28:17 28:17 28:17 28:17 28:17 28:17 28:17 28:17 28:17 28:17 28:17 28:17 28:1 | 174:11,22 181:7                       | 107:18 131:15                         |                                       | 181:18,24 278:16                      |
| 211:17 212:12 214:17 219:7 222:18 225:14,16, 20 230:4 236:3,6 237:4,14,23 241:17 242:20 244:3,5 251:7 256:18 260:15 261:9 265:5 266:11 270:24 280:24 288:8 292:3,22,25 293:3 295:6 299:18 300:15,18 301:10 306:15 307:16 308:1,10 314::11 315:1 317:18,21 timeframe 16:2 48:9 228:3,4 242:3 303:9 timeline 193:25 timely 63:24 times 101:22 124:25 146:6 171:14 176:14 183:9 188:22 235:7 timing 34:1 50:23 52:15 54:18 261:12 172:19,23 174:2 187:11 259:12,18 281:13 totally 148:19 27:10,19,21 35:17 244:3,5 251:7 320:13 tough 257:13 tough 267:13 tough 257:13 54:18 55:7,11 57:1 59:9,19 60:5 18,21 61:12 62:16 289:20 tracked 222:24 223:12 223:17 309:25 310:2 311:4,6 289:20 tracker 222:17 309:25 310:2 311:4,6 289:20 tracker 222:17 309:25 310:2 311:4,6 289:20 tracker 222:22 tracking 209:1 216:23 223:3,4,5, 6,8 139:4,13 145:1,9, 21 156:7 tonnage 157:14 tonn | 182:24 187:22                         | 133:13 136:16                         |                                       | 281:24 284:11                         |
| 211:17 212:12 214:17 219:7 221:18 225:14,16, 20 230:4 236:3,6 237:4,14,23 241:17 242:20 241:17 242:20 244:3,5 251:7 256:18 260:15 261:9 265:5 266:11 270:24 280:24 288:8 292:3,22,25 293:3 295:6 299:18 300:15,18 301:10 306:15 307:16 308:1,10 314:11 315:1 317:18,21 timeframe 16:2 48:9 228:3,4 242:3 303:9 timeline 193:25 timely 63:24 times 101:22 124:25 146:6 171:14 176:14 183:9 188:22 235:7 timing 34:1 50:23 52:1 54:18 61:1,3 65:3 219:16,20 223:12 300:12 ting 37:10 tiny 212:15 290:5 title 236:8 254:15, 22 292:5 297:14  158:1 215:18 187:11 259:12,18 281:13 281:13 totally 148:19 26:3,7,10,16,19 27:10,19,21 35:17 42:21,22,24 43:7 27:10,19,21 35:17 42:21,22,24 43:7 42:21,22,24 43:7 42:22,24 43:7 42:22,24 43:7 42:22,24 43:7 42:22,24 43:7 42:22,24 43:7 42:22,24 43:7 52:18 209:22 tracke 209:2,4,5 222:19 283:17 285:7,11 57:1 59:9,19 60:5 18,21 61:12 62:16 289:20 tracked 222:24 223:2 tracked 222:24 223:2 tracker 222:17 309:25 310:2 311:4,6 trackers 222:22 trackers 222:22 trackers 222:22 trackers 222:22 trackers 222:22 tracker 222:17 309:25 310:2 311:4,6 Travis 6:5 69:4 99:17 treated 122:7 212:17 218:13,14 247:13 248:12,16 289:20  tracker 222:17 309:25 310:2 311:4,6 Travis 6:5 69:4 99:17 treated 122:7 212:17 218:13,14 247:13 248:12,16 229:18  tracker 222:21 tracker 222:21 tracker 222:22 tracker 222:17 309:25 310:2 311:4,6 Travis 6:5 69:4 99:17 treated 122:7 212:17 218:13,14 247:13 248:12,16 228:25 230:3 244:1,21 trailional 108:10 228:25 230:3 244:1,21 tracker 222:12 tracker 222:17 300:35,6  Travie 126:4 299:18 Treated 122:7 212:17 218:13,14 247:13 249:4 251:16 26:37,710,16,19 26:37,710,16,19 26:37,710,16:19 26:37,710,16:19 27:10,90:21 28:17 298:7 24:22:21 28:17 298:7 299:7 24 223:2 224:19 28:17 298:7 28:17 298:7 28:17 298:7 29:18 28:17 299:7 28:17 299:7 29:19 28:17 299:7 29:20 29:12 29:10 29:10 29:17 21:16:23 223:3,4,5,6 6.8 29 | 193:25 195:10                         | 138:11 153:23                         | 1                                     | transitions 32:3                      |
| 222:18 225:14,16, 20 230:4 236:3,6 237:4,14,23 241:17 242:20 244:3,5 251:7 270:18 292:23 293:4,11 307:19 244:3,5 251:7 320:13 tough 257:13 54:18 55:7,11 57:1 599:19 60:5 18,21 621:6 266:61 270:24 280:24 288:8 292:3,22,25 293:3 295:6 299:18 300:15,18 301:10 306:15 307:16 308:1,10 314:11 315:1 317:18,21 timeframe 16:2 48:9 228:3,4 242:3 303:9 tough 257:13 tough 257:13 54:18 55:7,11 57:1 599:19 60:5 18,21 62:16 293:23 tough 257:13 54:18 55:7,11 57:1 599:19 60:5 18,21 62:16 293:23 tough 257:13 tough 257:13 57:1 599:19 60:5 18,21 62:16 228:7 222:19 283:7 285:7,9 299:17 223:2 223:2 298:7 304:20 305:3,5,6 tough 257:13 tough 257:13 57:1 599:19 60:5 18,21 62:16 293:23 tough 257:13 17:18,26 160:18 293:23 tough 257:13 tracked 222:24 298:7 304:20 305:3,5,6 tracker 222:17 309:25 310:2 311:4,6 289:20 tracker 222:17 309:25 310:2 17 289:20 trackers 222:22 trackers 2 | 211:17 212:12                         | 154:1 157:24                          | · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · |                                       |
| 20 230:4 236:3,6 237:4,14,23 241:17 242:20 244:3,5 251:7 256:18 260:15 261:9 265:5 266:11 270:24 280:24 288:8 292:3,22,25 293:3 295:6 299:18 300:15,18 301:10 306:15 307:16 308:1,10 314:11 315:1 317:18,21 timeframe 16:2 48:9 228:3,4 242:3 303:9 timeline 193:25 timely 63:24 times 101:22 124:25 146:6 171:14 176:14 183:9 188:22 1223:19 100:25 101:7,10, 22,24 116:4,9,11 timing 34:1 50:23 52:15 4:18 61:1,3 66:3 219:16,20 223:12 300:12 timg 37:10 tiny 212:15 290:5 title 236:8 254:15, 22 292:5 297:14  232:24 233:2,17 totally 148:19 touch 286:13 tough 257:13 track 209:2,4,5 18,21 61:12 62:16 222:24 223:2 222:19 283:17 285:7,9 291:20 297:24 223:2 223:2 228:7 304:20 233:2 242:17 309:25 310:2 311:4,6 Travis 6:5 69:4 1216:23 223:3,4,5, 6,8 139:4,13 145:1,9, 21 156:7 tonnage 157:14 traditional 108:10 228:25 230:3 244:1,21 traditional 108:10 228:25 230:3 244:1,21 transfer 282:1 track 209:2,4,5 18,21 61:12 62:16 223:2 229:7 304:20 239:17 27:10,19,21 35:17 42:21,22,24 43:7 42:21,22,24 43:7 42:21,22,24 43:7 42:21,22,24 43:7 42:21,22,24 43:7 42:21,22,24 43:7 42:21,22,24 43:7 42:21,22,24 43:7 42:21,22,24 43:7 42:21,22,24 43:7 42:21,22,24 43:7 42:21,22,24 43:7 42:21,22,24 43:7 42:21,22,24 43:7 42:21,22,24 43:7 42:21,22,24 43:7 42:21,22,24 43:7 42:21,22,24 43:7 42:21,22,24 43:7 42:21,22,24 43:7 42:21,22,24 43:7 42:21,22,24 43:7 42:21,22,24 43:7 42:21,22,24 43:7 42:21,22,24 43:7 42:21,22,24 43:7 42:21,22,24 43:7 42:21,22,24 43:7 42:21,22,24 43:7 42:21,22,24 43:7 42:21,22,24 43:7 42:21,22,24 43:7 42:21,22,24 43:7 42:21,22,24 43:7 42:21,22,24 43:7 42:21,22,24 43:7 42:21,22,24 43:7 42:21,22,24 43:7 42:21,22,24 43:7 42:21,22,24 43:7 42:21,22,24 43:7 42:21,22,24 43:7 42:21,22,24 43:7 42:21,22,24 43:7 42:21,22,24 43:7 42:21,22,24 43:7 42:21,22,24 43:7 42:21,22,24 43:7 42:21,22,24 43:7 42:21,22,24 43:7 42:21,22,24 43:7 42:23:2 42:12 42:12 4:12,21 42:12 4:12 6:18 42:12 4:12 6:18 42:12 4:12 6:18 42:12 4:12 6:18 42: | 214:17 219:7                          | 158:2 215:18                          | 1                                     |                                       |
| 237:4,14,23 241:17 242:20 244:3,5 251:7 256:18 260:15 266:11 270:24 280:24 288:8 292:3,22,25 293:3 295:6 299:18 300:15,18 301:10 306:15 307:16 308:1,10 314:11 315:1 317:18,21 timeframe 16:2 48:9 228:3,4 242:3 303:9 timeline 193:25 timely 63:24 times 101:22 124:25 146:6 171:14 176:14 183:9 188:22 235:7 timing 34:1 50:23 52:15 52:1 54:18 61:1,3 65:3 219:16,20 223:12 300:12 timing 37:10 tiny 212:15 290:5 title 236:3 290:3 145:6 270:18 292:23 touch 286:13 touch 286:13 touch 286:13 42:21,22,24 43:7 42:21,22,24 43:7 42:21,22,24 43:7 42:21,22,24 43:7 42:21,22,24 43:7 42:21,22 222:19 283:17 285:7,9 283:17 285:7,9 222:19 283:17 285:7,9 223:2 222:19 283:17 285:7,9 223:2 222:19 283:17 285:7,9 223:2 222:19 283:17 285:7,9 230:3,5,6 18,21 61:12 62:16 42:21,22,24 43:7 42:23,23 222:19 283:17 285:7,9 291:20 297:24 291:20 297:24 298:7 305:3,5,6 222:17 300:25 310:2 311:4,6 Travis 6:5 69:4 90:17 Travis 6:5 69:4 90:17  Travis 6:5 69:4 90:17  treated 122:7 244:12,12 244:1,21 traditional 108:10 228:25 230:3 224:1,21 traditional 108:10 228:25 230:3 224:1,21 trailers 277:22,24 27:10,19,21 35:17 42:21,22,24 43:7 42:21,22,24 43:7 42:21,22,24 43:7 42:21,22,24 43:7 42:21,22,24 43:7 42:21,22,24 43:7 42:21,22,24 43:7 42:21,22,24 43:7 42:21,22,24 43:7 42:21,22,24 43:7 42:21,22,24 43:7 42:21,22,24 43:7 42:21,22,24 43:7 42:21,22,24 43:7 42:21,22,24 43:7 42:21,22,24 43:7 42:21,22,24 43:7 42:21,22,24 43:7 42:21,22,24 43:7 42:21,22,24 43:7 42:21,22,24 43:7 42:21,22,24 43:7 42:21,22,24 43:7 42:21,22,24 43:7 42:21,22,24 43:7 42:21,22,24 43:7 42:21,22,24 43:7 42:21,22,24 43:7 42:21,22,24 43:7 42:21,22,24 43:7 42:21,22,24 43:7 42:21,22,24 43:7 42:21,22,24 43:7 42:21,22,24 43:7 42:21,22,24 43:7 42:21,22,24 43:7 42:21,22,24 43:7 42:21,22,24 43:7 42:23,22 42:32 42:32 42:32 42:32 42:32 42:32 42:32 42:32 42:32 42:32 42:33 42:23 43:12 43:46 43:31,45 42:23,32 44:1,21 42:31,22 44:4,25 43:6:42 48:926 48:926 48:926 48:926 48:926 48:926 48:926 48:926 48:926 48:926 48:926 48:926 48:926 48:926 48:926 48:926 48:926 48:926 48:926 48:926 48:926 48:926 48:926 48:926 4 | 222:18 225:14,16,                     | 227:9 229:16                          | 281:13                                |                                       |
| 237:4,14,23 241:17 242:20 243:3,5 251:7 256:18 260:15 261:9 265:5 266:11 270:24 280:24 288:8 292:3,22,25 293:3 295:6 299:18 300:15,18 301:10 306:15 307:16 308:1,10 314:11 315:1 317:18,21 timeframe 16:2 48:9 228:3,4 242:3 303:9 timeline 193:25 timely 63:24 times 101:22 124:25 146:6 171:14 176:14 183:9 188:22 235:7 timing 34:1 50:23 52:15 44:18 61:1,3 65:3 219:16,20 223:12 300:12 timg 37:10 tiny 212:15 290:5 title 236:8 254:15, 22 292:5 297:14  270:18 292:23 touch 286:13 tough 257:13 tough 257:13 tough 257:13 track 209:2,4,5 52:12 57:15 57:1 59:9,19 60:5 18,21 61:12 62:16 283:17 285:7,9 18,21 61:12 62:16 283:17 285:7,9 18,21 61:12 62:16 283:17 285:7,9 18,21 61:12 62:16 283:17 285:7,9 18,21 61:12 62:16 283:17 285:7,9 18,21 61:12 62:16 283:17 285:7,9 18,21 61:12 62:16 283:17 285:7,9 18,21 61:12 62:16 18,21 61:12 62:16 18,21 61:12 62:16 18,21 61:12 62:16 18,21 61:12 62:16 18,21 61:12 62:16 18,21 61:12 62:16 18,21 61:12 62:16 18,21 61:12 62:16 18,21 61:12 62:16 18,21 61:12 62:16 18,21 61:12 62:16 18,21 61:12 62:16 18,21 61:12 62:16 18,21 61:12 62:16 18,21 61:12 62:16 18,21 61:12 62:16 18,21 61:12 62:16 18,21 61:12 62:16 18,21 61:12 62:16 18,21 61:12 62:16 18,21 61:12 62:16 18,21 61:12 62:16 18,21 61:12 62:16 18,21 61:12 62:16 18,21 61:12 62:16 18,21 61:12 62:16 18,21 61:12 62:16 18,21 61:12 62:16 18,21 61:12 62:16 18,21 61:12 62:16 18,21 61:12 62:16 18,21 61:12 62:16 18,21 61:12 62:16 18,21 61:12 62:16 18,21 61:12 62:16 18,21 61:12 62:16 18,21 61:12 62:16 18,21 61:12 62:16 18,21 61:12 62:16 18,21 61:12 62:16 18,21 61:12 62:16 18,21 61:12 62:16 18,21 61:12 62:16 18,21 61:12 62:16 18,21 61:12 62:16 18,21 61:12 62:16 18,21 61:12 62:16 18,21 61:12 62:16 18,21 61:12 62:16 18,21 61:12 62:16 18,21 61:12 62:16 18,21 61:12 62:16 18,21 61:12 62:16 18,21 61:12 62:16 18,21 61:12 62:16 18,21 61:12 62:16 18,21 62:18 18,21 61:13 18,21 61:12 62:18 18,21 61:12 62:18 18,21 61:12 62:18 18,21 61:12 62:18 18,21 61:12 62:18 18,21 61:12 62:18 18,21 61:12 62:18 18,21 61:12 62:18 18,21 61:12 62:18 18,21 61:12 62:18 18,21 61:12 62:18 18,21 61 | 20 230:4 236:3,6                      | 232:24 233:2,17                       | totally 148:19                        | 1 ' ' ' '                             |
| 243.3,5 251:7 256:18 260:15 261:9 265:5 266:11 270:24 280:24 288:8 292:3,22,25 293:3 295:6 299:18 300:15,18 301:10 306:15 307:16 308:1,10 314:11 315:1 317:18,21 timeframe 16:2 48:9 228:3,4 242:3 303:9 timeline 193:25 timely 63:24 times 101:22 124:25 146:6 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:1 | 237:4,14,23                           | 270:18 292:23                         |                                       | 1 ' '                                 |
| 256:18 260:15 261:9 265:5 266:11 270:24 280:24 288:8 292:3,22,25 293:3 295:6 299:18 300:15,18 301:10 306:15 307:16 308:1,10 314:11 315:1 317:18,21 timeframe 16:2 48:9 228:3,4 242:3 303:9 timeline 193:25 timely 63:24 times 101:22 124:25 146:6 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:14 171:14 176:1 | 241:17 242:20                         | 293:4,11 307:19                       | touch 286:13                          | 1 ' '                                 |
| 261:9 265:5 266:11 270:24 280:24 288:8 292:3,22,25 293:3 295:6 299:18 300:15,18 301:10 306:15 307:16 308:1,10 314:11 315:1 317:18,21  timeframe 16:2 48:9 228:3,4 242:3 303:9 timeline 193:25 timely 63:24 times 101:22 124:25 146:6 171:14 176:14 183:9 188:22 235:7  timing 34:1 50:23 52:1 54:18 61:1,3 65:3 219:16,20 223:12 300:12 timg 37:10 timg 37:10 timy 212:15 290:5 title 236:23 tollet 293:23 tollet 293:23 tollet 293:23 tollet 293:23 tollet 293:23 tracked 222:24 223:2 tracked 222:24 291:20 297:24 298:3 304:20 305:3,5,6 travel 292:10 Travis 6:5 69:4 90:17 trackers 222:22 trackers 222:22 trackers 222:22 tracker 222:17 305:3,5,6 Travis 6:5 69:4 90:17 trackers 222:22 tracker 222:17 305:3,5,6 Travis 6:5 69:4 90:17 trackers 222:22 tracker 222:17 305:3,5,6 Travis 6:5 69:4 90:17 trackers 222:22 tracker 222:17 305:3,5,6 Travis 6:5 69:4 90:17 trackers 222:22 tracker 222:17 305:3,5,6 Travis 6:5 69:4 90:17 trackers 222:22 tracker 222:17 305:3,5,6 Travis 6:5 69:4 90:17 trackers 222:22 tracker 222:17 305:3,5,6 Travis 6:5 69:4 90:17 treated 122:7 212:17 218:13,14 247:18 248:12,16 2299:18 tracker 222:17 305:3,5,6 Travis 6:5 69:4 90:17 treated 122:7 212:17 218:13,14 247:18 248:12,16 2299:18 tracker 222:17 305:3,5,6 Travis 6:5 69:4 90:17 treat 197:15,22 247:4 259:16,20 299:17 traditional 108:10 228:25 230:3 244:1,21 trailers 277:22,24 278:7 294:7 trailing 292:9 tracker 222:17 305:3,5,6 Travis 6:5 69:4 90:17 treat 197:15,22 247:18 248:12,16 247:18 248:12,16 247:18 248:12,16 251:16 treated 122:7 212:17 218:13,14 247:18 248:12,16 251:16 10:16 190:3 160:16 190:3 160:16 190:3 160:16 190:3 160:16 190:3 17 172:17 18:21 17 18:21 17 18:21 17 18:21 17 18:21 17 18:21 17 18:21 17 18:21 17 18:21 17 18:21 17 18:21 17 18:21 17 18:21 17 18:21 17 18:21 17 18:21 17 18:21 17 18:21 17 18:21 17 18:21 17 18:21 17 18:21 17 18:21 17 18:21 17 18:21 17 18:21 17 18:21 17 18:21 17 18:21 17 18:21 17 18:21 17 18:21 17 18:21 17 18:21 17 18:21 17 18:21 17 18:21 17 18:21 17 18:21 17 18:21 17 18:21 19:21 10 18:21 19 18:21 19:21 10 18:21 19 18:21 19 18:21 19 18:21 | 244:3,5 251:7                         | 320:13                                | tough 257:13                          | · ·                                   |
| 26:19 265:5 266:11 270:24 280:24 288:8 292:3,22,25 293:3 295:6 299:18 300:15,18 301:10 306:15 307:16 308:1,10 314:11 315:1 317:18,21 timeframe 16:2 48:9 228:3,4 242:3 303:9 timeline 193:25 timely 63:24 times 101:22 124:25 146:6 171:14 176:14 183:9 188:22 235:7 timing 34:1 50:23 52:1 54:18 61:1,3 65:3 219:16,20 223:12 300:12 timg 37:10 tiny 212:15 290:5 title 233:23 toilet 293:23 toilet 293:23 toilet 293:23 toilet 293:23 tracked 222:24 228:7 304:20 305:3,5,6 tracker 222:17 309:25 310:2 311:4,6 Travis 6:5 69:4 90:17 tracking 209:1 216:23 223:3,4,5, 6,8 299:17 treat 197:15,22 247:4 259:16,20 299:17 treated 122:7 tradition 87:21 traditional 108:10 228:25 230:3 244:1,21 trailing 292:9 tracking 209:1 247:4 259:16,20 299:17 treated 122:7 tracking 209:1 247:4 259:16,20 299:17 treated 122:7 treated 122:7 treated 122:7 trailing 292:9 tracker 222:24 4293:20  114:4,6 289:20 tracker 222:24 298:7 304:20 305:3,5,6 Travis 6:5 69:4 90:17 treated 122:7 247:4 259:16,20 299:17 treated 122:7 tracking 209:1 244:1,21 traditional 108:10 228:25 230:3 2244:1,21 trailing 292:9 tracker 222:21 tracker 222:17 305:3,5,6 Travis 6:5 69:4 90:17 treated 122:7 treated 122:7 treated 122:7 trailing 292:9 tracker 222:22 tracker 222:22 tracker 222:22 trackers 222:22 trackers 222:22 trackers 222:22 trackers 222:22 tracker 222:17 305:3,5,6 Travis 6:5 69:4 90:17 treated 122:7 treated 122:7 treated 122:7 treated 122:7 treated 122:7 treated 122:7 treating 292:9 tracker 222:17 305:3,5,6 Travis 6:5 69:4 90:17 treat 197:15,22 247:4 259:16,20 299:17 treated 12:7 treated 12:7 treated 12:7 treated 12:7 12:17 218:13,14 247:18 248:12,16 299:18 treating 20:4 27:19 14:21:7 218:13,14 247:18 248:12,16 299:18 treating 20:4 27:19 14:21:7 218:13,14 247:18 248:12,16 299:18 treating 226:4 27:17 21:17 218:13,14 247:18 248:12,16 299:18 treating 226:4 27:17 21:17 218:13,14 247:18 248:12,16 299:18 treating 22:1 tracker 22:1 tracker 22:17 305:3,5,6 310:2 311:4,6 289:20 14:22:33 22:3,4,5, 6,8 299:17 15:21:7 218:13,14 247:18 248:12,16 299:18 16:21:12 24:12 25:16 17 21:12 15:12 2 | 256:18 260:15                         | today's 202:22                        | track 200:2/15                        |                                       |
| 266:11 270:24 280:24 288:8 292:3,22,25 293:3 295:6 299:18 300:15,18 301:10 306:15 307:16 308:1,10 314:11 315:1 317:18,21 timeframe 16:2 48:9 228:3,4 242:3 303:9 timeline 193:25 timely 63:24 times 101:22 124:25 146:6 171:14 176:14 183:9 188:22 235:7 timing 34:1 50:23 52:1 54:18 61:1,3 65:3 219:16,20 223:12 300:12 timg 37:10 timy 212:15 290:5 title 293:23 toilet 293:23 toilet 293:23 toilet 293:23 tracked 222:24 298:7 304:20 305:3,5,6 travel 292:10 Travis 6:5 69:4 90:17 Travis 6:5 69:4 90:17 treat 197:15,22 247:4 259:16,20 299:17 treated 122:7 247:4 259:16,20 299:17 treated 122:7 244:1,21 trailers 277:22,24 278:7 294:7 trailing 292:9 tracker 222:24 90:17 treated 122:7 247:4 259:16,20 299:18 treating 226:4 278:7 294:7 treated 122:7 244:1,21 trailers 277:22,24 278:7 294:7 training 292:9 treat 197:15,22 247:4 259:16,20 299:18 treating 226:4 251:16 treatment 96:13 160:16 190:3 193:24 194:3,12, 160:26 157:15 transfer 282:1 transfers 74:23 75:4 90:6 transformer 285:3,19,20 286:21,22 23:2 23:2 23:2 23:2 23:2 23:2 291:20 297:24 298:7 304:20 305:3,5,6 travel 292:10 Travis 6:5 69:4 90:17 treated 122:7 247:4 259:16,20 247:18 248:12,16 299:18 treating 226:4 251:16 treatment 96:13 160:16 190:3 193:24 194:3,12, 160:26 190:3 193:24 194:3,12, 160:20 208:1 transfers 74:23 75:4 90:6 transformer 285:3,19,20 286:21,22                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 261:9 265:5                           | -                                     |                                       | · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · |
| 292:3,22,25 293:3 295:6 299:18 300:15,18 301:10 306:15 307:16 308:1,10 314:11 315:1 317:18,21  timeframe 16:2 48:9 228:3,4 242:3 303:9  timeline 193:25 timely 63:24 times 101:22 124:25 146:6 171:14 176:14 183:9 188:22 223:2 124:25 146:6 171:14 176:14 183:9 188:22 235:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 124:22:2 124:23:23 124:23:23:3,4,5,6.8 124:13:23:23:3,4,5,6.8 124:13:23:23:3,4,5,6.8 124:13:23:23:3,4,5,6.8 124:13:23:23:3,4,5,6.8 124:13:23:23:3,4,5,6.8 124:13:23:23:3,4,5,6.8 124:13:23:23:3,4,5,6.8 124:13:23:23:3,4,5,6.8 124:13:23:23:23:3,4,5,6.8 124:13:23:23:23:3,4,5,6.8 124:12:12:12 124:25:14:25:14 126:23:23:23:3,4,5,6.8 123:12 123:22:12 123:22:12 123:22:12 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 123:2 12 | 266:11 270:24                         | toes 26:23                            |                                       | ,                                     |
| 292:3,22,25 293:3 295:6 299:18 300:15,18 301:10 306:15 307:16 308:1,10 314:11 315:1 317:18,21  timeframe 16:2 48:9 228:3,4 242:3 303:9  timeline 193:25 timely 63:24 times 101:22 124:25 146:6 177:14 176:14 183:9 188:22 235:7 timing 34:1 50:23 52:1 54:18 61:1,3 65:3 219:16,20 235:7 timing 37:10 ting 37:10 ting 212:15 290:5 title 236:8 254:15, 22 292:5 297:14 toold 87:22 255:16 289:20 token 303:10 token 303:10 token 303:10 token 303:10 token 303:10 231:4,6 tracker 222:17 309:25 310:2 311:4,6 trackers 222:22 tracker 222:17 309:25 310:2 31:4,6 trackers 22:12 trackers 222:22 trackers 22:22 trackers 22:22 trackers 22:12 trackers 22:12 trackers 22:22 247:4 259:16,20 299:17 treat 197:15,22 247:4 259:16,20 299:17 treat 197:15,22 247:4 259:16,20 299:17 treated 12:7 21:17 218:13,14 247:18 248:12,16 299:18 tracing 29:9 trackers 22:22 247:4 259:16,20 247:4 259:16,20 247:4 259:16,20 247:4 259:16,20 247:4 259:16,20 247:18 248:12,16 299:18 tracing 27:22,24 278:7 294:7 tracing 29:9 treat 197:15,22 247:4 259:16,20 247:1 29:18 tracing 29:9 tracing 304:20 305:3,6 tracker 22:12 tracker  |                                       | toilet 293:23                         |                                       |                                       |
| 299.16 299.16 300:15, 18 301:10 306:15 307:16 308:1,10 314:11 315:1 317:18,21         token 303:10         tracker 222:17 309:25 310:2 311:4,6         travel 292:10         Travis 6:5 69:4 90:17           timeframe 16:2 48:9 228:3,4 242:3 303:9         tom 98:24 99:6 102:4 105:22,23 106:4 126:18 139:4,13 145:1,9, 21 156:7         tracking 209:1 216:23 223:3,4,5, 6,8         treat 197:15,22 247:4 259:16,20 299:17           times 101:22 12:125 146:6 17:114 176:14 183:9 188:22 235:7         tonnage 157:14 tons 98:25 99:3 100:25 101:7,10, 22,24 116:4,9,11 139:15,23 140:4 141:13 142:3,4,6 65:3 219:16,20 23:12 300:12         tradition 87:21 tradition 87:21 traditional 108:10 228:25 230:3 244:1,21         trailers 277:22,24 27:18 248:12,16 299:18 traditional 108:10 228:25 230:3 244:1,21         trailers 277:22,24 27:18 248:12,16 299:18 trailing 292:9 trailing 37:10 146:12 151:1 156:2 157:15 tools 281:16 transformer 285:3,19,20 286:21,22         trasfer 282:1 200:22 21:10 30:10 23:10 23:10 3:13 14:46           300:15, 307:10 289:20         told 87:22 255:16 231:10 23:10 3:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13 14:13                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 292:3,22,25 293:3                     |                                       | 223:2                                 |                                       |
| 300:15,18 301:10         token 303:10         309:25 310:2         travel 292:10           308:15,307:16         308:1,10 314:11         315:1 317:18,21         told 87:22 255:16         311:4,6         Travis 6:5 69:4           48:9 228:3,4         tomorrow 314:13         320:15         tracking 209:1         treat 197:15,22           48:9 228:3,4         ton 98:24 99:6         6,8         299:17           timeline 193:25         ton 98:24 99:6         tradition 87:21         treated 122:7           timely 63:24         139:4,13 145:1,9, 21 156:7         traditional 108:10 228:25 230:3 244:1,21         241:12 17 218:13,14           171:14 176:14         176:14         tons 98:25 99:3 100:25 101:7,10, 22,24 116:4,9,11         trailers 277:22,24 278:7 294:7         training 292:9         treatment 96:13 160:16 190:3 193:24 194:3,12, 12           1timing 34:1 50:23         143:5 144:1,11, 14, 23 145:4,20         146:12 151:1 156:2 157:15         transection 18:7, 12 108:8 122:21         16 196:19,22,25 197:2 198:8 200:4 206:20 208:1           1ting 37:10         146:12 151:1 156:2 157:15         transfers 74:23 75:4 90:6         172:24 230:19 229:10           1tile 236:8 254:15, 22 92:5 297:14         292:5 297:14         285:3,19,20 23:5,19,20 23:5,224         227:24 230:19 23:10 24:10                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 295:6 299:18                          | tollets 267:20                        | tracker 222:17                        | 305:3,5,6                             |
| 306:15 307:16<br>308:1,10 314:11<br>315:1 317:18,21         told 87:22 255:16<br>289:20         311:4,6<br>trackers 222:22         Travis 6:5 69:4<br>90:17           timeframe 16:2<br>48:9 228:3,4<br>242:3 303:9         tomorrow 314:13<br>320:15         tracking 209:1<br>216:23 223:3,4,5,<br>6,8         treat 197:15,22<br>247:4 259:16,20<br>299:17           timeline 193:25<br>timely 63:24         tom 98:24 99:6<br>102:4 105:22,23<br>106:4 126:18         tradition 87:21<br>traditional 108:10<br>228:25 230:3<br>244:1,21         treated 122:7<br>212:17 218:13,14<br>247:18 248:12,16<br>299:18           toms 98:25 99:3<br>100:25 101:7,10,<br>22,24 116:4,9,11         trailers 277:22,24<br>278:7 294:7         treating 226:4<br>251:16           training 292:9         training 292:9         treatment 96:13<br>160:16 190:3<br>193:24 194:3,12,<br>161:21 51:1<br>14,23 145:4,20<br>23:12 300:12         transaction 18:7,<br>12 108:8 122:21         161:96:19,22,25<br>197:2 198:8 200:4<br>206:20 208:1         197:2 198:8 200:4<br>251:16         206:20 208:1<br>206:20 208:1         209:20 214:18<br>218:13 220:4,6,9         223:5 224:6,15<br>227:24 230:19<br>223:5 224:6,15         227:24 230:19<br>227:24 230:19<br>234:10 240:22                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 300:15,18 301:10                      | token 303:10                          |                                       | travel 292:10                         |
| 308:1,10 314:11 315:1 317:18,21  timeframe 16:2 48:9 228:3,4 242:3 303:9  timeline 193:25 timely 63:24 171:14 176:14 183:9 188:22 235:7  timing 34:1 50:23 52:1 54:18 61:1,3 65:3 219:16,20 223:12 300:12 ting 37:10 timely 212:15 290:5 title 236:8 254:15, 22 292:5 297:14  trackers 222:22 tracking 209:1 216:23 223:3,4,5, 6,8  tradition 87:21 treated 122:7 212:17 218:13,14 247:18 248:12,16 229:18 tracking 209:1 246:23 223:3,4,5, 6,8  tradition 87:21 treated 122:7 212:17 218:13,14 247:18 248:12,16 229:18 tracking 209:1 246:23 223:3,4,5, 6,8  tradition 87:21 treated 122:7 212:17 218:13,14 247:18 248:12,16 247:4 259:16,20 299:17 treated 122:7 212:17 218:13,14 247:18 248:12,16 248:9 223:3,4,5, 6,8 299:17 treated 122:7 212:17 218:13,14 247:18 248:12,16 248:9 223:3,4,5, 6,8 299:17 treated 122:7 212:17 218:13,14 247:18 248:12,16 247:4 259:16,20 299:17 treated 122:7 212:17 218:13,14 247:18 248:12,16 247:4 259:16,20 299:17 treated 122:7 212:17 218:13,14 247:18 248:12,16 248:9 223:3,4,5, 6,8 299:17 treated 122:7 212:17 218:13,14 247:18 248:12,16 247:4 259:16,20 299:17 treated 122:7 212:17 218:13,14 247:18 248:12,16 247:4 259:16,20 299:17 treated 122:7 212:17 218:13,14 247:18 248:12,16 247:18 248:12,16 247:4 259:16,20 299:18 tracking 209:1 246:23 223:3,4,5, 6,8 247:4 259:16,20 299:17 treated 192:7 212:17 218:13,14 247:18 248:12,16 247:4 259:16,20 299:18 tracking 209:1 247:4 259:16,20 299:17 treated 122:7 21:17 218:13,14 247:18 248:12,16 247:18 248:12,16 247:18 248:12,16 247:18 248:12,16 247:18 248:12,16 247:18 248:12,16 247:18 248:12,16 247:18 248:12,16 247:18 248:12,16 247:18 248:12,16 247:18 248:12,16 247:18 248:12,16 247:18 248:12,16 247:18 248:12,16 247:18 248:12,16 247:18 248:12,16 247:18 248:12,16 247:18 248:12,16 247:18 248:12,16 247:18 248:12,16 247:18 248:12,16 247:18 248:12,16 247:18 248:12,16 247:18 248:12,16 247:18 248:12,16 247:18 248:12,16 247:18 248:12,16 247:18 248:12,16 247:18 248:12,16 247:18 248: | 306:15 307:16                         | told 87:22 255:16                     |                                       | Travia 6.5 60.4                       |
| timeframe 16:2 48:9 228:3,4 242:3 303:9  timeline 193:25 timely 63:24 171:14 176:14 183:9 188:22 235:7 timing 34:1 50:23 52:1 54:18 61:1,3 65:3 219:16,20 223:12 300:12 ting 37:10 timeline 26:2 tomorrow 314:13 320:15 tom 98:24 99:6 102:4 105:22,23 106:4 126:18 139:4,13 145:1,9, 21 156:7 tonnage 157:14 tonnage 157:14 tons 98:25 99:3 100:25 101:7,10, 22,24 116:4,9,11 139:15,23 140:4 141:13 142:3,4,6 143:5 144:1,11, 14,23 145:4,20 146:12 151:1 156:2 157:15 title 236:8 254:15, 22 292:5 297:14 tomorrow 314:13 tracking 209:1 216:23 223:3,4,5, 6,8 tradition 87:21 treated 122:7 212:17 218:13,14 247:18 248:12,16 228:25 230:3 2244:1,21 trailers 277:22,24 278:7 294:7 training 292:9 tracking 209:1 tradition 87:21 traditional 108:10 228:25 230:3 244:1,21 trailers 277:22,24 278:7 294:7 training 292:9 tracking 209:1 tradition 87:21 tracking 209:1 tradition 87:21 traditional 108:10 228:25 230:3 244:1,21 trailers 277:22,24 278:7 294:7 training 292:9 tracking 209:1 treate 197:15,22 247:4 259:16,20 299:17 treated 122:7 212:17 218:13,14 247:18 248:12,16 299:18 treating 122:7 212:17 218:13,14 247:18 248:12,16 299:18 treating 122:7 212:17 218:13,14 247:18 248:12,16 299:18 tracking 209:1 tradition 87:21 traditional 108:10 228:25 230:3 244:1,21 trailers 277:22,24 278:7 294:7  | · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · |                                       | ,                                     |                                       |
| timeframe 16:2       320:15       tlacking 203:1       203:15       247:4 259:16,20       247:4 259:16,20       247:4 259:16,20       299:17       247:4 259:16,20       299:17       247:4 259:16,20       299:17       247:4 259:16,20       299:17       247:4 259:16,20       299:17       247:18 248:12,16       299:17       212:17 218:13,14       247:18 248:12,16       228:25 230:3       244:1,21       228:25 230:3       244:1,21       247:18 248:12,16       299:18       247:18 248:12,16       299:18       247:18 248:12,16       299:18       247:18 248:12,16       299:18       247:18 248:12,16       299:18       247:18 248:12,16       299:18       247:18 248:12,16       299:18       247:18 248:12,16       299:18       247:18 248:12,16       299:18       247:18 248:12,16       299:18       247:18 248:12,16       299:18       247:18 248:12,16       299:18       247:18 248:12,16       299:18       247:18 248:12,16       299:18       247:18 248:12,16       299:18       251:16       299:18       251:16       251:16       251:16       251:16       251:16       251:16       251:16       251:16       251:16       251:16       251:16       251:16       251:16       251:16       251:16       251:16       251:16       251:16       251:16       251:16       251:16       251:16       251:16       25                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 315:1 317:18,21                       |                                       | trackers 222:22                       | 90.17                                 |
| 48:9 228:3,4       320:15       216:23 223:3,4,5, 6,8       247:4 259:16,20         242:3 303:9       ton 98:24 99:6       102:4 105:22,23       tradition 87:21       treated 122:7         21:17 218:13,14       228:25 230:3       242:17 218:13,14       247:18 248:12,16         21:17 218:13,14       228:25 230:3       244:1,21       247:18 248:12,16         2299:18       21:16:7       228:25 230:3       244:1,21       2299:18         41:14 176:14       100:25 101:7,10, 22,24 116:4,9,11       278:7 294:7       100:25 101:7,10, 22,24 116:4,9,11       228:25 230:3       249:18       247:18 248:12,16         299:18       100:25 101:7,10, 22,24 116:4,9,11       228:25 230:3       249:18       247:18 248:12,16         299:18       100:25 101:7,10, 22,24 116:4,9,11       278:7 294:7       160:16 190:3       160:16 190:3         139:15,23 140:4       141:13 142:3,4,6       143:5 144:1,11, 14,23 145:4,20       146:12 151:1       146:12 151:1       179:24 198:8 200:4         223:12 300:12       146:12 151:1       156:2 157:15       156:2 157:15       209:20 214:18       218:13 220:4,6,9         229:15 297:14       145:5 131:10       285:3,19,20       223:5 224:6,15       227:24 230:19       223:5 224:6,15                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | timeframe 16:2                        |                                       | tracking 209:1                        | · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · |
| 242:3 303:9         ton 98:24 99:6         6,8         299:17           timeline 193:25         timely 63:24         tradition 87:21         treated 122:7           times 101:22         139:4,13 145:1,9, 21 156:7         traditional 108:10 228:25 230:3 244:1,21         247:18 248:12,16 299:18           171:14 176:14 183:9 188:22 235:7         tonnage 157:14         tonnage 157:14         trailers 277:22,24 278:7 294:7         treating 226:4 251:16         treating 29:9:18         treating 29:9:18<                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                       | 320:15                                | 216:23 223:3,4,5,                     | 247:4 259:16,20                       |
| timeline         193:25         to:4 105:22,23         tradition         87:21         treated         122:7         212:17 218:13,14         247:18 248:12,16         247:18 248:12,16         247:18 248:12,16         247:18 248:12,16         247:18 248:12,16         299:18         treating         226:4         251:16         251:16         treating         226:4         251:16         treating                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · | ton 98:24 99:6                        | 6,8                                   | 299:17                                |
| timeline       193.25       106:4 126:18       traditional       108:10       212:17 218:13,14         times       101:22       124:25 146:6       tonnage       157:14       trailers       277:22,24       299:18         171:14 176:14       tons       98:25 99:3       100:25 101:7,10, 22,24 116:4,9,11       trailing       292:9       treating       226:4         183:9 188:22       100:25 101:7,10, 22,24 116:4,9,11       training       292:9       treatment       96:13         160:16 190:3       139:15,23 140:4       transaction       18:7, 12 108:8 122:21       16 196:19,22,25         52:1 54:18 61:1,3       143:5 144:1,11, 14,23 145:4,20       transfer       282:1       197:2 198:8 200:4         223:12 300:12       146:12 151:1       transfers       74:23       197:2 198:8 200:4         ting       37:10       tools       281:16       transformer       223:5 224:6,15       227:24 230:19       227:24 230:19       227:24 230:19       227:24 230:19       227:24 230:19       227:24 230:19       227:24 230:19       227:24 230:19       227:24 230:19       227:24 230:19       234:10 240:22                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                       | 102:4 105:22,23                       | tradition 87:21                       | treated 122:7                         |
| timely 63:24       139:4,13 145:1,9, 21 156:7       traditional 108:10 228:25 230:3 244:1,21       247:18 248:12,16 299:18         times 101:22 12:25 146:6 171:14 176:14 183:9 188:22 235:7       tonnage 157:14 tons 98:25 99:3 100:25 101:7,10, 22,24 116:4,9,11 139:15,23 140:4 152:1 54:18 61:1,3 65:3 219:16,20 23:12 300:12 ting 37:10       trailers 277:22,24 278:7 294:7 training 292:9 training 292:9 transaction 18:7, 12 108:8 122:21 16 196:19,22,25 197:2 198:8 200:4 206:20 208:1 transfers 74:23 75:4 90:6 transfers 74:23 75:4 90:6 transformer 282:1 23:5 224:6,15 22:5 230:3 244:1,21         timing 34:1 50:23 52:1 54:18 61:1,3 65:3 219:16,20 23:12 300:12 ting 37:10 ting 29:9 transaction 18:7, 12 108:8 122:21 transfers 74:23 75:4 90:6 transformer 282:1 209:20 214:18 218:13 220:4,6,9 223:5 224:6,15 227:24 230:19 23:5 224:6,15 227:24 230:19 234:10 240:22                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | timeline 193:25                       | 106:4 126:18                          |                                       |                                       |
| times 101:22 124:25 146:6 171:14 176:14 183:9 188:22 235:7 timing 34:1 50:23 52:1 54:18 61:1,3 65:3 219:16,20 223:12 300:12 ting 37:10 tiny 212:15 290:5 title 236:8 254:15, 22 292:5 297:14  21 156:7 tonnage 157:14 tons 98:25 99:3 100:25 101:7,10, 22,24 116:4,9,11 139:15,23 140:4 141:13 142:3,4,6 141:13 142:3,4,6 144:1,11, 14,23 145:4,20 146:12 151:1 156:2 157:15 top 96:23 103:13 244:1,21 trailers 277:22,24 278:7 294:7 training 292:9 transaction 18:7, 12 108:8 122:21 156:2 157:15 transfer 282:1 transfers 74:23 75:4 90:6 transformer 223:5 224:6,15 227:24 230:19 229:18 treating 226:4 251:16 treatment 96:13 160:16 190:3 160:16 190:3 179:2 198:8 200:4 206:20 208:1 179:2 198:8 200:4 206:20 208:1 209:18 treating 226:4 251:16 transaction 18:7, 12 108:8 122:21 transfer 282:1 299:18 treating 226:4 251:16 treatment 96:13 160:16 190:3 179:2 198:8 200:4 206:20 208:1 209:20 214:18 21 156:7 227:24 230:19 227:24 230:19 227:24 230:19 234:10 240:22                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | timely 63:24                          | 139:4,13 145:1,9,                     |                                       |                                       |
| 124:25 146:6       171:14 176:14       tons 98:25 99:3       trailers 277:22,24       251:16         183:9 188:22       100:25 101:7,10, 22,24 116:4,9,11       training 292:9       treatment 96:13         160:16 190:3       160:16 190:3       193:24 194:3,12, 16 196:19,22,25         171:14 176:14       140:13 142:3,46       141:13 142:3,4,6       141:13 142:3,4,6       141:13 142:3,4,6       141:13 142:3,4,6       143:5 144:1,11, 14,23 145:4,20       146:12 151:1       146:12 151:1       156:2 157:15       156:2 157:15       156:2 157:15       156:2 157:15       156:2 157:15       156:2 157:15       156:2 157:15       156:2 157:15       156:2 157:15       156:2 157:15       156:2 157:15       156:2 157:15       156:2 157:15       156:2 157:15       156:2 157:15       156:2 157:15       156:2 157:15       156:2 157:15       156:2 157:15       156:2 157:15       156:2 157:15       156:2 157:15       156:2 157:15       156:2 157:15       156:2 157:15       156:2 157:15       156:2 157:15       156:2 157:15       156:2 157:15       156:2 157:15       156:2 157:15       156:2 157:15       156:2 157:15       156:2 157:15       156:2 157:15       156:2 157:15       156:2 157:15       156:2 157:15       156:2 157:15       156:2 157:15       156:2 157:15       156:2 157:15       156:2 157:15       156:2 157:15       156:2 157:15       156:2 157:15                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | times 101:22                          | 21 156:7                              |                                       | 1                                     |
| 171:14 176:14       tons 98:25 99:3       trailers 277:22,24       251:16         183:9 188:22       100:25 101:7,10, 22,24 116:4,9,11       training 292:9       treatment 96:13         timing 34:1 50:23       139:15,23 140:4       transaction 18:7, 12 108:8 122:21       16 196:19,22,25         65:3 219:16,20       143:5 144:1,11, 14,23 145:4,20       transfer 282:1       197:2 198:8 200:4         223:12 300:12       146:12 151:1       transfers 74:23       206:20 208:1         ting 37:10       156:2 157:15       transformer       223:5 224:6,15         title 236:8 254:15, 22 292:5 297:14       299:23 103:13       286:21,22                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                       | tonnage 157:1/                        | 244:1,21                              | 1                                     |
| 183:9 188:22       235:7       235:7       278:7 294:7       treatment 96:13         183:9 188:22       100:25 101:7,10, 22,24 116:4,9,11       training 292:9       treatment 96:13         183:9 188:22       100:25 101:7,10, 22,24 116:4,9,11       training 292:9       160:16 190:3         183:9 188:22       139:15,23 140:4       transaction 18:7, 12 108:8 122:21       16 196:19,22,25         183:9 188:22       143:5 144:1,11, 14:3 142:3,4,6       143:5 144:1,11, 14:3 142:3,4,6       145:5 121:10         183:9 188:22       143:1 14:13 142:3,4,6       143:5 144:1,11, 14:3 142:3,4,6       145:5 121:10         183:9 188:22       143:1 14:13 142:3,4,6       143:5 144:1,11, 14:3 142:3,4,6       145:5 121:10         183:1 16:4       145:5 121:10       145:5 121:10       145:5 121:10         183:1 16:4       145:5 121:10       145:5 121:10       145:5 121:10         183:1 16:4       145:5 121:10       145:5 121:10       145:5 121:10         183:1 16:4       145:5 121:10       145:5 121:10       145:5 121:10         183:1 16:4       145:5 121:10       145:5 121:10       145:5 121:10         183:1 16:4       145:5 121:10       145:5 121:10       145:5 121:10         183:1 16:4       145:5 121:10       145:5 121:10       145:5 121:10                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                       | _                                     | trailers 277:22,24                    | _                                     |
| 235:7  timing 34:1 50:23 52:1 54:18 61:1,3 65:3 219:16,20 223:12 300:12  ting 37:10  ting 292:9  training 292: |                                       |                                       | 278:7 294:7                           | 251:16                                |
| timing 34:1 50:23 52:1 54:18 61:1,3 65:3 219:16,20 223:12 300:12 ting 37:10 tiny 212:15 290:5 title 236:8 254:15, 22 292:5 297:14  139:15,23 140:4 141:13 142:3,4,6 141:13 142:3,4,6 143:5 144:1,11, 14,23 145:4,20 146:12 151:1 156:2 157:15 tools 281:16  160:16 190:3 193:24 194:3,12, 16 196:19,22,25 197:2 198:8 200:4 206:20 208:1 209:20 214:18 218:13 220:4,6,9 223:5 224:6,15 227:24 230:19 234:10 240:22                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                       | , ,                                   | training 202:0                        | treatment 96:13                       |
| 52:1 54:18 61:1,3 65:3 219:16,20 223:12 300:12  ting 37:10  tiny 212:15 290:5  title 236:8 254:15, 22 292:5 297:14  141:13 142:3,4,6 143:5 144:1,11, 14,23 145:4,20 146:12 151:1 156:2 157:15  tools 281:16  top 96:23 103:13 141:13 142:3,4,6 12 108:8 122:21 16 196:19,22,25 197:2 198:8 200:4 206:20 208:1 209:20 214:18 218:13 220:4,6,9 223:5 224:6,15 227:24 230:19 234:10 240:22                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                       |                                       |                                       | 160:16 190:3                          |
| 65:3 219:16,20 223:12 300:12  ting 37:10  tiny 212:15 290:5  title 236:8 254:15, 22 292:5 297:14  143:5 144:1,11, 14,23 145:4,20 146:12 151:1 156:2 157:15  tools 281:16  transfer 282:1  transfers 74:23 75:4 90:6  transformer 285:3,19,20 286:21,22  10 130:13,22,23 206:20 208:1 209:20 214:18 218:13 220:4,6,9 223:5 224:6,15 227:24 230:19 234:10 240:22                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | _                                     | •                                     | ,                                     | 193:24 194:3,12,                      |
| 223:12 300:12  ting 37:10  tiny 212:15 290:5  title 236:8 254:15, 22 292:5 297:14  14,23 145:4,20  146:12 151:1 156:2 157:15  transfer 282:1  206:20 208:1 209:20 214:18 218:13 220:4,6,9 223:5 224:6,15 227:24 230:19 286:21,22  206:20 208:1 209:20 214:18 218:13 220:4,6,9 223:5 224:6,15 227:24 230:19 234:10 240:22                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | · 1                                   |                                       | 12 108:8 122:21                       | 1 ' '                                 |
| ting 37:10     14,23 145:4,20       tiny 212:15 290:5     156:2 157:15       title 236:8 254:15, 22 292:5 297:14     top 96:23 103:13       14,23 145:4,20     206:20 208:1       146:12 151:1     209:20 214:18       209:20 214:18     218:13 220:4,6,9       223:5 224:6,15     227:24 230:19       285:3,19,20     234:10 240:22                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | ·                                     |                                       | transfer 282:1                        | 197:2 198:8 200:4                     |
| ting 37:10  tiny 212:15 290:5  title 236:8 254:15, 22 292:5 297:14  title 236:8 254:15, 22 292:5 297:14  title 236:8 254:15, 22 292:5 297:14                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 223:12 300:12                         | · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · |                                       |                                       |
| tiny 212:15 290:5 title 236:8 254:15, 22 292:5 297:14  156:2 157:15 tools 281:16 tools 281:16 top 96:23 103:13 218:13 220:4,6,9 223:5 224:6,15 285:3,19,20 286:21,22 234:10 240:22                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | ting 37:10                            |                                       |                                       |                                       |
| title 236:8 254:15, 22 292:5 297:14 tools 281:16                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | tiny 212:15 200:5                     | 156:2 157:15                          | 75:4 90:6                             |                                       |
| 22 292:5 297:14 <b>top</b> 96:23 103:13 286:21,22 234:10 240:22                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | uny 212.13 290.3                      | tools 281:16                          | transformer                           | · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · |
| 22 292.3 297.14 240.22 280.21,22 254.10 240.22                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                       | ton 06:22 102:12                      | 285:3,19,20                           |                                       |
| 1 113.3 141.10                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 22 292:5 297:14                       | •                                     | 286:21,22                             |                                       |
| titled 112:13 196:7   226:47 247:2   transition 18:12   241.9 244.9                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | titled 112:13 196:7                   |                                       | transition 18:12                      | 241:9 244:9                           |
| 250.17 247.2   1.110.110.11   247:1,10,16,22                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                       |                                       |                                       | 1 ' ' '                               |
| today 6:6 8:15 255:21 257:19,24 31.17,24 43.11 248:8 250:9,22                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                       | 7.0.0 7 1 7:07 151 74                 | U 1.11,4 T TU. 1 1                    | 0.40.0.050.0.00                       |



252:24 253:10.11 types 93:5 132:18 120:16 121:21 147:17 149:17 259:3,5,6,21,25 149:22 122:2 124:15 286:2,3 289:14 260:11 262:11,23 125:3,4 136:2 303:12,15,17 typically 48:6 276:25 148:12 156:23 94:21 103:8 137:5 units 289:2,11,12, 159:6,9 169:2 **tree** 29:7,10 30:5 15,25 302:16 182:3 185:9 229:12 U **unknown** 198:18 186:13 188:20 triennial 14:17 208:4 206:13 208:7 **Uh-huh** 35:20 56:15 219:14 272:18 unknowns 31:22 91:18 280:1 283:15 **trigger** 267:14 231:11,13 319:23 ultimate 152:4 unlike 145:23 true 8:12 10:15 282:24 understanding 11:7 18:3 25:10. 230:23 16:17,25 32:15 ultimately 12:22 24 50:20 64:8 unnecessary 83:6 71:5 76:13 89:6 13:1,4 14:23 15:9 76:10 137:22 93:17 103:23 unrecovered 16:6 17:16,20 151:3 220:6 226:9 109:16 128:17 127:21,23 170:8 18:12 31:12 49:15 227:22 237:7 130:22 131:10 62:16 79:24 92:6 241:24 244:22 unrefuted 230:21 132:20 139:22 117:13 120:19,20 270:20 307:23 unresolved 45:16 149:7 151:13 121:24 123:10 true-up 87:3 46:5 156:6 176:4 177:3 125:8 223:10 217:15 183:6 184:22 252:7 unusable 94:18 truth 7:18 27:9 185:21 194:5,15 100:25 101:6 **ultra** 95:17 109:7,8 36:14 68:12 72:12 196:3 207:15 104:6 109:25 132:8,13,22 258:22 298:5 77:3 152:22 232:7 110:5 117:9 127:5 133:22,25 134:1 249:14,18 254:5 305:4,13 311:22 281:14 148:1 306:20 317:7 understands unusual 263:6 umbrella 49:14 298:2 truthful 249:7 update 41:16,21, unburnable truthfully 134:19 understate 95:20 22 69:8 149:25 150:1,2,10 understood 17:3 tunc 246:2 updated 64:24 uncommon 48:3 66:14 65:12.17 turbine 277:8 210:23 undertake 44:16 292:8 305:17 **updates** 111:23 underbid 279:19 280:10 turf 196:13 underwriter 123:6 underground upfront 161:7 turn 33:22 141:22 247:19 undisputed 208:16.18 102:12 165:14 166:12 167:25 undermining 236:15 258:9,10 **upgrade** 285:7,19 unfair 13:10 61:18 294:1 286:21 unfairly 12:13 understand 13:24 turned 51:10 upgrades 25:15, 17:11 22:12,16 unheard 146:11 22 26:1,4,11,16, **turning** 169:6 24:20 28:14 **Uniform** 235:20 19 27:10,21 210:14 33:12,19 36:22,24 237:12 283:18 287:14 59:3 70:3,6 73:17 turns 31:24 292:24 82:18 86:16 96:6 unilateral 88:4 type 109:21 103:17 108:22 upgrading 285:4 unit 85:1 101:12, 138:16 258:4.9 117:5 118:10 13.22 107:8 139:9 259:13 261:16



**upkeep** 260:17 valuable 13:25 18.22 67:11 water 193:14,15, 109:14 122:6 17,24 194:2,12,16 upstairs 89:8 valuation 113:10 149:10 178:1 196:19,22,25 130:4 134:25 **urge** 165:25 190:4,10 218:14 197:2,15,22 151:25 156:1,12 222:13 227:11 206:20 214:18 **usable** 94:19 158:17,23 178:3 230:20 217:7,12,22 96:22 104:12,13 304:6 218:12 220:4,5,8 108:14,17 109:13 view 16:10 29:21 valuations 137:8 223:5 224:6,15 119:18 120:21 34:25 35:15 54:2 225:1 226:5 127:4 136:24,25 value's 102:5 234:21 227:24 230:19 148:15 **valued** 155:25 viewed 29:22.23 236:9 237:13 **usages** 283:15 156:11 158:21 238:5,8 240:21 views 34:22 35:4,5 useable 108:5,18 **values** 74:16.17 241:9,13,16,23 96:21 126:16 82:5 97:2,4 140:16 244:8 247:4 vintage 139:8 250:10,22 251:23 126:18 151:23 **USOA** 237:4,18,25 171:13 262:24 violations 45:7 252:24 253:5,6,9, 238:4,10 13 256:1,7,10 valuing 95:19 **Visually** 289:16 utilities 31:10,14 257:10,21 258:20 104:9,18 32:2 84:25 145:25 **vocab** 86:16 259:8 260:22 210:17,18 vanilla 230:25 262:11 276:25 voids 257:20 277:18 utility 48:13 60:13 variable 145:1 Voir 273:3.9 77:17 94:10 315:23 ways 34:16 47:12 volatile 302:15 128:16,23 135:3, 282:19 319:3 variables 26:22 5,9 138:13 146:10 **volume** 145:21 27:6 weather 40:4,7 153:10 167:21 157:13 **variety** 220:15 weekend 286:1 168:24 179:25 voluminous 53:23 181:4 185:4 **Veatch** 42:12 weigh 202:4,6 187:23 192:12 vouchers 220:10 271:12,20,22 weight 62:11 219:6,22 257:5 272:24 274:4 63:14 249:25 265:13,16,18 294:15 296:11 W 283:14 weighted 120:1.4. vendors 282:7 5,8 127:7 140:21 W-I-L-L-I-A-M-S utility's 83:22 verified 202:3 213:6 214:13 254:25 128:20 **verify** 205:19 well-worded 17:10 wait 267:16 utilized 98:16 206:5 208:8 107:9 281:21 wells 261:1,2 waiting 70:22 version 36:20.22 western 149:10 walk 44:23 78:4 189:4 237:5, V 186:2 14,18,24 238:4,9 **wanted** 50:12 wet 256:3,4 246:1,2 269:11,13 107:14 113:21 vacuumed 277:2 314:25 160:20 164:22 whatnot 139:7 **vaque** 80:8 212:8 292:4 142:24 versions 237:12 valid 41:18 152:8 271:2 wanting 21:2 96:2 whatsoever validate 186:3 **versus** 40:24 295:24 waste 278:10 41:12,19 43:1 validated 186:4 wheelhouse watching 86:11,21 64:17,25 65:8,10, 217:24



| <b>whew</b> 243:9                  |
|------------------------------------|
| whichever 92:5                     |
| <b>Williams</b> 6:9,12             |
| 9:24 12:5 22:7                     |
| 27:23 48:20,21,                    |
| 24,25 49:6 52:15                   |
| 56:1 69:14,20                      |
| 71:19 72:22 75:22                  |
| 76:24 77:9 78:3,9,                 |
| 12,23 79:1 80:7                    |
| 85:22 92:15,16                     |
| 94:2 95:24 96:1,4,                 |
| 8 98:4,8,21 99:18,                 |
| 22 102:21,23                       |
| 105:19 112:24                      |
| 113:2 114:9,13,16                  |
| 115:14,24 117:1                    |
| 123:23,24 124:21                   |
| 125:5,22 126:14,                   |
| 24 129:17 135:15                   |
| 136:20 137:14,25                   |
| 142:14,25 145:12,                  |
| 13 147:4 148:24                    |
| 149:4 150:5                        |
| 152:3,18 153:2                     |
| 154:3,20 155:21                    |
| 157:18 159:22                      |
| 161:20 162:1                       |
| 167:7 174:11,25                    |
| 178:19 179:4,8<br>189:24,25 192:7, |
| 25 194:25 195:14                   |
| 198:25 199:8                       |
| 200:21 201:6                       |
| 203:25 204:3,5                     |
| 205:16 206:8                       |
| 218:9,10 223:15                    |
| 228:10,15 232:2,                   |
| 12 233:4 237:3,                    |
| 10,23 238:9 245:6                  |
| 246:3,6,8 249:1,                   |
| 11 252:20,22                       |
| 253:14,19,21                       |
| 254:18,25 261:23                   |
| 262:9,10 263:1,12                  |
| 264:1,21 266:20                    |
| •                                  |
|                                    |

| 17 99:20,25<br>100:1,8,10,20<br>105:20 106:20<br>107:2 110:20,21<br>111:1,2,6,11,15,<br>18,24 112:2,6,9,<br>13,19,22 113:3,22<br>117:8 124:6<br>128:11 138:23<br>141:16 142:4<br>144:9,10,11,13<br>157:3 160:23,25<br>161:3,23 162:16,<br>17,21 163:2,12,<br>17,18,19,25<br>196:15,16 235:8<br>240:22 250:22<br>278:3 279:3 281:3<br>284:18 289:5<br>302:3,6 309:5,10 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 310:9                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| workbook 112:16                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| worked 145:7                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| working 194:4<br>212:9,14 213:10,                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 12 214:12,13<br>219:12,15,25<br>220:17 221:15<br>226:4                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 12 214:12,13<br>219:12,15,25<br>220:17 221:15                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 12 214:12,13<br>219:12,15,25<br>220:17 221:15<br>226:4<br>works 26:6 61:2                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 12 214:12,13<br>219:12,15,25<br>220:17 221:15<br>226:4<br>works 26:6 61:2<br>291:16<br>workshop 40:15                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 12 214:12,13<br>219:12,15,25<br>220:17 221:15<br>226:4<br>works 26:6 61:2<br>291:16<br>workshop 40:15<br>56:16<br>world 48:12,13                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 12 214:12,13<br>219:12,15,25<br>220:17 221:15<br>226:4<br>works 26:6 61:2<br>291:16<br>workshop 40:15<br>56:16<br>world 48:12,13<br>281:18                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 12 214:12,13<br>219:12,15,25<br>220:17 221:15<br>226:4<br>works 26:6 61:2<br>291:16<br>workshop 40:15<br>56:16<br>world 48:12,13<br>281:18<br>worse 27:20 214:6<br>worth 131:9<br>138:20 199:14                                                                                                                                                                       |

```
write 46:15 117:22
write-off 104:17
writing 240:7
written 34:10
 153:11,16 172:6
 232:15
wrong 65:24 75:19
 88:11,14 113:21
wrote 240:9
Wyoming 132:16,
 22 133:1
         Υ
Y2 63:1
year 14:22 26:8,9
 39:24 43:5 55:12,
 15 67:10 81:21
 82:22 109:17,20
 121:17 133:18
 166:13,14 169:11,
 16,17,23,24
 170:11 207:9
 209:12 216:24
 220:19 221:13
 222:3 225:5
 227:25 250:18
 251:2,4 258:8
 286:8,25 287:5
 298:7,18
years 15:5 16:5
 29:16 59:1 81:2,
 14 96:13,18
 118:13 119:6,7
 121:8,20 131:16
 146:3 149:20
 166:14 169:19
 170:1,18 178:10
 190:22 193:15,17,
 21 194:14 197:21
 207:18,20,25
 208:2,3,9,10,11,
 19 209:25 210:8,
 10,21 211:22
```



57:16,21 58:17

**Evidentiary Hearing** 

April 17, 2024Index: yesterday..Young's 213:5 215:5,8 216:3,4,10 217:9 218:21 221:4,7 225:11,25 227:5, 12 228:3,4 247:3 250:9,21,23,25 251:17,23 255:2 258:6 259:3,4 260:1,4,8 283:13 yesterday 7:8 12:13 13:10 18:4 20:25 39:10 160:17 170:20 yield 59:19,21 **Young** 144:9 **Young's** 141:16